

Arapahoe Public School
Board of Education – Regular Meeting
School Library
July 11th, 2016 8:00 pm

President Todd Watson called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

President Todd Watson welcomed the visitors and announced that the Arapahoe Board of Education follows the rules of the Open Meetings Act which is posted.

The following members were present: Todd Watson, Dan Warner, Rod Whipple, Kelly Breinig, Dennis Roskop and Lisa Anderson.

The following member(s) were absent: None.

Also present was Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Bob Braithwait, Principal and Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary. Guest(s) included Tammie Middagh, TJ Schirmer and Tim Ripp with The Clark Enersen Partners, Jesse Volpp with Hausmann Construction and Jay Spearman with Ameritas.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to approve the agenda. AYES: Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson and Watson. Motion carried 6-0.

President Watson asked for Public Comment. None.

REPORTS

Braithwait started off by welcoming Dr. Griffith to the District. He then reported that he and Dr. Griffith are currently finalizing meeting times for the teacher workdays on August 9th and 10th. Football practice will begin August 8th. Dave Blessing will again meet with students on Thursday mornings if needed throughout the school year. The building really looks nice with new paint and waxed floors. The custodial staff really does a great job getting things ready.

Dr. Griffith reported that he has been reviewing the recent history of district operations with Mr. Braithwait and Cassie and we're working to address anything that may need to be adjusted. Cassie and I have been working closely on getting reports filed and reviewing budget and payroll procedures. There are many similarities between Kansas and Nebraska that is making the transition smoother. Connie and Cassie have been a big help in getting me set up in the NDE portal. The custodial staff has the buildings looking very nice and they are doing a great job. We are looking at rain sensors for the sprinklers to help save on watering costs. They are approximately \$95.00 each and we would need 6-7. I am planning to attend a budget training workshop in North Platte on July 19th and a new superintendent training with Todd or Dennis and Cassie on July 20th.

Board Member Reports: Watson welcomed Dr. Griffith to the District. He went on to report that he and Bob had a meeting with Dr. Griffith to bring him up to date on a few things. Warner reported that he attended a meeting hosted by the Nebraska Cattleman's Association on the topic of increasing quality beef consumption in schools. Local donations or purchases could be done as long as they are USDA inspected, which the locker in Beaver City is qualified to meet that requirement. Southern Valley and Franklin are in the process of getting this started. If this was something the district would be interested in pursuing, Warner would be happy to gather more information to share with administration and the food service staff.

Board Committee Reports: Breinig reported for the Finance Committee and stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary and everything looks good. They reviewed the transfers that will be discussed later in tonight's meeting. Dr. Griffith and Cassie are beginning to work through the budget.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Breinig to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which included the minutes from previous meetings, financial reports and the second reading and approval of the staff, preschool, activities and student handbooks. AYES: Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Anderson to approve claims including the General Fund, Equipment Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Lunch Fund, Building Fund, QCPUF, Student Fee Fund and Bus Depreciation Fund totaling \$316,274.22. AYES: Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple but abstaining from Claim No. 27932 to ATC for \$498.36. Motion carried 6-0.

Griffith reported that the food service staff have attended some workshops and discovered a combo oven that can also steam. They would like to gather more information and get some quotes before moving forward with the purchase of the convection oven. Griffith recommended tabling this item. Watson agreed to table the item.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to approve the transfer of \$35,000 from the General Fund to the General Activities Fund for the 2016-2017 school year. AYES: Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple and Breinig. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Anderson to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Bus Depreciation Fund. AYES: Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig and Roskop. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Breinig to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Equipment Depreciation Fund. AYES: Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop and Anderson. Motion carried 6-0.

The board discussed at length the following three options to determine which one to take forward to a special bond election:

Option 1: This option includes demolishing the current high school, code compliance/minor renovations of the existing school, code compliance for the existing gym, adding elementary classrooms, ag/weight room addition/renovation, new gym addition and site parking for an estimated project total of \$14,150,335 (which includes soft costs of \$2,400,864). The district would use existing funds of \$1,500,000 to come to a project amount of \$12,650,335, which would result in a bond amount of \$12,660,000. Interest costs are estimated at \$4,802,200 for a 20-year bond. Based on 2015-2016 valuations, this would result in an average tax levy impact of 17.5 cents.

Option 2 (also known as Proposition A): This option includes demolishing the current high school, code compliance/minor renovations of the existing school, code compliance for the existing gym, adding elementary classrooms, ag/weight room addition/renovation and site parking for an estimated project total of \$12,071,305 (which includes soft costs of \$2,039,047). The district would use existing funds of \$1,500,000 to come to a bond amount of \$10,571,305, which would result in a bond amount of \$10,580,000. Interest costs are estimated at \$4,011,529.17 for a 20-year bond. Based on 2015-2016 valuations, this would result in an average tax levy impact of 14.65 cents.

Option 3: This option is considered the contingency option. The ballot would have two propositions for the voters to vote on. Proposition A is Option 2 and Proposition B is the construction of a new gym, locker rooms and related improvements which would result in a bond amount of \$2,085,000. Interest costs are estimated at \$789,871.88 for a 20-year bond. Based on 2015-2016 valuations, this would result in an average tax levy impact of 2.88 cents. Proposition A would have to pass for Proposition B to even be a possibility. Based upon 2015-2016 valuations, the average tax levy impact on Proposition A aka Option 2 is 14.65 cents, Proposition B is 2.88 cents, Proposition A and B is 17.53 cents.

A motion was made by Watson and seconded by Warner to adopt a resolution calling a special election to be held on September 13, 2016 in Furnas County School District 18 (Arapahoe Public School) in the state of Nebraska, for the purpose of approving the issuance of bonds of the District and approving related matters. Proposition A includes paying the costs of additions, improvements and renovations to school buildings and facilities consisting of classrooms, library, kitchen and dining areas, commons areas, administrative areas, agricultural technology classroom and shop facilities, weigh room, related improvements, furniture, fixtures and equipment, and the demolition of the existing high school in connection therewith. It would be necessary for the District to issue its general obligation bonds in the principal amount not to exceed \$10,580,000. Proposition B includes paying the costs of construction of a new gym, locker rooms and related improvements, furniture, fixtures and equipment, but Proposition B is to be authorized only if the ballot question for Proposition A is approved by the voters. It would be necessary for the District to issue its general obligation bonds in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,085,000. AYES: Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson and Watson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Roskop to approve the fuel contract with Ag Valley Coop, which includes 6,000 gallons of E-10-87 Octane at \$2.199 per gallon and 9,000 gallons of clear diesel at \$2.519 per gallon for a total cost of \$35,865. AYES: Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to approve lunch prices, including a \$0.10 increase to lunch prices for PK-12 students to comply with the equity requirements of the School Lunch Program. AYES: Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner and Whipple. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Anderson to approve the bid to patch, repair cracks and seal coat the parking area between the high school and ag shop totaling \$6,500. AYES: Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple and Breinig. Motion carried 6-0.

Griffith shared two options for lawn care changes east of the playground. Option 1 was for \$1,146.83 and included killing the west patches and planting bluegrass or sports turf, planting buffalo grass where needed to fill in bare areas, interseed thin fescue area and spraying a pre-emergent to clean up current weeds and hold out some until grass establishment. Option 2 was for \$1,438.41 and included killing all buffalo grass areas and plant to sports turf, interseed thin fescue area and spraying a pre-emergent to clean up current weeds and hold out some until grass establishment. A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to approve Option 1 for the proposal for lawn care changes east of the playground totaling \$1,146.83. AYES: Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig and Roskop. Motion carried 6-0.

Griffith advised the board that the changes to Policy 3570 primarily consisted of changing references from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) where necessary. A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Roskop to

approve the update to Policy 3570 as recommended by Perry Law Firm. AYES: Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop and Anderson. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment: None.

Braithwait reported that he received an invitation to a Blue Ribbon School Conference in December located in Florida. He wanted the boards input on whether or not to attend and how involved they want him to be in the Blue Ribbon group. Griffith's recommendation would be for Braithwait to attend and roughly estimated the cost to be around \$2,500. It was suggested to pass on the opportunity to attend the conference this year.

Griffith wanted some guidance from the board on providing a daycare/afterschool program. He asked if the board would like him to do more research. The board is open to continuing the conversation.

Braithwait shared with the board that 5 people that have been in our school/community are in the Hall of Fame and he would like to come up with a way to recognize those people. The 5 people are Fran tenBensel, Hoppy McCue, Jim Mather, Darrell Barnes and Ted Gill. The board thought this was a great idea and is interested in starting the conversation.

Watson stated that there is some surplus equipment around to get rid of, specifically some weight lifting machines and a kitchen refrigerator. It was advised to gather a list of the various pieces of equipment and get it posted to sell.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to enter into executive session at 11:09 pm for the protection of personnel. AYES: Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson and Watson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Warner to exit executive session at 11:30 pm. AYES: Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

Special Meeting, Monday, July 18th at 7:00 pm.

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, August 8th at 8:00 pm.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 pm. AYES: Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner and Whipple. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary