

## APPROVED

Holton USD #336  
Board of Education --First Regular Meeting  
Nov 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Eubanks, Brent Nelson, Steven Bowser, Todd Holaday, Russ McKinney, Shelby Patch, Jay Watkins.

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

President Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**A motion was made by Member Patch and seconded by Member Bowser** to approve the amended agenda of the Nov 17th, 2008 regular board meeting. Motion carried, 7-0.

**A motion was made by Member Eubanks and seconded by Member Watkins** to approve the minutes of the Oct 13 regular board meeting. Motion carried, 7-0.

**A motion was made by Member Eubanks and seconded by Member Watkins** to approve the warrant numbers 45622 through 45841 and Nov payroll and BCBS refunds as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Tannahill**-Requesting district allow USD 336 bus to come to her home and pick up son who resides in the JH school district. Currently they meet bus at designated spot in the Holton district. They live two miles from the Holton boundary. They live greater than 10 miles from the JH School.

Consensus of board for Dr. Karleskint and Raymond to assess location and bus accessibility and for Ms. Tannahill to request permission from JH district for USD 336 to come across district lines. A final decision will be made at that time.

**Rex Larison-** If the district will be forming a committee to continue addressing the school needs he would like to be considered for that committee.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Required summer school- DRAFT Policy distributed by Ralph Blevins. Member Patch said she had a few individuals who asked if the final decision would be one person or a group decision when coming down to retaining a student. Ralph Blevins said it is a group decision at the middle school but he couldn't speak for Central but he thought it was a similar approach there as well. It would be a continuous effort throughout the school year between staff, student and parents and so would not come as a surprise when summer school came around. They would really be targeting those students who were 2-3 grade levels behind in their academic scores. With No Child Left Behind and AYP rules and regulations the district needs to put something into place to assist in getting these students into compliance.

**A motion was made by Member Holaday and seconded by Member Bowser** to approve summer school policy as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

2. Baseball cuts – Mitch Beims said he did some checking into some of the ideas that had been discussed at the previous board meeting. The 4-H grounds need a lot of maintenance and updating as well as the size concern in respect to surrounding houses. Soccer fields cannot be used but the field to the west of the west soccer field potentially could be used for practice but no fencing or backdrop available. Denison field is available. Not big but in decent shape and has lighting. Currently city is potentially looking at putting a new field out by Prairie Lake but there is a timing issue. We need it this spring. He said coach Purcell said that he expects around 50+ kids to go out for Baseball this spring.

Mitch presented two options:

1) Cuts to 30 players – No cost. Would decrease the multiple safety issues they are currently dealing with resulting from the greater number of players.

2) Add a “C” team which would practice at the Denison field. Cost would potentially be 2 additional coaches, equipment, uniforms and

bus transportation and driver expenses to and from the field. High estimate came to \$8,288.

Board Member Eubanks said he hated to see us put into place cuts for the team. He thought the loss of opportunity to Holton students who wanted to play would be great and currently we don't do cuts in any of our sports. He would like for us to try and come to a solution that wouldn't require kids to be cut. Dr. Karleskint reminded the board that this is not budgeted in this year's budget and the state might be cutting this year's budget by 2-3%. We should know more in February or March what the state plans to do. Dr. Karleskint suggested the board wait to see what the legislature plans to do in the spring.

Board members were in agreement to wait and see what decisions will be made by the legislature before making a final decision.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Colorado Report-School Improvement**

Mark C. Wilson handed out a report outlining the different testing and diagnostic tests done at Colorado school with the students. It explained how they assess kids today and develop strategies to get them to mastery of reading skills required at specific grade levels.

2. Head Lice Policy – Carolyn Bartlett handed out information from the Center for Disease Control and also the state regulations concerning head lice. If live lice are detected the child must be taken out of school and treated with the appropriate products. They may return to school with nits on their hair. The chemicals will kill the live lice but have no effect on the nits. The student then needs to be rechecked in 7-10 days when the nits hatch into live lice so that if a second application is needed the parent can be notified. The live lice are the problem. Carolyn stated out of 1400 kids checked only 16 had live lice. They were treated and returned to school as quickly as possible so as not to interfere with their learning. She recommends that the board continue with their current policy, which is the state policy.

Board consensus was to remain with the current policy.

### **3. School Central – Tom Sextro**

Tom presented to the board along with Chris Fletcher a plan from School Central which would allow parents and potentially patrons of the community to receive a text message or e-mail that would inform them of current information. These would include school closings, announcements, emergencies etc. It would entail the person to sign up for these and provide their cell phone numbers and/or email addresses.

Unsolicited advertising would not take place through the actual alert messaging. The service would be free to the district, local government, churches and businesses.

Board members wanted Tom to check on the following concerns to make sure we were in full understanding of the company's policies.

1. Verify again no up front costs
2. Inquire about any maintenance costs
3. Policy regarding retention of services
4. Contract/No contract to be signed
5. Cancellation of policy stipulations
6. Clarification of registration process

Consensus of the board is to move forward with the project when questions are answered.

4. Insurance Renewal strategy – Cindy Hower - handouts given to board. Presented information that needs to be updated and changed before the renewal of the contract for January 1st. Mainly pertaining to verifying square footage on some of the buildings and age of some of the roofs. Will be on the December agenda for approval.

5. Career Pathways- Alan Beam wanted to present some upcoming changes that are happening in state education so the board may be aware. The first stage is to get the middle school involved in the planning stages of Career Pathways. It is being recommended that the middle school work with their students to explore a minimum of 5 different careers. Currently Ralph Blevins and Alan are working to develop a plan that would allow career and tech ed teachers to teach classes for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade during AEP time. Multiple plans are being reviewed to determine which would best benefit all involved with the least amount of problems. This in turn would allow the students once reaching high school to further narrow their career paths to 3 main lines. Then the high school would

work with the students to update their plans and develop a plan of attack.

This will eventually impact all teachers because all teachers will develop lessons around the career clusters so that when giving demonstrations in the classroom they will be part of the career clusters. Long-range goal is to base state assessments on the career pathways. Example is a student with a career pathway in music would demonstrate his/her knowledge of fractions by using music.

6. Roofing concerns- Dr. Karleskint handed out pictures of where we are currently having leakage at the high school. Over the walking track in the new gym in the NW corner. This roof is 15 years old. Also over the counselors and the boys bathroom there are issues.

MW coating has worked on various roofs in the past for the district. Board reviewed pictures provided and discussed the Dura Last roof.

Board asked Dr. Karleskint to proceed with bidding on a Dura Last roof repair.

#### 7. Bus Routes- Jay Watkins

Expressed concern of the bus route that picks up his children. He lives at the end of a private drive with a big turn around. The bus pulls into his road and then backs out onto 214 with a slight hill, which impairs vision of oncoming traffic. He feels it would be safer for all involved if the bus were to come to the end of the private drive and turn around. He timed it driving under 20 mph and it only took around 21 seconds. He knows the district reviews these issues on a case-by-case basis and would like for them to check it out. He said he and three other homeowners are responsible for upkeep of the drive and they will do snow removal as well. He said only one time has he seen the road impassable and in that case he would communicate with Raymond to inform the bus driver not to pick up the kids because he would more than likely bring them in himself.

Mark C. Wilson and Raymond will check on situation and report back with the district decision.

8. Bond Results – Next step? Dr. Karleskint asked the “YES” committee to review what they concluded from their experience.

Bobbi McGrath- Group representative spoke. The group concluded there are two main reasons why it was defeated.

1. Location
2. Money

Nothing new that the board hasn't heard before. Community wanted more concrete answers on items that really couldn't be answered until final preparations were completed.

Next step is to determine what amount of money would be acceptable by the businesses, parents and community members. Looking at needs vs. wants there has to be a palatable compromise. Less than 10% of school districts in Kansas don't currently have all day Kindergarten. This district must have all day Kindergarten; special education and ADA needs must also be addressed. It would be good to survey each teacher independently to determine their needs in a facility currently and with growth.

Dr. Karleskint provided board members with property values on purchasing the ½ block (3 acres) across from Colorado. The amount came to \$425,000. That is without all the destruction work and utility changes that would have to be made on top of just the purchase of the properties. Looking at purchasing 12 acres to add to our existing 3 acres would take a total of 2 city blocks. It could also mean the closure and/or restructuring of existing streets.

Rex Larison – Commented that he thought that the bond being voted down didn't mean that the community was saying that needs in education are not there. He said the proposal was not acceptable but feels that there must be something that is acceptable to the community. What that is exactly he is not sure but is willing to be on the committee that would help to determine what it is. The district must continue to move forward even after the defeat of the bond. Those needs are not going to go away so a plan needs to be determined on how to best meet them.

**A motion was made by Member Watkins and seconded by Member Eubanks** to extend regular session for 1 hour at 10:00 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

Board agreed with both speakers and would like to thank them for their input. Realizing that forward movement must be made the board will be

reviewing some of the original plans developed by HTK on the Colorado site and will again have some work sessions for all patrons interested in being involved in the process. The board would like to see another bond issue ready to present in about 6 months.

Member Patch requested that a list of the needs presented by the principals at the beginning of all of the information gathering be brought and Rex Larison requested sq footage of the school lot we own and the current building sq footage.

It was decided the working group will start at 5:30 p.m. on December 15<sup>th</sup> before the normal board meeting.

President Nelson called for a 7-minute recess at 10:07 p.m.

Returned to regular session at 10:14 p.m.

**A motion was made by Member Watkins and seconded by Member Patch** that Holton USD #336 recess to executive session at 10:14 p.m. for 15 minutes returning to regular session at 10:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

a. Matters pertaining to **non-elected personnel** in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s). Motion carried, 7-0.

Jim Karleskint and Alan Beam remained in executive session with the board.

Returned to regular session at 10:29 p.m.

**A motion was made by Member Bowser and seconded by Member Eubanks** that Holton USD #336 recess to executive session at 10:30 p.m. for 5 minutes returning to regular session at 10:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

a. Matters pertaining to **non-elected personnel** in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s). Motion carried, 7-0.

Jim Karleskint remained in executive session with the board.

Returned to regular session at 10:35 p.m.

## PERSONNEL:

### 1) New employment

**A motion was made by Member Patch and seconded by Member Watkins** to approve contracts for Rhoda Cox; SES Para, Elizabeth Rostetter; Fd Svc Central, Beryl Nocktonick; Fd Svc HHS, Carol Hainline; Fd Svc Colorado. Motion carried, 7-0.

**A motion was made by Member Patch and seconded by Member Watkins** to approve Bettie Smith moving from 4.5 to 7 hours per day. Motion carried, 7-0.

**A motion was made by Member Patch and seconded by Member Watkins** to approve hourly increases to Lisa Bohnenkemper; Asst Fd Svc Supervisor to \$12.00/hr and Robin Deppe; Fd Svc Supervisor to \$13.00/hr. Motion carried 7-0.

### 1) Resignations

**A motion was made by Member Bowser and seconded by Member Holaday** to approve resignation for Theresa Bruce; Fd Svc Colorado, Nikki Wing, RVES SE Para. Motion carried, 7 -0.

**A motion was made by Member Watkins and seconded by Member Bowser** that Holton USD #336 recess to executive session at 10:41p.m. for 19 minutes returning to regular session at 11:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

a. Matters relating to employer-employee negotiations whether or not in consultation with the representative or representatives of the body or agency in order to protect the district's right to the confidentiality of its negotiating position and the public interest. Motion carried, 7-0.

Jim Karleskint remained in executive session with the board.

Returned to regular session at 11:00 p.m.

No further action taken.

President Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 26-28 – No School-Thanksgiving

December 6-7 – KASB Convention in Wichita

December 11 – Fact Finding Open Meeting at Holton High School Library-6:30 p.m.

December 15 – Bond review session 5:30 and Board of Education Meeting- 7:00

December 24-Jan 1 – No School – Christmas Break

January 2 – No School – ½ Staff Dev Day, ½ Work Day

Minutes as recorded by:

Dee Folk  
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515 Pennsylvania, Holton, KS 66436