

FORT LARNED UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 495
BOARD OF EDUCATION
LARNED, KANSAS 67550
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2014
6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

June Barger, President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Jay Haremza, Brenda Hagerman, Leroy Lyon, Kevin Reece June Barger, Sharon Lessard, Jon Flint, Superintendent, Phil Martin, Attorney, Tiffany Burris, Clerk

Absent:

Jenny Manry

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sharon Lessard moved to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving Site Proposal to Item 13, Bond Update to Item 14, Acceptance of 9 Passenger Vehicle to Item 15, and Acceptance of Bus Bid to Item 16.

Kevin Reece second.

Yes 6 No 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brenda Hagerman moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2014 Regular Board Meeting and October 20, 2014 Special Board Meeting as presented.

Jay Haremza second.

Yes 6 No 0

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Kevin Reece moved to approve the bills as presented.

Leroy Lyon second.

Yes 6 No 0

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean handed out the Securities Deposits to board members.

7. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

A. Junior City Council

Larned Junior City Council was in attendance at this month's meeting. Members introduced themselves. Nicole Taylor, member of the group, gave a report to the board on the group's recent trip to the Larned Fire Dept. June Barger, President, asked Nicole how students became members of Junior City Council. Nicole and her sponsor, Joan Basgall, explained that the group submits applications and that the National Honor Society at the high school looks at them and appoints members based on those applications.

8. WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE TRIP PRESENTATION BY KISTA HOLT

Kista Holt, who is an At Risk teacher at Northside, presented information to the board outlining her book club's recent trip to Emporia to the William Allen White Celebration. Kista gave a brief history of the book club. Each year, Northside Elementary receives a few copies of the William Allen White books. She explained that to be chosen for the William Allen White award, young readers vote for their favorites. Mrs. Holt formed a book club at Northside and invited 4th grade students to join. Students that chose to be part of the group gave up a recess and lunch period each week to take time to read and discuss the books that were being read. There is no grade involved with being a member of the club and each student was required to complete a project at the end of the club. There were 25 members in the club last year. Those members that had completed all the requirements of the club for the year were rewarded with a trip to Emporia to the William Allen White celebration on Oct. 3, 2014. The students had the opportunity to meet this year's winning authors, Helen Frost and Don Brown.

They took part in book signings, a lock in, and a parade around Emporia State University. The students enjoyed the trip. Kista thanked Mr. Flint and the board for the opportunity to take the students. Leroy Lyon, Board member, thanked Kista for organizing the book club and for giving the students this opportunity.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Non-elected Personnel

June Barger moved at 6:55 p.m. that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 7:05 p.m. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Jon Flint, Superintendent, Phil Martin, Attorney.

Leroy Lyon second.

Yes 6 No 0

The open meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m

10. NOMINATIONS

Jay Haremza moved to approve the following nomination(s) for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kaileigh Dietrich	Para/TRI/LHS
Peter Thompson	Asst. Custodian/LMS
Joe Twitchell	Maintenance/District Wide
Courtnie Price	Para/WS
Jacob Tapia	Asst. Girl's Bball/LHS
Kayla Moser	Asst. Track/LHS

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

11. SEPERATIONS

Jay Haremza moved to approve the following seperation(s) for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mark Mead
Jordahn Perez

Maintenance/District Wide
Para/TRI/LMS

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

12. TRANSFERS

Jay Haremza moved to approve the following transfers(s) for the 2014-2015 school year.

Monique Romo

Para/TRI/ALC from
Para/TRI/LHS

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

13. SITE PROPOSAL

Jon Flint shared with the board and audience the process that the bond committee has gone through to gain input on possible sites for a new elementary building. A public meeting was held where information was given to attendees who were then given an opportunity to score sites. These rubrics were then tallied at the meeting. Jon shared that initially the rubrics were scored incorrectly. Each table was initially given the same weighting no matter how many people were seated at that table. The rubrics were then refigured as stand alone rankings to ensure the process was statistically accurate. The sites weren't given a ranking; each had a rubric score. This process allowed the public to gain information and also have input. Jon also shared an email with the board from Mr. Massey, Larned City Manager. He asked the board to give the Baird property strong consideration. Jon shared that the public had been given information and had spoken on which properties would be the best fit according to the rubrics that were turned in. June Barger, President, commended Jon Flint and the bond committee on doing an outstanding job getting information out to the public and compiling the information.

Leroy Lyon moved to accept the Giessel property as the proposed site for a new Pre-K – 5 Building.

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

14. BOND UPDATE

Rod Sondergard of Howard and Helmer Architects was present to answer questions and present information to the board. Jon Flint stated that there was now a dollar figure tied to the project and it had been acquired through a space needs analysis that had recently been done through interviews with teachers, administration, along with custodial, maintenance, and transportation departments. The architects feel this is a close figure. The committee does not want to build anything that will not fit our needs, both present and in the future. The classrooms will be built to accommodate 20 students kindergarten through 2nd grade and 25 students for grades 3rd through 5th. There will be some flex rooms constructed that will allow for possible growth. For example, the art room would serve as a flex classroom should need for further classroom space become an issue. The new building will be able to house 464 students efficiently with the capacity of holding a maximum number of 515 students. There would also be a 94 ft. high school basketball court built that would double as a storm shelter. The gym would accommodate seating for up to 190 and be equipped with 6 folding goals and a dividing curtain that would allow the court to also be used for volleyball games.

June Barger, President, asked if the plan that was presented is based on the school that the firm recently built in Buhler and if so do they have the same needs as our district. Rod Sondergard stated that yes it was based on the school in Buhler, but it is only a base to plan from. Most of the costs presented are based on that building in Buhler since it had been completed in the fall. June also asked if each pod was classrooms. Rod stated that yes they were and that the gymnasium was located on the south end. The west end would serve as a parent drop off and pick up location and that the east side would be utilized for bussing. June questioned if security was dominant at the Buhler building. Security was of the utmost importance in the design with all of the entrances contained by vestibules. Leroy Lyon, Board member, asked if the security equipment the district had recently purchased could be reused. Rod felt that it could be reused in the new building. Leroy also asked about site utilities and whether there would be additional costs associated with constructing this building outside the city limits. The architectural firm has already contacted the gas company and obtained their information and stated that water is available up to the west side of the building. June questioned whether there were sidewalks built in the area since there are some parents that will want their children to walk to school. There are no sidewalks present in the area and that will need to be looked at. It does have curb and guttering. It was noted that the district does provide bussing throughout the town with pick up at all the district locations. Leroy Lyon asked how the current

construction price compares to what was presented in the 2008 bond issue. In 2008, the price was \$13.8 million. Jon reminded the board of the state aid that is currently at 36% for new construction that the district would qualify for.

Jon shared that the bond committee had not had the opportunity to look over the rubrics that the public had turned in regarding the high school renovations. He would like to give them time to review them and would forward results to board members on the following Friday. At the last meeting, the bond committee had discussed that any item that received over a 3 rating should be looked at. Most of the renovations that were being looked at were energy efficient, which would pay for themselves over the years. Leroy Lyon felt that something the public would benefit from seeing are the district's current energy bills. The committee could back the energy efficient improvements with numbers and how they could be improved. He also felt that it would be beneficial to share what it would cost to renovate the three buildings in relationship to building new. The architect stated that he would work on getting that information. Jon stated that there is still much educating and discussion that needs to be done.

15. ACCEPTANCE OF 9 PASSENGER VEHICLE BID

Richard Fairchild, Transportation Director, presented the board with a document outlining the trips the district had used the current suburban for over the past year. Sharon Lessard, Board member, asked what the advantage was of using a nine passenger vehicle instead of a van. Richard stated that there were times when a nine passenger vehicle was needed. There are several times when nine passengers are attending an event. Currently, if a certified teacher coaches the team and drives them to events, the district does not pay mileage. Richard shared that there are some events that take place over an entire day, such as debate tournaments. Because of the length of time, if a driver is sent with the team on a bus the district would actually have to send two drivers because of KDOT law and the maximum hours allowed on the clock when driving. When the nine passenger vehicle is taken and a coach drives, these laws do not effect the trip. Unfortunately, there is a company in town that was unable to submit a bid because the company they represent does not manufacture a nine passenger vehicle. Ralph Baird Motors was able to submit a bid for an eight passenger vehicle only. Jon Flint wanted to point out that the district has purchased vehicles in the past couple years from every dealership in town. Leroy Lyon stated that by looking at the two bids received, there was not much difference in price between an eight passenger vehicle and a nine passenger vehicle. He stated that the nine passenger vehicle also offers more options and safety features. Richard Fairchild stated that he was simply trying to replace the current nine passenger vehicle that they have in their fleet. He stated that he did respect the concern from Ralph Baird Motors in relation to their inability to bid for a nine passenger vehicle, but that he already has two eight passenger vans in his fleet. Therefore, another eight passenger vehicle would not be as beneficial to the department. June Barger, President,

asked if the cheerleaders would be left out if there was not a nine passenger vehicle available to transport. Richard stated that currently there are eight cheerleaders that travel plus the sponsor that drives them. Jon asked what Richard planned to do with the current vehicle the district is replacing. Richard stated that he was planning on keeping it in the fleet. The current vehicle has 130,000 miles on it and has been taken care of thanks to staff and the maintenance crew. Jon stated that there is really one bid that meets the specifications that went out. If the board decides to go with an eight passenger vehicle, it will have to go back out to bid. Jay Haremza, Board member, asked if there had been any complaints with traveling with 3 persons per row in the nine passenger vehicle. Richard stated that he had heard none.

Leroy Lyon moved to accept the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$43,929 for the purchase of a 2015 or newer 9 passenger vehicle from Dwight Shank Auto.

Jay Haremza second.

Yes 6 No 0

Other bids were received from: Ralph Baird Motors for an 8 Passenger Vehicle in the amount of \$47,592.00.

16. ACCEPTANCE OF BUS BIDS

Richard Fairchild, Transportation Director, explained that the bids were sent out to two bus companies for a 2012 or newer bus. Both bids came in as 2016 models. No pre-owned busses were available at this time. Leroy Lyon, Board member, asked Richard if these purchases would complete the update of the fleet for some time. Richard stated that these purchases would be the last for some time. June Barger, President, stated that she appreciates an updated, safe fleet to ensure the safety of the passengers.

Jay Haremza moved to accept the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$88,500 for the purchase of 53 passenger bus from Midwest Bus.

Kevin Reece second.

Yes 6 No 0

Other bids were received from: Kansas Truck and Equipment in the amount of \$90,953.00.

17. REPORTS
a) Principals
Dick Bixler (WS)

Mr. Bixler extended an invitation to Mr. Martin and the board to the facility for Thanksgiving dinner. The facility will also be serving a Christmas dinner on Dec. 5th. The students will also be performing a play that day after dinner. Mr. Bixler commended the board and Mr. Flint for an outstanding job.

Shane Sundahl (LMS)

The middle school students and staff will once again be participating in their annual community service project on December 1, 2014. They will be raking leaves in the afternoon for the elderly and disabled. Shane is hoping to make some changes at the middle school for the second semester. Currently, the 7th and 8th grade students have a lunch recess. Those grades will now have a supplemental instruction time in their homerooms instead of recess. This time will allow students to make up tests and gain any extra help on assignments that may be needed and allow time to work on any make up activities. The middle school students had participated in a sample of state assessments. It did not go well. There were many problems and they are planning on trying on another day. The staff tried administering the test on iPads, computers, and Chromebooks. The problems were statewide. Jay Haremza, Board Vice President, asked Shane for his feedback on Power Hour, both positive or negative. June Barger, President, also asked if he had seen this model done in other districts. Shane stated that his goal as principal was to help students and that he feels by taking this time during the day to address missing homework and late tests it will ensure that students are getting any additional instructional time that may be needed. He feels that Power Hour should not be used to punish students. June Barger asked if this change in scheduling would phase out Power Hour. Shane stated that it was his goal to phase that program out.

Lea Harding (HS, PH, & NS)

Absent

Troy Langdon (LHS)

Troy extended an invitation to the board to take part in judging Mrs. Fitzpatrick's science class presentations on the 12th of November. He stated that rubrics would be available for those that offer to judge; knowledge of nuclear power was not necessary. June Barger asked if there would be more opportunities to participate

in things like this because most members were unable to judge this time. She asked that they be given a bit more notice so they can adjust their schedules. Troy stated that there would be more opportunities in the future. The science department is hoping to become more visible and is excited to let people see what they are doing. The Scholar's Bowl has had a great start to their season. The varsity squad took 1st place at their first meet and the junior varsity took 4th place at that same meet. They had another tournament today at Macksville and junior varsity placed 1st and varsity took 2nd place. Troy shared that he has a goal this year to get to know his students personally. He stated that there were many new students at Larned High School this year. This week is Athletic Buffer Week. The students and staff were ready to move onto the next seasons. As a side note, Troy stated that the high school and Mr. Wilson are 90% sure LHS will be hosting sub state basketball this year. Leroy Lyon, Board member, asked how the ACT went on Oct. 25th. There are no results back yet, but as soon as he gets them he will share with the board. Leroy Lyon also asked if there was any feedback from Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Butler as far as the students that had attended their ACT Prep Workshops. Mrs. Johnson was not as pleased with attendance as Mr. Butler. He had students that attended both sessions.

June Barger, President, asked Mr. Langdon about recent fundraising efforts and who benefitted from these. She stated that the public becomes confused whether it is a USD #495 effort or a Booster Club effort. She feels that the public has become bombarded with fundraisers and wondered if the organizations feel as they have to do these to get the equipment they need. She also asked whether students are being required to sell a certain number of shirts or tickets. Jay Haremza, Board Vice President, asked what fundraising events had taken place over the last year and where they monies had been used. June Barger asked that Troy come up with a spreadsheet outlining that information for the next meeting. Jay Haremza did state that the community is great at supporting the student's programs, but felt that knowing exactly what is being sold, by whom, and for what would be beneficial for the board to know. Troy stated that he would gather that information for the board.

Leroy Lyon, Board member, shared that as a district employee years ago in the special education department he has seen many of his past students gain employment and be successful through the years. He was very proud to see them contributing to society. He stated that he is concerned about the phasing out of vocational education and how it could possibly effect these students. He said that recently he had read about a Mental Health Aide program that is offered. He wondered if this could be offered at the high school in the same manner the CNA program is offered to students. He felt this was a program that the State Hospital would be hiring from. Troy Langdon said that he would reach out to Barton County Community College and see what he could find out as far as this program.

b) Directors
Daryl Gobin, Maintenance

The maintenance department is busy preparing for winter. They are getting equipment ready to plow and scoop snow. Ice melt has been purchased. The sprinkler system has been drained. The district has recently had their annual visit from the state fire marshal. Once again, we have sent in waivers for the elementary schools, which are not on a battery back up system. This is in anticipation of the upcoming bond vote. Jon Flint asked about the system at Sacred Heart where our Tri County preschool is housed. Daryl stated that because that building is leased, the district could not just purchase a system and install it. They have not looked at that building. Daryl has no reason to think the state will not grant waivers to the elementary buildings. Leroy Lyon asked about the sidewalk at Hillside that had recently been written up by the city for not complying to ADA regulations. The district had been given 60 days to replace the sidewalk and Allan Taylor will be replacing it. The district was able to participate in the sidewalk replacement program with the city. The city will be covering 50% of the cost. The district will be responsible for \$320.00. Jay Haremza informed Daryl that the cones and barricades for the handicapped football parking are ready to be picked up and stored until next season.

Richard Fairchild, Transportation

The transportation department had recently been recognized by the Kansas Dept. of Education for outstanding service. Jon commended the department for their diligence to safety and maintenance. October 22, 2014 was Bus Driver Recognition Day. Richard missed that day, but to show drivers appreciation he took them on a tour to South Hutch to a factory to see how mini busses are built. The drivers were able to witness the entire process. Leroy Lyon asked if these busses had chassis strong enough to handle our roads in the district's townships. They do not. Some urban districts use these busses. June Barger thanked Richard and his department for all their hard work and dedication.

c) Jon Flint, Superintendent

Jon stated that our preliminary budget data from the state. Our unaudited enrollment is down some. The district built the budget on 920. There was a substantial difference in the 2nd grade class enrollment from last year and one of

classes at the high school was down also. There is no solid explanation for the difference. Jon stressed that these numbers are not audited and we will not need to republish the budget. We will know more once the audit takes place after the first of the year.

d) Board Discussion

Sharon Lessard addressed the board and audience stating that as a representative of the Fort Larned Foundation for Education she wanted to inform everyone that the foundation once again has Education Mini Grants available to teachers. She presented a challenge to the principals. Last year the foundation did not receive any applications from the high school or middle school and she wanted to ensure that their facility was aware of the grants and that they were encouraged to submit an application. She also wanted to stress that December 2, 2014 has been designated as Giving Tuesday through the Golden Belt Foundation. There will be a box at the State Theatre downtown and donations will be matched that day. Jay Haremza asked Sharon how many mini grant applications normally are submitted. Sharon stated that the foundation gave out a little over \$1000 last year and they are hoping to double that amount this year.

Leroy Lyon stated that at the public bond committee meeting, he had heard many concerns from attendees when filling out the high school renovations rubric. Many of them have never been inside the high school and were therefore having a difficult time scoring the needs. He wondered if there was a map outlining the layout of the high school that could be distributed so the public could become more familiar with the lay out. Jon stated that there were maps and that there will also be tours offered at the high school in upcoming months.

18. ADJOURN

Sharon Lessard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Jay Haremza second.

Yes 6 No 0

Board President

Board Clerk