



Board of Directors

Minutes

Superintendent Scheduled to Attend Board Meeting: JB Elliott; Alternate: Pat Happer

Date: March 17th, 2021

Location: Keystone Learning Services, 500 E. Sunflower Blvd., Ozawkie, KS

Time: 6:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

At 6:31 p.m., Board President Sharon Sweeney called the meeting to order. Members present: Jana Farmer, Robin Croxel, Justin Finley, Sarah Johnston, Ramon Gonzalez and USD 377 alternate Barb Chapman for Kelli Bottorff. Member absent: Scott Gibson.

Others present: Doug Anderson, Executive Director; Mary Livingston and Amy Conklin, Special Education Assistant Directors; Linda Chalker, Clerk of the Board; Lisa Morando, Business Manager; Terri Coughlin, Principal at John Dewey Learning Academy. Arriving at 6:58 p.m., JB Elliott USD #343 Superintendent.

Monthly Action Items

1. Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda Items

Monthly Consent Agenda Items

Any Board member may request that any item be removed from this consent agenda to the regular agenda for action to be taken separately.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
3. Approval of Bills & Claims
4. Approval of Cash Summary Report
5. Approval of Monthly Fund Transfers
6. Approval of Check Register

ACTION

Justin Finley made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda & Monthly Consent Agenda Items as presented. Robin Croxel seconded and motion passed 7-0.

Monthly Communications

1. Receive Communications from Visitors Present—None

Discussion Items

1. Keystone Priorities

- a. JDLA Quarterly Update—Terri Coughlin, Principal at JDLA, shared with the board that this has been a wonderful school year, with happy kids (and staff.) There are currently 30 students on site and 2 students who are attending classes remotely. Two students have returned to their home districts, which is very encouraging as this is the goal of the school. Terri invited board members to attend an upcoming pinewood derby car race slated for April 1st at approximately 9 a.m. Terri reported that equipment upgrades (chrome books, teacher computers, walkie talkies for staff, etc.) is a priority for next year. The plan is to purchase computers for both staff and students on a rotating basis. Terri reported that 1 senior student already graduated in December, 2020 and staff are hopeful two more seniors will graduate this May.

At 6:48 p.m., Terri left the meeting.

- b. Plans for Summer School and ESY—Doug explained that he has been speaking to TASN project staff and member superintendents regarding the 2021 summer school & Extended School Year (ESY) sessions. Several districts have expressed interest in the TASN partnership for these programs. Summer school will take place at students' home districts, while Keystone will provide the necessary special education support.
 - c. Keystone Building Purchase Update—Doug and the board discussed ideas related to the purchase of the building that Keystone has been leasing from the Jefferson West school district for the past 10 years. It was decided that a building task force would be formed composed of Keystone administrators, board members and superintendents who will research the proposal and advise the board on future action. Board members who expressed interest in serving on the Keystone building task force are from USD 339, 343 and 449.
 - d. Administrators' Contract Extensions—Doug explained that historically, Keystone has rolled over administrator contracts for an additional 1 year during this time and that this item is up for board approval.
- 2. Budget Summary—Monthly Snapshot, Revenue and Expenditures—**Doug and Lisa gave a summary on budget related items such as categorical aid, Medicaid and the budget projections for next year.
- 3. Personnel**
- a. Vacancy Report/New Hires—Mary and Amy reported that Keystone has several para interviews coming up and also shared the current certified staff positions that are open for next school year. Keystone is working on expanding teacher and para job vacancies by advertising open positions on the website as well as having districts list the job opening information on each of their district websites. Keystone continues to advertise in the local county newspapers.

- b. Leadership Conference Legal Decisions Review—Doug and Amy shared information regarding cases reviewed at the leadership conference they both recently attended. One case pertains to the finding that determined that consent was not required for transition assessments and FBAs, and another described the school’s responsibilities in intervening when a child is not showing up for remote learning. Administrators reported that “official” enrollment is not required to discuss the scope of services available to the child if/when they become enrolled.

Executive Session

At 7:48 p.m., Justin Finley made a motion to go into Executive Session in the meeting room for 30 minutes, to discuss confidential personnel matters pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, with the open meeting reconvening in the board room at 8:18 p.m. The executive session included Doug Anderson, Mary Livingston and Amy Conklin. Ramon Gonzalez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

At 8:18 p.m., open session resumed.

Action Items

- 1. Personnel Update--Contracts and Resignations**
Approval of the March 2021 Personnel Report

ACTION

Barb Chapman made a motion to approve the March personnel update as presented. Sarah Johnston seconded and motion passed 7-0.

- 2. Approval of Extending 1-Year Contracts for Keystone Administrators Doug Anderson, Terri Coughlin and Amy Conklin**

ACTION

Justin Finley made a motion to approve extending 1-year contracts to Keystone administrators Doug Anderson, Terri Coughlin and Amy Conklin to cover the period July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023. Ramon Gonzalez seconded and motion passed 7-0.

Miscellaneous Items from Board Members

- 1. Director’s Comments**—Doug thanked the board for renewing his contract for another year. He explained that he has really enjoyed working with the teachers, staff, the board and the superintendents. He appreciates all the district support and looks forward to continuing the work.

2. Any Board Member Wishing to Speak—Sharon expressed appreciation that all the districts have done such a great job this year working through the pandemic and coming up with innovating ways to continue teaching our students. Sarah agreed with Sharon and is impressed with how focused everyone has been on students and with the good results we've had. Justin applauded how districts have been able to keep schools open during the entire year. He also shared that JCN is planning to hire a K-5 principal for next year to help better support staff and students at their district. Jana also celebrated the successful year everyone has had during Covid. She also shared that the Oskaloosa school district voted to make masks optional in their district starting on April 6th. Ramon thanked Dr. Anderson for his prompt replies to his questions posed by email.

Adjournment

At 8:29 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Sweeney
President

Linda Chalker
Clerk of the Board