

Arapahoe Public School  
Board of Education – Regular Meeting  
School Library  
April 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 Charlie Curnyn, Superintendent, Bob Braithwait, Principal and Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary. Guest(s) included Tammie Middagh, Alexis Schievelbein, Lynze Weatherwax, Gentry Anderson, Kevin Grantham, Jonna Metzger, Yordi Gutierrez, Troy tenBensel, Mark Weatherwax, Robyn Hermes, Katie Andrews and Molly Blickenstaff. Also in attendance were TJ Schirmer and Tim Ripp with The Clark Enersen Partners and Jesse Volpp with Hausmann Construction.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to amend the agenda to exclude the contract approval of a K-12 PE Teacher in the Consent Agenda. AYES: Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson and Watson. Motion carried 6-0.

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

President Watson asked for Public Comment. Troy tenBensel expressed his concerns regarding the ESU contract and cutting some services, specifically speech and language and the Circle of Friends group. The Circle of Friends group has been very positive for social skill development and is just very concerned about that ending. He went on to ask who the Special Education Director was for the school, who makes some of the personnel decisions in that area and what the thoughts are going into next year to make sure no programs or services would be moving backwards. Mark Weatherwax agreed with Troy's comments and went on to say that the life skills learned are great and it is being done in a safe environment. He also said that it helps all kids in the classroom. It is a very important program and we need to keep it around. Robyn Hermes also agreed with Troy and Mark's comments. She added that the social and life skills that her first grader is learning are huge; they help him deal with everyday life. She feels that many kids could benefit from it and feels they may even be short staffed. She is just very concerned with cutting that back and losing those resources. What they are doing is so important. Alexis Schievelbein, Lynze Weatherwax, Gentry Anderson, Kevin Grantham, Jonna Metzger and Yordi Gutierrez each announced that they were there to observe the meeting. Watson thanked everyone for their comments.

## REPORTS

Braithwait reported that the Speech Team has had another successful season. Congratulations to the competitors and coaches. Levi Watson received a 6<sup>th</sup> place medal. The Science Olympiads had qualifiers for the state meet. This is the first year for the program and it is being run by Glenna Hoefs. They will compete April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lincoln. Prom seemed to go well. The kids looked great and were extremely well behaved. Our instrumental students participated in RPAC on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Bertrand. I thought the night went well and our students did a great job. The NeSA testing window opened March 21<sup>st</sup> and our classes are hard at it. On a positive note, NDE has asked to come out and observe our NeSA testing procedures on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to having them come out and observe. Our students did extremely well at Inter-High Day. Very proud of our students and staff and the academic success we've had this year. Finished 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to Olivia tenBensel for being a state champion in FCCLA and qualifying for nationals in San Diego this summer. We had several students getting State FFA degrees this past weekend. What a great accomplishment. Colin Kubik was named the State FFA Advisor of the year in Nebraska. We will miss Colin terribly. John Paulsen was named the April NTV Teacher of the Month due to an incredible letter written by Levi Watson. We hosted the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Contest last weekend. As always our kids did a great job. National Honor Society Inductions will take place at 7:00 am on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Cheerleading Tryouts will take place April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Music will be heading to Omaha on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to watch "Phantom Of The Opera". The FFA Banquet is at 6:30 pm on April 25<sup>th</sup>. State Trap is April 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. FCCLA Installation is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Athletic Banquet is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Seniors Last Day is May 6<sup>th</sup>. Honor's Night is May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm. Field Trips are in full swing in the elementary.

Curnyn reported that Freida Lang will be here to observe the NeSA testing. This is a federal requirement and it is our turn. Currently, working with staff on requisitions for 2016-2017 school supplies and it looks like approximately \$35,000. Putting together a summer project list, I will review that list with the buildings and grounds committee before the next board meeting to take into consideration the possibility of a construction / renovation project and how that may affect the summer projects. Reminder that there will be no school on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> for the Mather Track Invite and no school on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for

Board Member Reports: Watson reported that Track was today in Cambridge, Golf Home meet tomorrow and Track again on Friday in McCook. Whipple thanked the Buildings and Grounds for the new signs posted around the track and for approving the concrete pad for the south bleachers.

Board Committee Reports: Watson reported that the Building and Grounds Committee met and everyone will hear about that later in the meeting. Whipple reported that the Negotiations Committee met to discuss the non-certified staff raises and benefits. Breinig reported that there was a scheduling mix up with the Finance Committee, however, she did stop in to review the reports. The claims are about \$100,000 more, but that is due to opening a CD at First State Bank in Holbrook.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to approve claims including the General Fund, Equipment Depreciation Fund, Lunch Fund, QCPUF, Student Fee Fund and Bus Depreciation Fund totaling \$450,680.96. AYES: Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple but abstaining from Claim No. 27691 to Applied Communications Technology for \$110.00 and Claim No. 27695 to ATC for \$498.36 and Breinig. Motion carried 6-0.

TJ thanked the board for having them out for the meeting. They had reviewed the comment cards from the public and staff and met with the Building & Grounds Committee. They were challenged by the committee to reduce the square footage and find better ways to repurpose existing space. They shared a couple of new plans that accomplished that task and included a new gymnasium. TJ also informed the board that on a \$10 million with a 30 year term versus a 20 year term would reduce the levy, but would add approximately \$2.6 million in interest. TJ will be getting the committee the cost information for the two new plans and would appreciate any new feedback regarding scope and cost.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Roskop to approve non-certified staff pay raises at 3%. AYES: Anderson, Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig and Roskop. Motion carried 6-0.

The board discussed whether or not to include the single premium for dental insurance with the offering of health insurance and decided against it at this time. A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Breinig to approve the school district offering non-certificated staff that work over 17.5 hours a week health insurance with the district paying the single premium of the Blue Cross Blue Shield \$900 deductible or the \$3,500 deductible HSA-eligible plan. AYES: Watson, Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop and Anderson. Motion carried 6-0.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment: Watson stated that this would be addressed with the discussion of the ESU contract that is already on the list of items to be discussed.

Watson understood from last month's meeting that the SPED Director recommended reducing the contracted days for Speech Services based upon our number of kids receiving Speech and Language services and Curnyn agreed. Curnyn shared with the board the following documents: 1) Report showing 16 students identified with a Speech Language Impairment and 16 students that receive Speech Language Therapy, totaling 32. 2) According to our SPED Director and area SPED Directors, the average caseload for a Speech Language Pathologist in Nebraska is 40 – 60. 3) According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, an average caseload for a Speech Pathologist is 47. 4) Requested current schedules from ESU Speech and Language Staff and evaluated that information when making the recommendation. 5) Another article from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association explaining the use of paraprofessionals to assist the Speech Pathologist. 6) Cost information from the ESU regarding next year's contract. Whipple inquired about how the ESU audit compares to area schools. Principal Braithwait bases his decisions on what the kids need, input from the SPED Department and input from the ESU staff and disagrees with the decision that was made at last month's meeting. Watson stated that it was never the board's intention to cut services; it was the proper appropriation of funds for those services. Curnyn stated when he started here, the district employed 8 paraprofessionals and we now employ 12. Last year, an ELL teacher was replaced with a SPED teacher and could be better utilized. Curnyn stated that in his evaluation of the program with ESU and staff on hand, more can be done in-house and no programs or services would be cut. The 2015-16 ESU contract for Speech & Language is 2.5 days for a Speech Pathologist and 4.5 days for a Language Resource Teacher. The recommendation by Curnyn for the 2016-17 ESU Contract for Speech and Language was 3 days for a Speech Pathologist and -0- days for a Language Resource Teacher and using the SPED Teacher and paraprofessionals more. Watson stated that the ESU contract needs to be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Curnyn stated that the district does get reimbursed 50-55% from the state.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to enter into executive session at 9:56 pm for the protection of personnel. AYES: Warner, Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson and Watson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Anderson to exit executive session at 10:50 pm. AYES: Whipple, Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

Watson instructed Curnyn to advise ESU that we would like to keep the contract for 2016-17 the same as it is for the current year.

Watson stated that if/when new bleachers are chosen for the south side of the football field the old bleachers will either be used elsewhere or put up for bid.

Watson was approached on the possibility for an after-school program. Curnyn presented some information to the board about Southwest's PK-6 after-school program. Andrews shared with the board that one daycare will be closing and another will be selling. There was a meeting held with area daycare providers to discuss needs and opportunities. Blickenstaff indicated that there was a need prior to the recent information coming out about the two daycares. Another option they are researching is a community based daycare and they plan to attend the next City Council meeting to discuss that with them. Watson agreed that it is a community problem. Braithwait stated that the Safety Council has also discussed the need for an after-school program at their meetings. Watson agreed that the space is available after school for such a program to take place.

Graduation Ceremony, Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 pm. AYES: Breinig, Roskop, Anderson, Watson, Warner and Whipple. Motion carried 6-0.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary