

**Goddard USD No. 265
Board of Education Meeting
Administration Center
Board of Education Room
201 S. Main Street
Goddard, Kansas 67052
November 14, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 265, Sedgwick County, Goddard, Kansas, met at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, November 14, 2011, in regular session in the Board of Education Room of the USD 265 Administration Center. Board members present: Mr. Jeff Blubaugh, Mrs. Lisa Farris, Mr. Doug Griswold, Mrs. Gail Jamison, Miss Sara McDonald, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, and Mr. Bob Merritt. Also present: Dr. Justin Henry, superintendent; Dr. Teresa San Martin and Mr. George Tignor, assistant superintendents; Mr. Doug Maxwell, director of finance; and Annette Singletary, clerk of the board.

1. Call to Order

BOE President Doug Griswold called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Flag Salute

The flag salute was given by Amelia Earhart Elementary School students. The students also shared a musical form and movement presentation.

3. Adopt Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Farris, second by Mr. Blubaugh, to adopt the agenda with the following changes: add to #11.a. Letters of Employment – Kelly Clark, Glenda Jones, Ray Davis, transportation; #11.c. Acceptance of Gifts and Grants: KS Advanced Placement Incentive Sub-Grant; #11.d. Request for Permission to Graduate Early – 2 additional students; #11.e. Request for Homebound Services – 1 additional student. The motion carried 7-0.

4. Information from the Superintendent

a. Draft Legislative Platform – Superintendent Justin Henry presented a draft of a legislative platform for consideration by the Board of Education to assist with pieces of information to help parents and other patrons understand what Goddard School District deems as priorities for this legislative session. Board members were asked to review the draft and contact Dr. Henry with questions or suggestions before the final legislative platform is presented at the December BOE meeting.

b. USA School Finance Task Force - – Dr. Henry advised board members that he has been asked to serve on the USA School Finance Task Force. The first meeting of the group will be a conference call on November 15.

c. Parent-Teacher Conference Data – Dr. Teresa San Martin reported on the percentage of parents attending conferences in October at each of the schools in USD 265.

d. KASB Convention – The annual KASB Convention will be held December 2-4 in Overland Park. Mrs. Jamison volunteered to attend to represent the Goddard Board of Education; however, she encouraged new board members to attend if they could. Mr. Blubaugh and Mr. Merritt will check their calendars and contact Dr. Henry if they will be able to attend.

5. Approve Minutes of October 10, 2011, Board of Education Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Blubaugh, second by Mrs. Farris, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2011, Board of Education meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

6. EHS Dedication Ceremony

Director of Community Relations Annette Singletary updated board members on plans for the Eisenhower High School dedication set for November 15, 2011.

7. Recommended Changes to the 403(b) Plan

Director of Finance Doug Maxwell briefly reviewed planned changes in wording due to federal changes. He explained that the changes are necessary “boiler plate” updates that must be adopted by the end of the calendar. The changes to the 403(b) plan will be presented to the board at the December BOE meeting for final review and request for approval. Board members were asked to direct comments or questions regarding the updates to Mr. Maxwell prior to the December BOE meeting.

8. Transportation Presentation

Mr. Maxwell presented information regarding the USD 265 transportation fleet, including buses, cars, pickups, trucks, vans, SUVs, and trailers. He noted that no new regular school buses had been purchased since the 2008 model year. Mr. Maxwell stated that at some point it will be necessary to replace some buses, noting that some existing buses will soon fall outside pollution standards, and some are costing excessive amounts to maintain due to age and miles on the buses. Mr. Maxwell also presented information on replacing buses, including potential costs for outright purchase, lease/purchase, and lease only plans. Director of Transportation Tom Wepler explained that the greatest challenge at this time with the bus fleet is major repair issues on the older buses. He also noted that by law school districts are not permitted to use buses that are not in compliance with EPA standards. Mr. Maxwell reported that many districts outsource transportation; however, KSDE Finance Director Dale Dennis maintains districts can almost always provide transportation less expensively than paying a company to provide the service. Decisions regarding purchase or leasing of new buses will need to be made in the Spring 2012. Mr. Maxwell recommended waiting to see what will happen with school finance funding before making decisions. The report was presented for information only at this time.

9. Report on New Staff

Assistant Superintendent George Tignor reported all new teachers received good evaluations, and principals had reported no concerns.

10. Construction Update/Financial Report

Mr. Maxwell reported the punch list for Eisenhower High School was complete, and he recommended final payment be made to National Contractors. The final primary outstanding item to be completed is the work by Progressive Sound. A final commissioning was held on November 14, and overall it is believed the work is complete. When the Progressive Sound employee learned there was a small issue with the sound in the auditorium, he went home and got some tools and came back and repaired the problem. The company still needs to provide some training to USD 265 staff. Retainage on the project is being held until all parts of the project and training are complete. The final check to GLMV architects is also on hold until Progressive Sound is finished. Total project costs to date: \$86,569,836. Capital outlay bonds remaining: \$156,961.

Items remaining to be purchased include football equipment and band uniforms. Orders for those items are in process and will be presented within 60 days.

11. Consent Agenda

a. Resignations – Victoria Oswald, GMS para; Scott Vang, high school assistant golf coach; Jerry Rausch, technology; Kelly Clark, Glenda Jones, Ray Davis, transportation

b. Contracts – Brent Fisher, GHS wrestling coach; Enrique Espinoza, GHS assistant track coach

Letters of employment – Allen Basset, bus para; Rose Benge, GMS at-risk para; Elton Koehn, transportation

c. Acceptance of gifts --

Grant: ING/Run for Something Better School Awards Program – \$2,500 to Discovery Intermediate School to inspire students to be more active and adopt healthy choices to carry into adulthood

Gift: Target Take Charge - \$319.34 to Oak Street from RED card purchases to be used as needed for the school

Prairie Quilt Guild, Inc. - \$500 to GHS Art Teacher Melanie Huffman to help fund a classroom project

d. Request for permission to graduate early – 2 Goddard Academy students

e. Request for Homebound Services – for a 9th grade student at Eisenhower High School and a 7th grade student at Eisenhower Middle School

Miss McDonald requested to pull item d. Request for Permission to Graduate Early from the Consent Agenda to be voted on separately.

A motion was made by Mrs. Farris, second by Mr. Blubaugh, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, not including item d. Request for Permission to Graduate Early. The motion carried 7-0.

Concern was expressed that 4 requests had been presented for early graduation from Goddard Academy this year. There were concerns that students may be attending Goddard Academy to complete their education more quickly and that the computer-based instruction may not be providing the same quality education as a traditional environment. There was discussion regarding the significant teamwork between students and teachers with the technology used at the Academy, noting the one-on-one instruction for students. It was suggested that Academy staff be invited to a

board meeting to do a presentation to give board members a better understanding of how education is delivered at Goddard Academy. Information was shared regarding the sense of community being instilled in students as they complete community service projects and become involved in the community. It was noted that the Goddard Academy Principal Jim Burkhart recommended granting approval for early graduation for the students.

A motion was made by Mr. Merritt, second by Miss McDonald, to approve the early graduation requests as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

12. Monthly Business Report

a. Payment of bills & transfers –

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, second by Miss McDonald, to approve payment of bills and transfers in the amount of \$2,708,169.70. The motion carried 7-0.

b. Insurance Update

Mr. Maxwell advised the board that outstanding insurance claim history this year, in large part due to events such as hail damage and flood damage, would likely result in a 15% increase in premiums next year. Mr. Maxwell said property coverage rates have done very well prior to this year because USD 265 has had outstanding claims history. He noted that although there will likely be a rate increase, the excellent worker's compensation claims history is helping to reduce the overall increase. Renewal date is February 15. Final premium amounts will be available in January. Consideration will be given to higher deductibles to reduce costs. Mr. Maxwell reported he asked the insurance agent to investigate the cost of earthquake insurance, which is not currently included in the district's coverage. The insurance update was presented for information only.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Annette Singletary, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED:

Douglas A Griswold, President of the Board