

USD 417 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 16th, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
17 S Wood St, Council Grove, KS 66846

MEMBERS

PRESENT Terry Powell, TinaRae Scott, Mary K. Myers, Deidre Knight, Scott Bankes, Marie Blythe, and Adam Dirks

MEMBERS NOT

PRESENT

OTHERS

PRESENT Kelly McDiffett, Jay Doornbos, Valerie Gehrer, Kelcy Bremer, Marcus Hernandez, Aron Dody, Kate Gronquist, Jolie Ziegler, Ricci Ziegler, Jason Ziegler, and Bryce Johnson

Terry Powell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TinaRae Scott (Deidre Knight) moved to go into a 5-minute executive session in order to discuss nonelected personnel matters pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA with Aron Dody and Kelly McDiffett. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

TinaRae Scott (Deidre Knight) moved to go into a 5-minute executive session in order to discuss nonelected personnel matters pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA with Aron Dody and Kelly McDiffett. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:12 p.m.

TinaRae Scott (Deidre Knight) moved to go into a 3-minute executive session in order to discuss nonelected personnel matters pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA with Aron Dody and Kelly McDiffett. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:15 p.m.

CONSENT

AGENDA TinaRae Scott (Scott Bankes) moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

SPOTLIGHT ON

EDUCATION The Board recognized Jolie Ziegler, undefeated state champion in girls wrestling, and her coach, Jay Doornbos, for their successes this year.

REPORTS Kelcy Bremer reported that teachers and secretaries had been working since the school shutdown was announced to send out grade cards before facilities would be locked down. Jay Doornbos reported that, much like everyone else, KSHSAA is taking the pandemic one or two weeks at a time, then reevaluating, but currently all activities and practices of any kind are suspended or cancelled. Aron Dody briefed the Board on the discussions he and other superintendents have been having during daily conference calls with the Kansas Education Commissioner, Randy Watson. TinaRae Scott reported that KASB has asked most of its workforce to work from home. KASB will continue to offer most of its services, including legal services, but most KASB conferences and trainings have been cancelled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Aron Dody discussed developments with the plan to lease space to Building Blocks, sharing a draft MOU with the Board.

Aron Dody and the Board discussed the upcoming retirement of the board-appointed attorney, Darrel Bryant. Because the district now has access to KASB's legal services, the Board reached a consensus that it would not appoint a replacement.

The Board determined graduation/promotion assignments for the 2019-2020 ceremonies.

ACTION ITEM

Deidre Knight (TinaRae Scott) moved to approve the contract with Hellas Construction for the Football Field and Track Project, provided that an "escape clause" would be added, along with a couple of other minor changes suggested by Aron and the Board. Motion passed 7-0. Terry Powell declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:27 p.m., so the Board could discuss financing options. Deidre Knight (Scott Bankes) moved to approve a 10-year lease purchase with Farmers and Drivers Bank for 1.6 million at 2.5% fixed interest to finance the project. Motion passed 6-0. Terry Powell returned to the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The Board reached a consensus to move forward with the plan to lease space to Building Blocks, asking for a more finalized version of an MOU/contract to review and approve at a later meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TinaRae Scott (Scott Bankes) moved to go into a 10-minute executive session in order to discuss items related to negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA with Aron Dody. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:46 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:56 p.m.

Terry Powell adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Bryce Johnson, Clerk

Terry Powell, President, BOE