

Attendees - voting members

Kecia Hickman	President
Susan Rensink	Vice President
Mark Brown	Board Member
Glen Goedken	Board Member
Randy Merley	Board Member

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

At 6:00 PM, Board President Kecia Hickman called the meeting to order with the following members present: Susan Rensink, Glen Goedken, Mark Brown, Randy Merley and Kecia Hickman.

Superintendent Robin Spears and Board Secretary LaDonn Hartzell were present.

Administrators present: Cindy Barwick, Middle School Principal; Matt Meendering, High School Principal; Jason Groendyke, Elementary Principal; Justin Albers, Activities Director.
Members of the Press: Mark Mahoney

Visitors: Amber London, Karen Dagle-Witham, Amy Otto, Jamie Sage, Michelle DeKok, Jeff DeKok, Kellen DeKok, Brian Nilles, Esther Nilles, Theresa Jerrow, Stanton Madsen, Olivia Reiser, Kent De Zeeuw, Tom Fuoss

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Spears added a discussion item 5I. Teacher Appreciation, under Superintendent Reports.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens, Organization(s) in Attendance

1. Public Comment

Amber London, Karen Dagle-Witham, Amy Otto and Jamie Sage were present to address the board regarding the KeBecca Program. KeBecca is a Level III Special Education Behavioral Disorder Program which operates at East Elementary. Three of the four visitors are KeBecca employees, with the fourth being the mother of a current KeBecca student. They encouraged the board to consider renewing the contract with Kebecca for the 2015-16 school year.

Superintendent Spears responded that the KeBecca contract renewal would be addressed later in the meeting, under Item VIII. G., so board members agreed to have Superintendent Spears address the program while our guests were still present. He explained that the program is not cost beneficial to the Sheldon district since we have not been able to attract our own district students to this program. We currently have 6 students in the program; only two of which are Sheldon District students. KeBecca charges the same amount for the program, no matter how many students are participating in the program, with a maximum of seven students. Mr. Spears referred to the physical damages that have already occurred in the new classroom at East.

Superintendent Spears stated the current KeBecca program is not fully successful since it is lacking the therapy component.

The board thanked the visitors for their concern and invited them to stay until the board could discuss the issue more in depth later in the meeting.

The visitors left the meeting.

2. Recognition

a. Student

Board members received lists of student recognition from Middle School and High School.

b. Student Presentation - Middle School

All those present moved to the commons area to hear and enjoy musical selections from three of the Middle School Solo/Ensemble Contest participants. Kellen DeKok, Olivia Reiser and Brian Nilles performed their selections, which they will also perform for the judges on March 18 at the Middle School. Approximately 85 students are scheduled to perform for the contest.

IV. Correspondence

A. "The Board" Publication

1. The Board "Your Appreciation Matters," Vol. 38, Number 21
2. The Board "The Role of Compromise in Leadership," Vol. 38, Number 22
3. NW AEA Board Meeting Minutes - February Board Meeting
4. Receipt of "Thank You" Cards -- None.

Board President called for a motion to accept all correspondence.

Motion made by: Susan Rensink

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

B. Board Member Reports

1. Susan Rensink requested a year-to-date line item budget with yearly comparisons. Mr. Spears explained that he and Mrs. Hartzell have been working on a line item budget, but have been hindered by the account code differences between the Harris software system and Grant Wood. They will continue to work on account code corrections and merges. Board members agreed they would like a condensed version of the line item budget.

V. APPROVAL OF:

A. Minutes of Past Meeting(s)

Board members reviewed minutes from the 02.11.15 regular meeting.

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Susan Rensink

Voting

Unanimously Approved

B. Approve Bills, Bank Reconciliations, Payroll, Financial Reports

Kecia Hickman reviewed the bills, bank reconciliations, payroll and financial reports for the month. She called for a motion to approve all bills for payment.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

VI. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)** -- None.

VII. **REPORTS**

A. **Committee** -- None.

B. **Special** -- None.

C. **Administration**

1. **Elementary School Principal**

Jason Groendyke, Elementary Principal, prepared a written report for the board, as well as being present for questions. He reviewed FAST assessment data, including an example of the parent letter regarding proficiency following FAST assessments. Mr. Groendyke also mentioned the new library furnishings are almost complete and have made a vast improvement.

2. **Middle School Principal**

Cindy Barwick, Middle School Principal, prepared a written report for the board, as well as was present for questions. She reviewed assessment reports and updated board members regarding current and upcoming Middle School events.

3. **High School Principal**

Matt Meendering, High School Principal prepared a written report for the board, as well as was present for questions. He reviewed "intervention time" activities the students have participated in during the last several weeks, as well as the presenters scheduled for the remainder of the school year. The 2015-16 scheduling has begun and staff will continue to work on the schedule until year-end. Students will be able to select their 2015-16 classes electronically, which should enhance the process.

Mr. Meendering thanked the board for all the opportunities presented to him during the past 16 years in the Sheldon District. The board wished him well.

4. **Activities Director**

Justin Albers, Activities Director, prepared a written report for the board, as well as was present for questions. He highlighted student activities during the last several weeks.

5. **Superintendent**

a. **East Elementary Building/Renovation Project Update**

Superintendent Spears updated board members on the East Elementary Project, including the near completion of the library furnishings. Minor heating/cooling and plumbing adjustments still need to be made, but otherwise the project is near 100% completion. The lawn area to the north will be monitored and a decision will be made whether or not the landscaping needs to be redone. Plantings and trees will be considered to complete the project.

b. **2015-16 School Calendar**

Superintendent Spears reported the Sheldon Community School District did not submit a waiver regarding the school start date. The Iowa Legislature still has not made a final decision on school start

date. Board members should plan to approve a revised 2015-16 school calendar at the April meeting. The revised calendar will have an August 31, 2015 start date, if there is still no legislative decision.

Mr. Meendering added that there are many "unintended consequences" that may result from a legislative decision to start later. The later start date will affect drivers education, city summer recreation, summer cleaning schedule, and the Summer Theatre schedule, to name a few. He also referred to potential scheduling conflicts with NCC with a later start to the school year.

c. **Preliminary FY16 Financial Information**

Superintendent Spears presented the FY16 Aid & Levy Worksheet, using 3% Supplemental State Aid. The proposed FY16 budget will publish the last possible day to still be able to hold the hearing on April 8, to certify by April 15. The total tax levy rate for FY15 was \$13.99038. The proposed Aid & Levy Worksheet would decrease the current Tax Levy Rate by approximately \$0.01435 to \$13.97603.

d. **Department of Education Site Visit**

Superintendent Spears shared information for the DE Site Visit, scheduled for April 14-16. Board members may be involved with interviews during the visit. He shared a list of possible questions should they be asked to participate.

e. **Property and Casualty Insurance RFP**

Superintendent Spears shared information regarding the bidding process for property & liability insurance. He reminded board members that the FY14 audit report directed the school district to seek competitive bids due to a possible conflict of interest. The district will prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) and submit to the Iowa Public School Insurance Program, as well as advertising in local newspapers.

f. **Future Purchase of District Copy Machines**

Superintendent Spears shared that the district is currently acquiring bids for copiers, with the potential of purchasing four new machines. The district currently has seven copiers; four of which are approximately ten years old, and one is beyond repair. Estimated cost to purchase four new copiers: \$30,000

g. **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2015**

Superintendent Spears announced that Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8.

h. **Nurse's Report**

The February Nurse's Report was received for information.

i. **Transportation Report**

The February Transportation Report was received for information.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Board Policy Review (2nd Reading)**

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board adopt Board Policies 406.4 through 409.3R1 and No. 507.9.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Mark Brown

Voting

Unanimously Approved

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Open Enrollment Applications

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board approve the Open Enrollment applications as presented.

3 students to HMS for the remainder of this school year, due to a change in residence;
2 students to MOC-FV for the remainder of this school year, due to a change in residence;

2 students to Boyden-Hull for the remainder of this school year, due to a change in residence;

1 student to MOC-FV for 2015-16; 1 student to Boyden-Hull for 2015-16

Motion made by: Susan Rensink

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

B. Resignations

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board approve the following resignations:

* Matt Meendering, High School Principal and Head Football Coach

* Beth Bunkers, kindergarten teacher; applying for the school district severance benefit as outlined in Board Policy 407.6.

* Kay Youngs, 4th grade teacher; applying for the school district's severance benefit as outlined in Board Policy 407.6.

* Adam Orban, 7-12 Vocal Music teacher

* Jennifer Van Wyk, 4th grade teacher

* Daphne Feekes, Dance Team Coach

* Dave Gross, Instructional Associate position at East Elementary

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Susan Rensink

Voting

Unanimously Approved

C. Contracts

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board approve two contracts:

Rachel Iedema, Food Service dishwasher at East -- \$14.48/hour, 2 hours/day

Paul Meyer, Assistant Golf Coach -- \$2,399

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Susan Rensink

Voting

Unanimously Approved

D. Authorize Issuance of 2015-16 Teacher Contracts

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board authorize issuance of teacher

contracts for the 2015-16 school year, with the intention of issuing the contracts on

Monday, March 16. Contract amounts are based on the 2014-15 Master Contract and

will be adjusted when negotiations are completed.

Motion made by: Mark Brown

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

E. **Authorize Issuance of 2015-16 Coaching Contracts**

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board authorize issuance of certified staff co-curricular contracts for the 2015-16 school year. Contract amounts will be based on the 2014-15 Master Agreement and will be adjusted when negotiations are completed.

Motion made by: Susan Rensink

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

F. **Approve Contract for Student Receiving Special Education Services in Other School Districts**

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board approve the following special education services contract for a resident student receiving educational services in another school district or care facility:

- Student "J.V." – Estherville Community School District, Estherville, IA.

Motion made by: Susan Rensink

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

G. **Consider KeBecca Education Service Contract**

Board continued discussion of the KeBecca Level III Behavioral Disorder Program, currently operating at East Elementary. KeBecca is requesting the Sheldon Community School District consider renewal of the contract for the 2015-16 school year.

Amber London, Karen Dagele-Witham, Amy Otto and Jamie Sage returned to listen to discussion.

Superintendent Spears reiterated the original concept behind our district involvement in the KeBecca Program was to replicate the services provided by Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls, without the travel time for students. KeBecca limits the program to seven students and the charge for the program is the same, whether there are seven students or less than seven. Currently there are six students in the program; two of whom are Sheldon resident students. The other students are from neighboring districts. Those districts are billed by Sheldon CSD for actual costs generated by the student attending the special program. Board members directed Superintendent Spears to poll neighboring districts in an attempt to fill the seventh slot to complete the program and decrease the cost per student to participate in the KeBecca program.

Superintendent Spears and Mr. Groendyke agreed that as a school district, we are unable to provide the therapy component, necessary for these students to complete their educational experience in the program. The Department of Education has determined therapy is not an acceptable special education expenditure, which has made it unaffordable for school districts.

Board members agreed to table this issue for one week, in anticipation of attracting one more student to complete the program.

Board members agreed to meet in special session, Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 PM.

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

H. **Consider Annual Application For Renewal Of Cooperative Sponsorship Of An Activity (High School Wrestling Sharing Agreement With South O'Brien CSD)**

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board authorize District Administration to file the online application for the renewal of the cooperative sponsorship agreement between the Sheldon Community School District and the South O'Brien Community School District regarding sharing the High School Wrestling Program.

Motion made by: Mark Brown

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

I. **Select Health Insurance Provider for 2015-16 School Year**

Superintendent Spears began discussion regarding health insurance carriers for the district health insurance needs. He shared comparisons between the current health plan, the proposed Wellmark health insurance rates, Iowa Star Schools proposal and a proposal from Coventry.

Tom Fuoss, Perspective Insurance agent, was present to make comparisons and supply additional information on Coventry Insurance, soon to become Aetna. He has agreed to meet with teaching staff on March 18 to discuss Coventry benefits.

Mr. Fuoss also commended the district on the success of the MERP (Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan). He also outlined the benefit improvements offered by Coventry as compared to the current Wellmark plan. He added that the Wellmark roster will immediately download to Coventry to assure a smooth transition.

Superintendent Spears requested a List of Providers that Coventry will accept "in network." Mr. Fuoss agreed to obtain the list.

Board members agreed to table this item until the special meeting on March 18.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

J. **Approve Electrical Change Order for East Elementary Building Project**

Superintendent Spears recommended the Board approve the electrical change order for the East Elementary Project. The change order is for a \$10,061.10 increase for the overall electrical cost for the project, which includes replacement of four existing electrical panels.

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Mark Brown

Voting

Unanimously Approved

K. **Consider Hot Water Heater Purchase for East Elementary**

Superintendent Spears shared bids for four water heaters for East Elementary: Fred's Plumbing & Heating -- \$16,615

Kamies Plumbing & Heating -- \$ 18,651.58
Superintendent recommended the Board award the bid to Fred's Plumbing and Heating at a cost of \$16,615.

Motion made by: Mark Brown

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

L. Authorize Technology Audit

Superintendent Spears shared a quote for \$16,000 received from Heartland Business Services, to perform a technology audit of the school district. Board members agreed to proceed with the audit.

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Susan Rensink

Voting

Unanimously Approved

M. Set Date and Time for FY16 Budget Hearing and Certification

Superintendent Spears recommended the board set the date and time for the 2015-16 budget hearing. Board members agreed to set the budget hearing for the next regular board meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2015. The meeting will commence at 6:00 PM, with the budget hearing set for 6:30 PM.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Mark Brown

Voting

Unanimously Approved

N. Board Policy Review (1st Reading)

Board members reviewed first reading of board policies 409.3R2 through 413.4.

Motion made by: Glen Goedken

Motion seconded by: Randy Merley

Voting

Unanimously Approved

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. IASB Strategic Board Governance Meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Sheldon High School

Kecia Hickman, Susan Rensink and Superintendent Spears plan to attend the IASB Strategic Board Governance meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 PM.

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Board President Kecia Hickman called for a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

Board members entered Exempt Session at 9:03 PM, for the purpose of negotiations discussion. The Exempt Session ended at 9:20 PM.

Motion made by: Randy Merley

Motion seconded by: Glen Goedken

Voting

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary

