

#4

Regular Board Meeting
October 8, 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 Gillaspy, Jerry Watkins, Barry Bailey, Jeff Cook, Rodney Saddler, Scotty Polk.

Others in attendance: Jerry Strasner, Sylvia Lyle, Dewayne Taylor, Superintendent Megan Witonski.

The corrected version of the September board minutes was presented to the board for approval.

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Rodney Saddler to approve the corrected minutes of the previous meeting. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to approve the policy on athletics. The new policy is:

All athletic events held at Umpire or Wickes, admission will be free to employees and school board members only. This will not include family members. AAA cards will be accepted. The athletes/cheerleaders competing that evening in uniform will be free. Adults 60 years and older will be ½ price. Vote: unanimous

The scheduled presentation by the East Lab will be presented next month.

Mrs. Witonski told the board that the district has been accepted as a member of Educational Renewal Zone of HSU, an organization that deals with scholarships and providing schools with free materials and services. Big Bear Opry will be performing in the Wickes auditorium this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Big Bear will pay a fee for using the auditorium and athletics will receive additional money from the concessions sold.

The next board meeting will be on November 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The school will be holding a benefit dinner and auction that night starting at 5 pm at Wickes. It was agreed by the board to meet at 5 pm in the cafeteria to support the benefit and hold the regular meeting in the administration office at Wickes at 6 pm.

The board agreed to hold a district auction to sell old or unused items that belong to the district. Mrs. Witonski will start organizing this and a date will be set at a later time.

The board training by Dr. Bobbie Davis will be held at the DMEC on October 14, 2009. It was agreed to have Mr. Ray Beardsley to come to Wickes and hold an additional financial training for the Wickes School Board. Mrs. Witonski will arrange the date and time with Mr. Beardsley and contact the board with the information.

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Rodney Saddler to amend the 191 day certified employees leave days from 9 sick and 2 personal to 11 sick days per district policy and request of Arkansas State Audit. Vote: unanimous

Mrs. Witonski advised the board that the partnership reimbursement for the Umpire Elementary building project had been mailed and the district should receive reimbursement in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Witonski informed the board of the letter from Ms. Hazel Burnett, of the Arkansas Department of Education fiscal distress division, on October 5, advising Wickes of our fiscal distress situation. Mrs. Witonski will be meeting with Ms. Burnett several times in the future to discuss future options for the district.

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Barry Bailey to allow the transfer of Kyler Wilson from DeQueen to Wickes. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Barry Bailey to approve the ADE mandatory minimum wage as \$7.55. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Scotty Polk to present to the PPC Committee the proposed salary schedule that would start with the 2010 - 2011 school year. Vote: unanimous

Mrs. Witonski requested that the superintendent salary be lowered \$6,000 for the 2010 - 2011 school year. She explained that everyone district wide would be experiencing cuts in salary including the superintendent. Motion was made by Rodney Saddler and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to approve reducing the superintendent's salary for the 2010 - 2011 school year by \$6,000. Vote: unanimous

The certified and classified Reduction in Force policies were presented to the board. Mrs. Witonski hopes to identify those included in the RIF in the November board meeting. This will be dependent on agreement with Ms. Burnett from ADE fiscal distress. Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Linda Gillaspy to have Mrs. Witonski present to Hazel Burnett all of the information involving the RIF. Vote: unanimous

The board retired into executive session at 7:15 and reconvened at 7:50.

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Barry Bailey to accept George Herring's letter of retirement effective January 1, 2010. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Rodney Saddler to accept Tammy Conatser's resignation effective September 4, 2009. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jerry Watkins and 2nd by Rodney Saddler accept Donald Austin's resignation for ½ of his bus route and to remove him from driving on the route effective Friday, October 9, 2009. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Jeff Cook and 2nd by Rodney Saddler to reduce Penny Burgess's contract as requested to \$9.97/hour or \$59.82 for a 6 hour day, 5 days a week at Umpire. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Linda Gillaspy and 2nd by Jeff Cook to approve changing Sandy Morgan's contract to 5 days a week from 3 days per week to be paid with NSLA funds. Vote: unanimous

Motion was made by Scotty Polk and 2nd by Rodney Saddler to adjourn. Vote: unanimous

Board President
Doug Curtis

Board Secretary
Linda Gillaspay