

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2020 REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
CHOCTAW/NICOMA PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ind. Dist. 4, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Place of Meeting
Choctaw Middle School, 14667 NE 3rd, Choctaw, OK 73020

Janice Modisette, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call established members present: Elizabeth Parker, Clerk, Pamela Matherly, Asst. Clerk and Daryl Crusoe, Member. Vice President, Don Alsop was absent.

Mrs. Modisette called for consideration and approval of the agenda. Ms. Matherly moved and Ms. Parker seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crusoe moved and Ms. Matherly seconded, to approve the September 13, 2020 board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Board Vice President, Don Alsop, entered the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Amber Spradlin, ACT President, stated that the end of the first 9 weeks is quickly approaching and there hasn't been a single teacher that hasn't worked harder this year than ever before. Mrs. Spradlin stated that she stands before the board this evening representing over 200 members of the ACT ranging from PreK-High School teachers both classroom and EDGE teachers. Mrs. Spradlin stated that after polling the members of ACT, an overwhelming amount (73.4%) are very disappointed with the proposal to return to a 4/5-day school week. Mrs. Spradlin stated that ACT has worked tirelessly with Administration on the plan that the board approved to return to school. She stated that the fears are very high with some of the teachers in bringing all students back to school. Mrs. Spradlin stated that another issue with the revision to the return to school plan is that teachers are being asked to return to their school sites on Wednesdays. Mrs. Spradlin stated that they feel like it defeats the purpose of closing on Wednesdays for deep cleaning. Mrs. Spradlin continued by stating that the teachers feel like they are being punished. Mrs. Spradlin expressed the need for flexibility in making learning happen and she gave several examples of teachers being flexible. Mrs. Spradlin continued to express, upon behalf of the members of the ACT, their desire to remain with the current schedule.

Under the comments from the floor regarding agenda items, Board President Janice Modisette stated that we would have 10 speakers this evening who would be allowed to speak for up to 2 minutes each. Five speakers will represent those in favor of returning to school 4/5 days a week and five speakers will represent those wishing to remain in the hybrid plan. The following individuals spoke and gave their viewpoints to the board members regarding their respective stances: Rhonda Rodriguez, Gracie Maples, Natalia Clarke, Lindsay Smith, Carolyn Hermon, Quade Kolar, Travis Simmons, Mark Kesner, Alarie Davis and Hannah Duckworth. Following their presentations, Board President Janice Modisette thanked each of the speakers for sharing with the board members and assured everyone that they all share in their concerns. President Modisette stated that the board members, when making these decisions, take in to account all 5,000+ students and what they feel is best for the students.

Superintendent Reid made the following comments:

- Superintendent Reid began by stating that he will keep his comments brief knowing that we have a longer discussion to consider. We have completed the first quarter of the school year. It has been a unique opening, but out students, teachers, principals, and parents have been resilient making the best of a difficult situation.
- Fall activities have continued to go on. Softball hosted a regional last week, but unfortunately, they fell one game short of qualifying for state. Volleyball will play in their regional contest tomorrow at Norman North. Both men's and women's cross-country teams are having tremendous team success. Football lost a tough one Friday night at Bixby, but they gave Bixby everything they wanted and then some.
- Fine arts, AFJROTC, Vo Ag, etc. all continue to find ways to allow our students to safely participate in activities. Some are rescheduled for later in the year like the Drama One Act, but all are working within guidelines to make sure our students are able to continue to participate in events that mean so much to them.
- October is National Principal's month. I would like to commend our principals and assistant principals for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the students and staff of the CNP District.
- Our October 1st student count has been collected and we are down about 400 students from last year's count. That is roughly a 7% reduction.
- Reminder, Mrs. Seagraves class (Room 18 at JGI) will be doing their business presentation for Jacket's Coffee Shack at 9:30, 10:00, and 10:30 on Tuesday, October 13th and all board members are invited to attend.
- Finally, Fall Break will be this Friday and the following Monday. Teachers, support staff, and principals have put in unprecedented amounts of work this year and deserve a four-day weekend for rest and relaxation.

There were no comments from board members.

The next agenda item was the proposed revision to the Start Smart Plan. Superintendent Reid echoed on what President Modisette previously stated. He thanked everyone for showing up to this evening's board meeting. He stated that we need to come together as a community in regard to the decision that will be made this evening regarding the Return to Learn Plan. Superintendent Reid shared with everyone in attendance, the new revisions to the Start Smart Plan that he is proposing to the school board this evening. This plan would allow students to return to school 4 days a week beginning the Tuesday following Fall Break for 5 weeks with Wednesdays remaining a virtual/cleaning day. When returning from Thanksgiving Break, the students will return to the traditional 5 days a week. This plan will be adhered to as long as Oklahoma County is in the orange level or below. If Oklahoma County reaches the red level, students will return to remote virtual learning until transitioning out of the red category. Board member Elizabeth Parker asked if the board approved this revision and decided in the future that another revision to the plan is needed could changes be made? Superintendent Reid assured Ms. Parker that a special school board meeting could be called to address any changes that they felt were necessary. Mr. Reid stated that the goal for the 2020-21 school year has always been to have in-person learning five days a week. He reported that students are falling behind academically. He added that the OSDE/OSDH color-coded recommendation was updated on September 18, 2020. Since the beginning of school, Oklahoma County has been yellow once, orange-two once, and orange-one the remainder. He stated that changes were made to the testing results adding antigen tests and epilinks. He continued explaining that many of the 6A districts we align with in the metropolitan area, the Tulsa area, and other schools from all levels have been full in-person learning. Many of the counties have spread equal to or higher than Oklahoma County. He added that teachers are already exposed to all of the students each week and they can make a concerted effort to social distance themselves as needed. Mitigating procedures such as face masks, washing hands, temperature checks, spraying rooms, etc., have not changed. The red level still calls for full distance learning or hybrid learning. The loss of nearly 400 students this year will allow for slightly smaller class sizes. He added that the largest class size in any elementary class is 22 and the middle schools are down 158.5 in person students and CHS is down 78 students. Additionally, Mr. Reid stated that parents who had concerns for vulnerable family members had the option of full-time virtual at the beginning of the school year. Some students are exposed to more mitigating procedures while at school than when they are on distance learning, at daycare, at other family member's houses and arcades and other venues. Mr. Reid continued stating that mitigating procedures have been fairly successful; most of those who are quarantined never contract Covid-19. Mr. Reid stated that transitioning to 4 and 5 day in-person learning would allow us to monitor school and community spread. The transitions increments are as follows: The first week (due to Fall Break) will be three days of in-person learning with one day of distance learning (Wednesday). The next four weeks will be four days of in-person learning and one day of distance learning (Wednesday). The final phase is five days of in-person learning beginning Monday, November 30, 2020. In closing, Superintendent Reid stated that we reserve the right to call a special board meeting to revise these protocols, if needed, due to new or revised ordinances, guidelines, legislation, and/or community/county school spread of Covid-19.

Ms. Matherly moved, seconded by Mr. Crusoe to approve revisions to the Start Smart Plan. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Ms. Parker to approve a revision to the 2020-21 school calendar. The vote was unanimous.

Kevin Berry, Chief Financial Officer, reported that this evening the budget, which is down two million from last year, is on the agenda to be approved. With the state revenue being down and the student count down by 400, we will need to watch things very closely the second half of the year. Mr. Berry stated that the budget is on the website and nothing has changed since the budget hearing at the September board meeting. Mr. Berry stated that the participation in the free meals is picking up and he has heard that it may be extended to the end of the school year.

Ms. Matherly moved and seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve encumbrances. Approved were the following: Fund 11 – #'s 385 - 443 - \$66,984.65; Fund 21 – #'s 102-111 - \$21,583.56; and Fund 86 - #'s 32-34 - \$12,104.71. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Parker moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup, to approve board sanctioning of Booster Clubs/PTO's. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Matherly moved, seconded by Ms. Parker to approve a Standard Form of Agreement between Choctaw-Nicoma Park Schools and Pope Contracting, Inc. naming Pope Contracting, Inc. as the construction manager for the project of renaming the Activities Center on the campus of Choctaw High School. The vote was unanimous.

Kelli Hosford, Executive Director of Student Services reported that she has recently completed the Child Count Report for all students that are on IEP's. We are currently down 91 students from last year. Mrs. Hosford stated that she recently took a tour of CATS. She stated that Mr. Fadenrecht currently has 40 students on track to graduate. She said she was most impressed with the Hall of Fame Wall of all of the students that have graduated. Mrs. Hosford stated that each of the board members have been given an invitation to the Jacket Coffee Shack's business presentation at JGI on October

13th. She stated that each of the students have a job and they take their jobs very seriously. She added that the students also typed the invitation. Mrs. Hosford stated that the first edition of *The Hive* was sent out and she will begin working on the next edition soon.

Ms. Parker moved, seconded by Mr. Crusoe to approve a revised contract with Today's Therapy Solutions for school year 2020-21. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Matherly moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve an agreement with Larry L. Mullins, Ph.D. for behavioral services for the 2020-21 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. JeanAnn Gaona, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, reported that our elementary site principals and teacher representatives have worked diligently to assure that our district report cards reflect our current state standards. This required quite a bit of discussion that finally concluded last week so parents will now have access to report cards online and will also be able to see, in grades PreK-2nd, if their child is progressing as expected using a very nice color-coded graph with green showing that students are exactly where they need to be, yellow showing improvement is needed and green showing that a student is falling behind. Our virtual students will receive traditional letter grades as appropriate with the virtual curriculum we are using. In addition, with upgrades to PowerSchool, which is our Student Information System and is used to take attendance, record trades and generate reports; I am now able to report monthly to you the number of students at risk in our district. This information will be used to develop an ongoing measurement of how many of our students need assistance. Currently, as of Friday, October 9th, a total of 290 students were considered at high risk academically. This number represents students K-12th across the district and is determinate upon their currently earned grades. This represents 5% of our currently enrolled students. This is a very new feature available to us and the hope is that parents and students will have more immediate knowledge of any concerns in relation to grades, attendance and discipline all which are considered indicators of increased risk for not thriving academically.

Ms. Parker moved, seconded by Mr. Crusoe to approve the Annual Dropout Report for 2019-20 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Gaona introduced CMS Principal, Donna O'Neal to share a few words with the board members and guests regarding CMS. Mrs. O'Neal stated that they are very proud to have everyone at CMS and show off their beautiful building. She continued stating that she is very proud of the fine arts programs at CMS. They all do an outstanding job. Mrs. O'Neal stated that CMS houses the autistic and severe and profound program. In the past it has been proven that these students ran out of options for elective courses. They have found that these students are very musically included and they have continued to offer a new music elective. With borrowed instruments from IME and JGI these special needs students are able to do amazing things in this class. Many of the students are non-verbal but they can communicate through music. Mrs. O'Neal encouraged the board members to stop by CMS around 1p.m. one day and observe this amazing class.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Ms. Parker to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous.

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. Matherly moved and Mr. Crusoe seconded to enter executive session. The vote was unanimous.

At 7:43 p.m., Ms. Matherly moved, seconded by Mr. Crusoe to return to open session. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crusoe moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following certified recommendations: Mary-Asley Proth, effective 8/10/20; Cynthia Hanna, effective 8/24/20; Travis Irwin, effective 8/11/20; and Chelsea Truster, effective 8/11/20. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crusoe moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following certified resignations: Angel DeVaul, effective 8/6/20 and Shannon Mackey, effective 6/30/20. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crusoe moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following support recommendation: Sue Peyton, effective 9/21/20. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crusoe moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following support resignations: Jonathan Franks, effective 9/11/20; James Miller, effective 9/17/20; Casey Simpson, effective 8/31/20; Tara Switzer, effective 9/18/20; Diana Davis, effective 6/30/20; Teresa Nunez, effective 9/22/20; Matylin Garrett, effective 10/2/20; and Shaun Cunningham, effective 9/9/20. The vote was unanimous.

There being no new business, at 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Matherly and seconded by Ms. Parker to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Janice Modisette, President

Don Alsup, Vice President

Elizabeth Parker, Clerk

Pamela Matherly, Asst. Clerk

Daryl Crusoe, Member