

FORT LARNED UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 495
BOARD OF EDUCATION
LARNED, KANSAS 67550
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2014
6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

June Barger, President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

June Barger, Jay Haremza, Brenda Hagerman, Leroy Lyon, Kevin Reece,, 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.

Kevin Reece second.

Yes 6 No 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leroy Lyon moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014 Regular Board meeting as presented.

Kevin Reece second.

Yes 6 No 0

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Leroy Lyon moved to approve the bills as presented.

Kevin Reece second.

Yes 6 No 0

6. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

None at this time.

7. BOND UPDATE-BOND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lynn Barger, Bond Committee member, presented information to the board and audience on behalf of the committee. She stated that the committee had first met in 2013 at a KASB led group discussion to identify challenges of the district. At that meeting, 82% of those present voted to move forward to educate the public on the district's challenges and needs. The group has continued to meet once a month. A parent survey was sent out to families with students from PK to 6th grade. There was a 60% return rate with 67% of those returned indicating they were in favor of pursuing a PK-5 Elementary building. A community planning meeting was held in October to gather public opinion and input. New members joined the group after this meeting was held.

Brent Hemken, also a Bond Committee member, took the podium. He shared that up to this point the committee had been in information gathering mode. He stated that the committee's goal is to have a wide section of community involvement in the process. Through the process, the obvious goal is to complete the project, but the committee also wants to ensure that it is done right. The hope is to appeal to the widest audience and for the project to have a broad purpose. They would like for the new construction and improvements at the high school to appeal to the community as a whole and for the projects to be cost effective. Extensive discussion was held about the scope of the project. The plan is to build for expansion and growth. The design has been drawn with flex rooms, which will allow for growth. The gymnasium is also being built to be utilized for activities other than at just the elementary level. It will serve more than one purpose. The design has also been drawn with safety and security at the forefront. It was noted that the cost of new playground equipment is not included in the price, and the cost of demolishing old buildings is also not included.

The architects met with high school administration and staff to ask them what the needs and challenges were in the building. The community also filled out a survey to rate their feelings as far as improvements that were needed at the high school. It was done on a 1-5 rating scale system, which helped determine the importance of each item. Most of the improvements listed received very high ratings. Brent pointed out that any energy upgrades that are completed will have a long term cost savings for the district. Renovations and upgrades to the locker rooms and gyms are included in the drawing as is construction of a new storm shelter. The community ranked the construction of a new weight room and fitness center high on the list of wants and needs. Leroy Lyon, Board member, stated that he had been asked if the new owners of the Alco building downtown had plans to run a fitness center out of it. He would not like to see the school district be in competition with a new business in town. June Barger, Board president, stated she felt the owners had other plans for the building. Brent Hemken stated that being in competition is not the goal of the construction of the fitness center. The goal is to work cooperatively with the public to provide a center the community will benefit from also.

June Barger, President, thanked both Brent and Lynn for reporting to the board and keeping them up to date. Jay Haremza, Board member, shared that he felt it was a great benefit to see a large number of community members take an active role in the bond process. Jon Fllint stated that committee members have binders full of information to share with the public. They want to get the correct, concise information out to the public.

8. SET SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The board discussed the need to set a special board meeting date with the sole purpose being to discuss the scope and price of the proposed project. The architects and financial advisor will be present and it will be a question and answer session.

Jay Haremza moved to set a special board meeting on Dec. 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Larned Middle School music room for the purpose of providing direction with respect to final scope of project and bond amount.

Sharon Lessard second.

Yes 6 No 0

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Non-elected Personnel

June Barger moved at 7:08 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 7:20 p.m. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Jon Flint, Superintendent, Phil Martin, Attorney.

Sharon Lessard second.

Yes 6 No 0

The open meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m.

10. NOMINATIONS

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

Kyle Leroy	Teacher/LHS
Jamee Schroeder	Secretary/NS

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

11. SEPARATIONS

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

William Fairchild	Bus Driver/ TRANS
Kari Moreton	Secretary/NS

Brenda Hagerman second.

Yes 6 No 0

12. TRANSFERS

None at this time.

13. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean Simmons, Finance Director, presented securities to the present board members. She also shared a newspaper clipping outlining the amount of money that is still owed to the district from Barton County. She stated that the recent payment from the State had arrived and 25% of it had been from the state highway department.

14. LARNED HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY PRESENTATION

Kayla Moser, Larned High School Biology teacher, presented information to the board on the various ways she uses technology in her classroom. She stated that Kansas has adopted the Next Generation Science Standards and presently there is difficulty in obtaining textbooks aligned to these standards. Therefore, she has opted to use iPads and microscopes for her instruction. She uses applications such as Google Earth and Book Creator. She utilizes Apple TV and essentially her television in her classroom is her projector. Several of the apps she uses allows her to share articles and information online directly with her students. Currently, Ms. Moser is working on a grant to obtain cordless key pads and a printer for the student's iPads. She shared that students enrolled in her Anatomy classes attended a cadaver lab in Concordia. She is hoping to offer an Advanced Biology class in future semesters also.

15. REPORTS

a) Principals

Troy Langdon (LHS)

The high school had recently held a canned food drive. Any person attending the last ball game that brought two canned goods with them received free

admission. The school collected over 8 ½ boxes of food to be donated to the local food pantry. Troy shared that after looking into the Licensed Mental Health Technician program, it was discovered that it is a program that will not be offered to high school students at this time. Mrs. Johnson did receive feedback on classes that students can take as pre requisites to this certification. Troy also handed out a spreadsheet outlining recent fund raising activities done at Larned High School that showed which groups had participated, how much had been raised, and what funds were used for. The coaches and sponsors have been told their groups are allowed on fundraising activity per year. This fund raising is used to buy extras, such as travel gear. It is not used to purchase equipment such as helmets and uniforms. These are provided by the board. June Barger, President, noted that there were several accounts with large balances. Does administration ever tell the groups not to fund raise? Troy stated that each group does one fund raiser of some type per year. June then questioned whether purchases go through administration. Items are purchased through the office. June asked if students are required to sell a certain number of items. Troy said that he needed to visit with coaches and reinforce to them that they can not require participants to sell. It must be a voluntary activity. Jay Haremza, Board member, asked how the money from the booster club plays into the fund raising. When the booster club donates money for specific purchases, they write a check to the high school to cover the purchase. June asked if the booster club limits their amount of fund raising. It was stated that they are separate from the district and operate under their own guidelines. Jon Flint stated that he feels that is where the confusion comes from at times. The Booster Club runs many fund raisers on their own and the district is not involved in those. At times, a coach will have a want versus a need and that is what the Booster Club helps provide.

Ross Butler, Larned High School Math Teacher, has been holding study sessions prior to the ACT for students. Troy shared that students math scores are improving not only because of the study sessions, but also because students are continuing to take upper level math courses. Math had originally been one of the student's lowest scores, and they are now one of the highest. Students still struggle with science and reading. Ms. Moser plans to hold study sessions and hopes to get those scores up also. Sharon Lessard, Board member, asked if there are plans to help improve English scores. Troy stated that the English portion of the test is a lot of reading and unless you read everyday students will struggle. Jay Haremza asked if it was technical reading. Troy said that it is not only technical reading, but many pieces are in Olde English. They are college level pieces. It's a tough test and the staff will continue to have to provide resources to help our students succeed on it. Jay Haremza asked if the high school is seeing fewer students take the test. Troy stated that they are not only because the test is hard, but because students are realizing that if their scores are not high, the potential for scholarships is not there. Many are realizing college is not the route they plan to take also. Some students are planning on taking the vocational route to career readiness.

Dick Bixler(WS)

Westside students served Thanksgiving dinner to 59 attendees and Christmas dinner to 81. Dick stated there would be one more opportunity to have dinner at the facility in the spring. A play will be presented in the spring as well. On December 10th, classroom observations will be taking place as well as follow up discussion on the Eric Jensen presentation. Graduation will be December 12th.

Lea Harding(Elementary)

On the next early out day, the staff will be participating in a webinar with the new math series. They have some questions over assessments and how to break up lessons. Overall, they are happy with the new series. It is being used effectively in the classroom and they enjoy having the guide. Northside held their winter program last Thursday. Staff is doing Dibels and math testing. They have done a good job collecting data to help measure growth over the years. Each building will gain 2 new students after break. Lea held Site Council this month. She had one attendee.

Shane Sundahl (LMS)

The students and staff at Larned Middle School held their annual leaf raking community service day. Due to the weather, they were only able to be out in the afternoon, but they were able to get to all but one yard. They were also able to get to the high school and middle school. The next couple weeks are busy with activities. There is a vocal music concert, a band concert, and basketball games.

b) Directors

Stan Higgins, Technology

Gwen Lehman, Technology Integrator, for the district has become an Intel facilitator. She will now be teaching classes. There are presently three staff members signed up to take the class. The district has a new web site alos. E-rate will no longer be hosting web sites, so the department looked for a more reasonable alternative. The web site is also more user friendly. It will have a bond FAQ page as well. It should be completely up and running after Christmas break. Stan asked the board to look over the new site and let him know what they think.

Margo Buscher, Special Education Cooperative

Absent

c) Jon Flint, Superintendent

Jon shared that the state is using highway funds to help pay for special education funding. He shared praises for the bond committee members. He stated that they had been an exceptional group to work with that is full of energy. They know the process will be a challenge, but they are up for it. He is looking forward to the new year and getting to the next steps in the process.

d) Board Discussion

Leroy Lyon, Board member, stated that he was pleased with the figures the bond committee has included in the packet. He believes that will be a selling point for the bond passing. Jon stated that these figures are preliminary and some adjustments will need to be done through the process. He stated the committee's goals was to not leave future board and administration saddled with this bond.

16. ADJOURN

Sharon Lessard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Jay Haremza second

Yes 6 No 0

Board President

Board Clerk