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Regular Board Meeting
August 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the Wickes School Board was called to order by President Doug Curtis at 6:00.

Roll Call: Doug Curtis, Linda Gillaspay, Jerry Watkins, Barry Bailey, Jeff Cook. Not in attendance: Rodney Saddler, Scotty Polk.

Others in attendance: Jerry Strasner, Dewayne Taylor, Netlla Cureton, Sylvia Lyle, Stan Speight, Pat Hill, Basil Kesterson, Mrs. Hazel Burnett from the Department of Education, Superintendent Megan Witonski.

Motion was made by Barry Bailey and 2nd by Jerry Watkins to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Vote: unanimous

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Burnett to speak about the financial situation Wickes School. Mrs. Burnett is over Fiscal Distress with the Department of Education. Mrs. Burnett spoke until 7:20 at which time the board took a short break. The board reconvened at 7:30.

Mrs. Witonski updated the board about getting a loan from the Union Bank and the reason we were declined for the loan. The reason was we would need to purchase a cd first then the bank would grant the loan. At this time Mrs. Witonski spoke to Mr. Basil Kesterson and he recommended that we meet with Mr. Darren Wiles at Chambers Bank and set up a meeting. Chambers Bank agreed to fund the loan. The Department of Education has approved the loan and Chambers has also signed for the \$380,000 loan to cover payroll and utilities.

Motion was made by Barry Bailey and 2nd by Linda Gillaspay to accept a loan from Chamber Bank for \$380,000 at a 4.75 interest rate to be paid back by December 31, 2010 to be put into the operating account. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Jeff Cook to approve the moving of all financial transactions from Union Bank of Mena to Chamber Bank of Mena. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Linda Gillaspay to approve last month's financial reports. Vote: unanimous

Mrs. Witonski spoke about the Umpire Cafeteria. The remodeling that has been started would take approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000 to complete. She recommends stopping this project immediately and checking out how to add on to the existing cafeteria for the extra seating needed.

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Jeff Cook to accept Mrs. Witonski's recommendation and stop the Umpire Cafeteria project.
Vote: unanimous

Concerning the Wickes High School addition, it was agreed to table this and let Mrs. Witonski check out different options and to see what penalties maybe involved with stopping the project.

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Jerry Watkins to move our financial business to Beardsley Financial from Stephen's Financial. The contract the school district had with Stephen's Financial, all obligations have been met. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jeff Cook and 2nd by Barry Bailey to enter into a contract with First Security (Beardsley Financial). Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Barry Bailey to move our tech-coordinator from a certified position to a classified position due to lack of Arkansas certification. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Jeff Cook accept the bid from Polar King for \$31805.00 for the walk-in freezer/cooler for the \$31500 Umpire Cafeteria grant. The reason for accepting the higher bid was because of energy conservation and that this price included all shelving and freight charges. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Barry Bailey to increase the adult meal price in the schools cafeteria to \$3.00. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to accept the bid from Hiland for the school milk. This was the only bid that the district received. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Jerry Watkins to accept the bid from James' Food for the school bread. (only bid received)
Vote: unanimous

Mr. Doug Curtis' position on the board expires this year. The deadline for submitting his petition to run again has passed, but since he would have been unopposed the board can reappoint him to serve for 1 year and which time he would need to run again. Mr. Curtis says that he would like to serve on the board. The board voted by secret ballot. The vote was unanimous-yes for Mr. Curtis to be appointed for 1 year (until September 2010).

Motion was made to put Scott Feemster on a 211 day contract. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Jerry Watkins to re-hire the of position- federal programs secretary/human resources. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made to re-hire the position of RN nurse for 3 days a week during the school year. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Barry Bailey to approve the personal policies. Vote: unanimous

The board retired into executive session at 8:15pm. Mr. Jerry Watkins excused himself and let the board meeting since it concerned family members. The board reconvened at 8:45.

Mr. Larry Watkins was originally granted by the state department to drive a bus for 2 years. This position was never renewed with the state department and approval was never granted for the mechanic's position, making them illegal with the state department.

Motion was made by Jeff Cook and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to terminate both contracts with a 10 business day notice. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Barry Bailey and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to adjourn. Vote: unanimous

Board President
Doug Curtis

Board Secretary
Linda Gillaspy