



Unified School District 232

De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe

www.usd232.org

USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL MINUTES --REGULAR MEETING

Administrative Offices (35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, KS) December 7, 2020

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board President, Danielle Heikes. A quorum of the Board was present. Attendance was as follows:

Board Members Present: Rick Amos
Bill Fletcher (*Attended via Zoom*)
John Gaignat
Danielle Heikes
Stephanie Makalous
Ashley Spaulding
Rachele Zade

Others Present: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative & Educational Services
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk
Carrie Handy, Director of Human Resources/Elementary
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools
Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations
Sam Ruff, Principal, De Soto High School
Brian Schwanz, Director of Human Resources/Secondary

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then briefly explained how the meeting will progress from one agenda item to the next.

President Heikes asked if there were any changes to the Agenda or Consent Agenda.

Bill Fletcher asked to remove check number 53495 from Consent Agenda item "C. Approve payment of bills and transfer of funds" for approval separately.

Superintendent Harwood asked to add an Executive Session for Non-Elected Personnel.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to adopt the Agenda and approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Mrs. Rachele Zade seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the November 2nd regular meeting, November 16th special meeting and November 23rd special meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 53219 – 53277, 53279 – 53346, 53348 – 53434, 53440 – 53494 and 53496 – 53553.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
 - a. \$675,000.00 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
 - b. \$3,500.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to State Pre-K (Fund 11)
 - c. \$210,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to At-Risk K-12 (Fund 13)
 - d. \$36,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Bi-Lingual (Fund 14)
 - e. \$132,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)
4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Certified

Elizabeth Fisher, School Counselor, MCMS *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

Madeline Hatoum, SPED Teacher, MVHS *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

Charisse Highlander, French Teacher, MVHS *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

Arlan Vomhof, Residential Carpentry Teacher, MVHS *(effective 01/15/2021)*

Retirement – Certified *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

Kim Gasiorowski, School Counselor, HE

Connie Nash, 2nd Grade Teacher, CCE

Jackie Traylor, 2nd Grade Teacher, CCE

Employment – Certified

Melissa Winder, 0.4 FTE Physical Therapist, DHS

Resignations – Classified

Brenda Carroll, School Nurse, MCMS

Derek Greer, Evening Custodian, MVHS

Alice Miller, ESOL Aide, DHS

Employment – Classified

David Adcox, Rule 10 Assistant Bowling Coach, DHS

Ellen Baeten, Center Based Paraprofessional, DHS

Andrew Bock, Paraprofessional, MVHS

Bryan Burnett, Rule 10 Assistant Wrestling Coach, DHS

Natalie Carrera, Paraprofessional Substitute, BE Early Childhood

Kathy Drum, Resource Paraprofessional, RE

Madalyn Gerber, Paraprofessional, BE

Kenneth Gragg, Evening Custodian, MVHS

Morgan Gurwell, Paraprofessional Substitute, Districtwide

Alyssa Hargrove, Paraprofessional Substitute, BE Early Childhood

Elizabeth Knappen, Paraprofessional Substitute, Districtwide
Nathaniel May, Evening Custodian, MVHS
Christopher Miller, Rule 10 Assistant Wrestling Coach, DHS
Erin Schneider, Resource Paraprofessional, HE
Noah Smith, Paraprofessional Substitute, Districtwide

5. Appointment of Alvie Cater, Ken Larsen, Carrie Handy, Brian Schwanz, Sam Ruff and Kris Meyer to serve as negotiating agents on behalf of the Board of Education with regard to the Professional Negotiated Agreement.
6. The 2021 Capital Outlay Committee report addressing various needs and projects with planned expenditures from the Capital Outlay Fund; with projects re-submitted to the Board of Education from time to time for approval based on submission of bids and costs as required by Kansas Statutes 72-8801.
7. Declaration of one (1) 2009 Ford Pick-up as surplus.
8. Purchase of one (1) 2021 Ford F-250 Pick-up from Shawnee Mission Ford in the amount of \$29,064.00.
9. Acceptance of the following donations:
 - \$4,000.00 from Bruce Garner to the Mill Valley High School Wrestling program.
 - Forty-thousand (40,000) non-hospital grade 210 N95 masks with a value of \$33,440.64 from Sekisui ZenoTech, LLC to USD 232.

Bill Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. John Gagnat moved to approve payment to Kansas Land Management, LLC in the amount of \$10,702.35 with check number 53495.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes seconded.

Carried 6/0.

Bill Fletcher returned to the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

GOOD NEWS.

Student Recognition. A video was shared recognizing Mill Valley student Libby Green for winning the Kansas Class 5A State Championship in Girls' Golf, the MVHS Silver Stars Dance Team for winning the first ever Division II 5A State Championship in dance and the MVHS Jaguar Football team that won a repeat in the Kansas Class 5A Championship in football.

Staff Member Recognition. Mize Elementary School staff members Christina Brandenburg, School Nurse and Suzanne Cox, 5th Grade Teacher, along with Mill Valley High School staff members Michelle

Hess, ELL Aide, Donna Riss, Science Teacher, and Dorothy Swafford, Video Production/Broadcast Journalism Teacher, were recognized for outstanding service in their district roles.

ACTION ITEM.

Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Report. Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, introduced Mr. Jim Long of Karlin & Long LLC who reviewed the district's 2020 fiscal year audit with the board. He gave clean opinions on internal control and compliance and reported that there were no statutory violations. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the audit.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to approve the 2020 Fiscal Year Audit as presented.

Mr. John Gagnat seconded.

Carried 7/0.

DISCUSSION ITEM.

Coming Back Together Update. Superintendent Harwood started his update on the Coming Back Together Plan by sharing the number of parent/student requested changes for the second semester learning model. He said there are a total of 210 changes, with 45 students moving to the Optional Remote learning model and 165 students returning to the On-Site learning model. He explained that the biggest differences for families will be a need to make changes in staffing with more students returning to on-site learning (five elementary Optional Remote learning teachers will return to On-Site) and changes in class lists needed to balance class size.

Danielle Heikes asked when families would be notified if a student is changing classes. Dr. Harwood said right after winter break.

Dr. Harwood then updated the Board on staffing. Citing possible confusion about the district being in the Orange category of the Gating Criteria, he noted that the recommendation was made to change to Orange based on the community spread of COVID-19 and data from each of the metrics in the gating criteria. He said there was not a recommendation to alter the Kansas Gating Criteria because of staffing needs. Dr. Harwood said Morgan Hunter, the district's substitute service provider, filled 95% of open positions the prior week; however, because the district did not ask Morgan Hunter to fill secondary vacancies (due to some secondary teachers teaching remotely while quarantined) the fill rate would have been 75%. He said that eight to ten individuals have started the process to apply for emergency substitute licensure and that they have been encouraged to contact Morgan Hunter when they apply for the state license in an effort to speed up the process.

Dr. Harwood said that even though the week of Thanksgiving was short, the district had the highest rate of quarantines and isolations during this time for students and staff with 120 students recommended for quarantine, 30 in isolation and six staff members in quarantine, and two in isolation.

With regard to spectators at Kansas State High School Athletic Association (KSHSAA) sponsored events, Dr. Harwood reminded school board members that when they met on November 23rd they decided to allow up to two spectators per participant at events. He said that the next day the KSHSAA board decided to not allow any spectators, which supersedes the school board's decision as the district is a member of KSHSAA. Following parent requests, on December 4th the KSHSAA Appeals Board recommended the organization consider allowing 1-2 spectators per participant. Dr. Harwood said the KSHSAA Board is set to meet tomorrow, December 8th, to consider the Appeals Board recommendation. He said the district will plan on not allowing spectators until a decision is made by the KSHSAA Board.

Dr. Harwood said that last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a change in quarantine guidance (not isolation). He said there is no change to guidance if there is a positive case. Dr. Harwood explained that under the new guidance if someone is identified as a close contact that person can return if they have no symptoms after day 7 and can provide evidence of a negative test that was collected after day 5 post exposure. He said the test has to be a PCR test (antigen tests do not qualify). Without a test, the quarantine could end after the 10th day post exposure with no symptoms. Dr. Harwood noted that the Coming Back Together Plan states that close contacts must remain in quarantine until they have met the criteria for release from quarantine set by the Kansas State Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and/or Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE). Dr. Harwood said both KDHE and JCDHE have adopted the CDC guidance and noted that unless the Board directs otherwise, the district will continue to follow the JCDHE guidance. He said that the change is not retroactive, but if a quarantined person presents a negative test in the appropriate time frame it will be considered. Dr. Harwood said the district will communicate this change tomorrow.

In response to a question by Ashley Spaulding, Dr. Harwood explained that the CDC makes the change which is then approved by the KDHE and passed onto the county health departments for consideration.

On Snow Days, Dr. Harwood explained that student meal distribution will occur at Mill Creek Middle School if 250-day contract staff report to work and the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department (JCPRD) childcare program is in operation. He said if no employees report to work and buildings are closed, then meals will not be served. Dr. Harwood talked about how the administration could implement Remote Learning classes if snow days can be predicted and there is adequate time to plan for it.

Dr. Harwood said the State Board of Education is looking at waiver options for the 1,116 hour rule regarding student contact time. He explained that if a waiver is approved it will provide more flexibility for snow days and could give the school board options on adding days for breaks to the school calendar.

Dr. Harwood shared a data update on the Kansas Schools Gating Criteria. He said looking at data collected the week of Thanksgiving, all criteria increased slightly, but none changed color. Dr. Harwood said the trend line is expected to level off and then start to go down. He said the State Board of Education is considering changes to the Gating Criteria tomorrow that will allow elementary students to be in

Hybrid or On-Site when the district is in the Red category. He explained that the KDHE and Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids (KCWK) looked at Kansas data for COVID transmission in elementary-aged students and found a low risk of infection and severe cases, as well as low risk of transmission to non-household adults. He said there were no proposed changes for secondary students.

Ashley Spaulding asked if the district would give parents a chance to change learning models if the State Board of Education does approve a change for elementary students. Dr. Harwood said that the district would still be following the Kansas Schools Gating Criteria even with the change. The district would not be required to allow families to change learning models but that would be an option if the board chose to allow changes.

In response to a question from President Heikes, Superintendent Harwood said the school board can wait and not accept the State Board change until there is a recommendation to shift to the Red Category at which time it could be addressed. He said he will meet with the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and see what they recommend with regard to accepting a change.

Bill Fletcher asked what learning model students will be in after winter break. Superintendent Harwood said until the Board takes action to change the learning environment, students will remain in the current model. He recommended the Board meet on December 21st to receive up-to-date information in order to make a decision on what will happen in January. Board members were in agreement with the idea of holding a special meeting on December 21st.

Superintendent Harwood explained that the Board could choose to decide on the learning environment for students after winter break based on current data that would be presented on December 21st. The Board could also decide to base the learning environment decision on data available at a later date with or without another meeting.

In response to a question by Bill Fletcher, Superintendent Harwood explained that teachers are in the conversation about being included as essential workers to receive the coronavirus vaccine.

President Heikes said the Board will announce a special meeting on December 21 in the coming days. She also said that when the Board meets in January and sets the meeting calendar for the year it is recommended the Board meet twice a month through April.

Superintendent Harwood said he will be asking the Advisory Committee to consider looking at additional weightings for the gating criteria.

PATRON INPUT. With no comments submitted, President Heikes moved onto the next agenda item.

ALERTS. The following reports were included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that they will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. Resolution adopting Kansas Homeland Security Region L Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and, 2. Recommended Policy Updates.

FYI REPORT. The following informational report was included in the packet for this board meeting: 1. Equity Cohort Opportunity – Update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Non-Elected Personnel.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to take a five-minute break and then go into executive session at 7:22 p.m. for a period of 20 minutes with Frank Harwood, Brian Schwanz and Carrie Handy to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return to open session at 7:42 p.m. at this location.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 7:43 p.m.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

January 11, 2021
Date Approved

Wendy S. Dunham
Clerk, Board of Education

Danielle Heikes
President, Board of Education