

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

Minutes of the regular Jamestown School Board meeting held on Monday, August 17, 2020, 5:15 pm in the Thompson Community room in the Middle School.

Present: Roger Haut, President, Heidi Larson, Vice President, Greg Allen, Melissa Gleason, Diane Hanson, Gayle Nelson, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Robert Toso, Superintendent, Robert Lech and Sally Ost, Business Manager.

Guests: Kim Carpenter and Jenny Korynta.

President Haut called the meeting to order and welcomed Keith Norman, Jamestown Sun, Jason Linz, and Amy Neustel, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Toso declared a conflict of interest regarding payment of bills and open enrollments 1 and 4 in the consent agenda. President Haut moved the payment of bills to finances and 1 and 4 open enrollments to other section for separate approvals. President Haut moved the review of consolidated application from the consent agenda to finance.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the consent agenda which consisted of July 20, 2020 regular board meeting minutes, August 6, 2020 special board meeting minutes, unpaid bills, pledged securities, open enrollments; 12th grade Barnes County North Student and 10th grade Kidder County Student to attend Jamestown Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year, designate Superintendent Lech as authorized representative for James River Special Education Cooperative Board and designate Dr. Robert Lech as Title IX Appeal Decision Maker regarding policy AAC. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The Board recognized Mrs. Kimberly Carpenter for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Mr. Adam Gehlahr, High School Principal, reported on the moving of Jamestown North (Alternative Education) program into the High School Building and changing the name to the Learning HUB. The Transition Program helps students age 18 to 21 with life skills. This program serves our students but also reaches students in other communities. The old Jamestown North building is being transformed in the new Transition Program building. A collaboration with community contractors, our Career and Technology Center program, Construction Technology, and JPS employees working together to keep cost limited and education for students working on the project.

Mr. John Conway, High School Alternative Education Coordinator (the HUB), reported staffing changes down to 2 members gave concerns about safety which led to the changes for this program. The program had 6 graduates in 2019-2020 school year. The 2020-2021 school year has approximately 24 students in the program.

Superintendent Lech reported that later in the agenda there will be the updated Distance Learning plan for the 2020-2021 school year that will need to be approved.

Superintendent Lech report the Transition House is a jewel in our community. This program will continue to grow with the changes. The old Transition house is on the Lincoln Elementary campus and will need to have board approval to sell the building and move it off the campus.

Superintendent Lech reported that there are requests of release of contract or extended leave on the agenda. Dr. Lech reviewed the Extended Leave/Regular Leave of Absence DDDDB Policy with the Board members.

Superintendent Lech reported that the resignation of Pam Brown would be a change for the technology department. Mrs. Brown was a previous CASS member under a teacher contract and was reassigned when CASS closed. Now, the technology department can be enhanced by bringing in a fulltime person and a half time person.

Superintendent Lech reported the extended contracts will be brought to the next board meeting due to the requests on the agenda today.

Superintendent Lech will report to the board through his report on the instructional plan review team meetings.

Superintendent Lech reported another partnership with University of Jamestown is to offer a dual credit opportunity for introduction to teaching class to our students. Dr. Lech is working with UJ to be a leader in hosting the Teacher Leadership Academy for the future. The Teacher Leadership Academy is presently through NDSU.

Superintendent Lech reported that Mr. Gehlhar and Mr. Heinert have been working hard on rural partner districts to grow the Career and Technology Center's program and attendance.

Superintendent Lech reported the Jamestown Virtual Academy has 153 students signed up. The program will provide the curriculum to families through Arizona State to use on line curriculum. Families will be called to confirm the sign up for Virtual Academy. Families will start after labor day due to Arizona State is over whelmed with enrollment. This will help class sizes to have social distancing.

Mrs. Sally Ost, Business Manager, presented the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act information that was presented to employees. The COVID leave is 10 days that can be used through December 31, 2020.

Mr. Toso moved, seconded by Mrs. Gleason to approve the Jamestown Park and Recreation 2020-2021 Wilson and Eagles Area Agreement in the amount of \$29,000. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs Larson moved, seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the 2020-2021 JPS Distance Learning Plan. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Adam Gehlhar, High School Principal, reported a committee was committed to exploring a learning management system for JPS. The committee recommended Schoology, which was brought to the School Board for approval in March. The committee than selected devices. The distance learning and student care of devices in the COVID virtual learning in the spring helped determine implementation. Devices that are the same for all students will help teachers to assist students better when they are needing help. The committee will review after 1st semester for future plans. The district will create a self-insurance program that the students may participate in. Mr. Mike Armitage, Technology Director, stated the goal is to have 1 to 1 devices for students k-12 by October.

Mrs. Saly Ost, Business Manager, shared the general fund balance.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mrs. Hanson to approve the monthly financials. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sally Ost, Business Manager, presented the consolidated application for review

Mrs. Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the hire of Steve Gapinski as 7th grade History teacher at the Middle School, BA, Salary \$48,387.08 prorated for 183 days for the 2020-2021 school year upon a successful background check. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Larson moved, seconded by Mrs. Nelson to approve the resignation of Pam Brown as Technology Media Coordinator on December 31, 2020. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Superintendent Lech Informed the board their options regarding approval of personnel requests. Option 1 is to approve extended leave, which would ensure continuing contract rights beyond 2020-2021. Option 2 is to approve release of contract.

Mrs. Larson moved, second by Mr. Toso to approve a release of contract for Rachel Schroeder, US History teacher at the high school for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll call vote: Toso, yes; Roberts, yes; Allen, yes; Gleason, no; Hanson, yes; Haut, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, no; Nelson, no. Motion passed 6-3.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve extended leave for Vanessa Edwards, 2nd Grade Teacher at Roosevelt Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll call vote: Allen, no; Gleason, yes; Hanson, no; Haut, no; Larson, no; Rohr, no; Nelson, yes; Toso, no; Roberts, no. Motion failed 7-2.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Toso to approve a release of contract for Vanessa Edwards, 2nd grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll call vote: Gleason, yes; Hanson, yes; Haut, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, yes; Nelson, yes; Toso, yes; Roberts, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mr. Toso to approve release of contract for Sara Robinson, Special Education Teacher for the 202-2021 school year. Roll call vote: Hanson, yes; Haut, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, yes; Nelson, yes; Toso, yes; Roberts, yes; Allen, yes; Gleason, yes. Motion carried. 9-0.

Mrs. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Larson to approve to rescind Policy AAC Non discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the first readings of Policy AAC Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure AAB-BR2 and amend Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure AAC-BR. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Discrimination and Harassment Training Requirements for Employees AAC-E3 and Notice of Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint AAC-E5.

President Haut read the request from a patron to replace Board Policy BFB Board-Staff Relations. President Haut contacted Amy Dekok, legal counsel for the ND School Board Association, to review the policy BDA regarding the specific concerns from the patron. Ms. Dekok stated that there is generally nothing improper, and certainly not unconstitutional, about prescribing a chain of command for employee complaints or grievances. President Haut reported the first step for the board members to be considering is this request, per Policy BDA, is to determine if a need exists. If the board does not believe a need exists to review and revise this policy there would be no further action. If the board does determine a need exists, step 2 would be to direct a policy statement to be presented to the board. Step 3 as this policy references the superintendent, the board should establish an ad hoc policy committee to review and revise the policy statement or Step 4 the board would follow current practice and the BDA policy.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mrs. Gleason to review BFB policy. Roll call vote: Rohr, yes; Nelson, yes; Toso, no; Roberts, yes; Allen, no; Gleason, yes; Hanson, no; Haut, no; Larson, no. Motion failed 5-4.

Discussion held to have an ad hoc committee review or a standing policy committee.

Mrs. Larson moved, seconded by Mr. Allen to not have a standing policy committee, instructed Superintendent to change policy to match the present process. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Toso, yes; Roberts, yes; Allen, yes; Gleason, yes; Hanson, yes; Haut, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Toso declared a conflict of interest on the open enrollment applications for a 1st grade Pingree Buchanan student to attend Jamestown for the 2020-2021 school year and open enrollment applications for a 3rd and 6th grade Jamestown students to attend Pingree Buchanan School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded Mr. Allen to approve the open enrollments of a 1st grade Pingree Buchanan student to attend Jamestown Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year and open enrollment applications for a 3rd and 6th grade Jamestown students to attend Pingree Buchanan Public School for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote with the exception of Mr. Toso. Motion carried.

No further business, President Haut adjourned the meeting.