

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 467
WICHITA COUNTY
LEOTI, KANSAS

Meeting Time and Place

1. The Board of Education of Unified School District #467, Wichita County, Kansas met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 10, 2021 at the Board of Education office.

People Present

2. Members present were: Jason Koehn, Brian Gerstberger, Jim Myers, Tammy Simons, Brandon Whalen, Ann Wiles, and Josh Young.

Also present were: Superintendent, Lori Maxwell; Clerk, Tammy Mason; WCES Principal, Brant Douglas; WCJSHS Principal, Delbert Schmidt; Director of Buildings & Grounds/Transportation, Ed Simon; and Guests: Sara Brown, Julie Conard, Jenny Long, Nikki Bjurstrom, Joy Brown, Maggie Brown, Laney Crouch, and Sophie Gerstberger.

Approved Consent Agenda

3. Jim Myers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board thanked the coaches that have resigned for their years of coaching in the Wichita County school district. Brian Gerstberger motioned and Tammy Simons seconded to approve the consent agenda consisting of:
 - A. Approval of the agenda for the meeting.
 - B. Minutes for April 12, 2021 meeting.
 - C. Payment of bills.
 - D. Accept the resignation of Nate Brown as the WCHS head wrestling coach effective at the end of the 2020-21 season.
 - E. Accept the resignation of Ashley Schmidt as the WCHS assistant volleyball coach effective at the end of the 2020-21 season.
 - F. Accept the resignation of Shad Mehl as the WCJSHS head cross country coach as presented.
 - G. Accept a donation of \$610 from the 2021 Grant from Dr. JoAnn Brown's Fund at Wichita County Community Foundation for dental health care.
 - H. Accept a donation of \$619.63 from Mill B Farms for Oxford University Press Dictionaries for fourth grade.

- I. Accept a donation of \$300 from Community Thrift Shoppe Inc. for a book shelf in Andrea Bauck's classroom.
- J. Accept a donation of \$250 from Community Thrift Shoppe Inc. for science room weights.
Motion passed 7-0.

Student Presentations

- 4. Leslie Niswonger and the Youth Entrepreneur contest winners; Maggie Brown, Laney Crouch, and Sophie Gerstberger presented their first place proposal. The proposed business is named LMS Vet Clinic. The students explained their business plan. They competed at the state competition virtually this year. The Board asked questions. Mrs. Niswonger and students left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Grow & Learn Update

- 5. Jenny Long and Nikki Bjurstrom presented an update on the Grow & Learn Childcare Center. The committee has been able to raise funds through fundraisers, pledges, donations, grants, and State of Kansas Tax Credits being sold. As of May 7, the cost of the project is architectural fees of \$67,900, construction cost of \$1,218,968, inventory and equipment cost of \$85,000, and six months of operating costs of \$150,000 for a total of \$1,521,868. The building project is planning to move forward with anticipated additional funding. Mrs. Bjurstrom and Mrs. Long left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Indoor Air Quality Study

- 6. Superintendent Maxwell presented the Indoor Air Quality Study. The anticipated ESSER 3 funds can be used to pay for improvements recommended in the indoor air quality study done last fall. If the board wishes to pursue this, the school district will need to get on Trane's work schedule to meet spending timelines. After some discussion, the Board decided to meet on June 7th at 6:00 p.m. in a special meeting to discuss in detail the best use of the ESSER funds and the indoor air quality study.

Utility Rate Hikes

- 7. Superintendent Maxwell presented the bills for Symmetry Gas (increase \$7,700) and Wheatland Electric (increase \$55,939). Wheatland Electric has offered to let the district pay the \$55,939 over 24 months instead of 12 months, interest free. Jason Koehn motioned and Brian Gerstberger seconded to

pay the remaining amount of the \$55,939 increase over 24 months, interest free. Motion passed 7-0.

8. KASB has given direction and options on paying the gas bill with the increases. KASB has advised districts on the following options: pay in full with a 5% discount, pay over 6 months, join a lawsuit action at a cost of \$400 to our district, or only pay the minimum \$4.57 per unit (\$2, 426.91) in pursuit of a future reduction or agreement.
9. Last month the Board agreed to pay the minimum \$4.57 per unit and not join the lawsuit. However, KASB is encouraging joining the lawsuit in order to benefit from the legal action. Brandon Whalen motioned and Jason Koehn seconded to pay the \$400 fee to join the lawsuit. Motion passed 7-0.

WCES & WCJSHS Handbooks

10. Superintendent Maxwell presented the WCES and WCJSHS Handbooks with revisions for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board will review the handbooks and discuss or approve at the regular board meeting on June 14, 2021.

Branch Control Unit at WCJSHS

11. Superintendent Maxwell presented the proposal for replacement of the branch control unit at WCJSHS. The branch control unit is the distribution for cold or warm refrigerant into the building. The current branch control unit is leaking approximately 90 pounds of refrigerant per month and the parts are not replaceable. The cost of the new branch control unit is \$26,290 through Trane. Tammy Simons motioned and Josh Young seconded to purchase the branch control unit through Trane for \$26,290. Motion passed 7-0.

WCJSHS Principal's Report

12. WCJSHS Principal, Mr. Schmidt, updated the Board on the Jr./Sr. High school.
 - A. May 4th the Jr./Sr. high school had a lockdown drill.
 - B. The Junior High Spring Concert was held on April 27th. The High School Spring Concert was held on May 6th. Both concerts were well attended.
 - C. The Industrial Arts program held a show during the spring concert.

- D. The FFA banquet will be held on May 15th.
- E. The high school awards ceremony will be on May 19th at 2:00 p.m.
- F. The Baccalaureate will be on May 19th at 7:00 p.m.
- G. The athletic banquet is on May 20th.
- H. The high school graduation will be on May 22nd at 2:30 p.m.
- I. The junior high awards will be on May 26th at 2:15 p.m.
- J. Mrs. Anthony asked for the Board's approval on teaching 7th grade Life Science unit on puberty and human sexuality education. Parents were sent an opt-in letter to give their child consent. The Board approved by consensus.

WCES Principal's Report

13. WCES Principal, Mr. Douglas, updated the Board on the elementary school.
- A. Field trips have been planned for each grade.
 - B. 3rd & 4th grade state tests are finished.
 - C. Summer school letters have been sent out.
 - D. Mr. Douglas discussed vaping with 6th Grade.
 - E. The K-2 music concert is May 11th at 7:00 p.m.
 - F. The 3-6 music concert is May 18th at 7:00 p.m.
 - G. The 6th grade promotion is May 18th.
 - H. The Pre K graduation is May 26th at 10:00 a.m.
 - I. The Kindergarten graduation is May 27th at 10:00 a.m.
 - J. Grade school track and field will be on the last day of school.

Superintendent's Report

14. Superintendent Maxwell updated the Board on the district.
- A. Three board members will be elected for a four year term starting on the second Monday in January, 2022. Current members in those positions are Tammy Simons, Brandon Whalen, and Josh Young. The filing deadline is June 1, 2021.
 - B. The gym floor refinishing will take place August 2nd & 3rd.
 - C. Superintendent Maxwell is serving on the KDHE Advisory Committee. The committee is working on ways to implement Covid testing in schools in the fall. Superintendent Maxwell explained that she has shared with the committee that our

district and probably most in Western Kansas are not in favor of implementing this in schools.

- D. Breakfast and lunch will be free to all students again next year. The cook evaluations will be completed by the end of May. At least one cook, possibly two will be able to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch during summer school. The new reimbursement rates for next school year have yet to be determined.
- E. Western State Bank sent a note of apology for the issues with their new system upgrade and thanked the district for working through this with them.
- F. Kansans Can Star Recognition from KSDE included the following awards: Postsecondary Effectiveness-Bronze, Prepared for High School Graduation-Copper, and Commissioner's Award.
- G. Superintendent Maxwell shared the color samples for flooring/mansard panels. The building material will be delivered at an undetermined time and will be placed in the high school parking lot on the west side of the school. This may interfere with parking during graduation but is unavoidable as the building material delivery date can not be chosen in advance.
- H. The district applied to participate in the ESSDACK health insurance group and was denied.
- I. Conrade Insurance reached out about possibly bidding insurance with the district for next year. The Board discussed and asked Superintendent Maxwell to contact EMC insurance for the amount to renew insurance for next year, to determine if bidding out the insurance will be necessary.
- J. Teacher and Staff Appreciation was the week of May 3rd through May 7th. Parents, community members, and administration brought in treats and meals to show appreciation to the staff all week.
- K. The end of year staff lunch and recognition will be on May 28th at noon.

Mrs. Joy Brown and Mrs. Conard left the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Executive Session for Personnel

15. Ann Wiles motioned and Brandon Whalen seconded to enter executive session with Ms. Maxwell, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Simon, and Mrs. Mason present to discuss matters adversely or favorably affecting non-elected certified and classified staff pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA. The matters affecting the non-elected certified and classified staff members is their performance and employment. The Board will return to open session at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed 7-0. Mr. Schmidt entered the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

16. The meeting returned to open session at 9:05 p.m. No action was taken. Mr. Simon left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Executive Session for Personnel

17. Tammy Simons motioned and Brian Gerstberger seconded to enter executive session with Ms. Maxwell, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Douglas present to discuss matters adversely or favorably affecting non-elected certified and classified staff pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA. The matters affecting the non-elected certified and classified staff members is their performance and employment. The Board will return to open session at 10:27 p.m.

18. The meeting returned to open session at 10:27 p.m. Josh Young motioned and Ann Wiles seconded to rehire teachers as presented for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Session for Negotiations

19. Brian Gerstberger motioned and Brandon Whalen seconded to enter executive session with Ms. Maxwell, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Douglas present to discuss negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA. The Board will return to open session at 10:43 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

20. The meeting returned to open session at 10:43 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment

21. Jim Myers officially adjourned the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Jim Myers, President

Tammy Mason, Board Clerk

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