

FORT LARNED UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 495
BOARD OF EDUCATION
LARNED, KANSAS 67550
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2015
6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sharon Lessard, President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Jay Haremza, David Sanger, Kimi Bowman, June Barger, Sharon Lessard, Jenny Manry, Jon Flint, Superintendent, Phil Martin, Attorney, Tiffany Burris, Clerk.

Absent:

Leroy Lyon

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kimi Bowman moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Jay Haremza second.

Yes 6 No 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June Barger moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2015 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

David Sanger second.

Yes 6 No 0

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS

David Sanger took this month to look over the bills. He explained that he had only a few questions about them. He said that there had been a large expenditure to cover athletic purchases and there had another sizable expenditure to cover refurbishing band instruments to prepare for the upcoming year. All other expenditures looked in order.

David Sanger moved to approve the bills as presented.

Kimi Bowman second.

Yes 6 No 0

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean Simmons, Finance Director, explained that the revenue on the reports was not exactly as it appeared due to the fact that the state is making districts run almost all money through it's general account. Often, the money is in the account for a very short time and then is immediately transferred out. She stated that there was money in the Gifts and Grants account from rebates the district has received from the photographer that took this year's school pictures. The money that had been donated for the Body Venture had also been placed in that account, and a recent grant for the community garden had been obtained and will be used in the spring. She also shared that the cash summary looks a little different this month due to the fact that APTA had done some recent changes to the system.

7. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

A. Junior City Council

Joan Basgall served as spokesman and sponsor for the group. She explained that the group visits the different departments within the city along with the

school board and county commissioners. The members then introduced themselves.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Non-elected Personnel

Sharon Lessard moved at 6:39 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 7:10 p.m. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Jon Flint, Superintendent, Phil Martin, Attorney.

David Sanger second.

Yes 6 No 0

Jay Haremza and Jenny Manry declared a conflict of interest and left the executive session at 6:40 p.m.

The open meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Jay Haremza and Jenny Manry returned to the open meeting at 7:10 p.m.

9. NOMINATIONS

Jay Haremza moved to approve the following nomination(s) for the 2015-2016 school year.

Gina Owens	Para/TRI/LHS
Charlene Regan	Para/TRI/LMS

June Barger second.

Yes 6 No 0

10. SEPERATIONS

Jay Haremza moved to approve the following separation(s) for the 2015-2016 school year.

Linda Shields

Para/TRI/ALC

David Sanger second.

Yes 6 No 0

11. TRANSFERS

There were no transfers at this time.

12. WESTSIDE CONTRACT

Jay Haremza and Jenny Manry declared a conflict of interest and left the open meeting at 7:12.

Jon Flint began discussion of the recent developments that have taken place with the contract the district has with the state of Kansas to provide educational services at Westside School. Two years ago, the district had submitted a bid and was awarded a contract with a two year guarantee. Last year, the district was forced to make changes to the bid as per the state's request and we obliged and cuts were made. In October of this year, the district was told the contract was in the renewal phase and is once again to go out for bids and negotiation. The bid was to be tied to several different sets of enrollment numbers. This was the first time the request had come out like this. The state said this request was in direct correlation with the declining enrollment projected for Westside School in the coming year. The district has provided highly qualified staff members to provide education. Jon stated that the only way to meet the budget the state is hoping for would be to reduce staff. Staff would no longer be highly qualified and many would be replaced with computer software. Jon stressed that the district has adjusted its initial bid two years in a row already based on the state's request. Jon asked that all keep in mind that the district receives no funding for the students at Westside. We only receive an administrative fee to provide the services and that would be decreased significantly. The staff at Westside had submitted a letter to the Board of Education. The staff in attendance was asked for comment. They would like for the board to submit a bid to the state, but they ask that the board not lessen the importance of highly qualified staff or the importance of quality education. They want the district's bid to reflect the replacement of a math teacher and the \$83,000 that had to be taken out of other funds to meet the state's

request this year. They also asked that the increase to the price of health insurance be taken into account. The bid submitted will be increased from the submitted amount last year. June Barger asked if the Department of Corrections had toured the facility and seen the educational atmosphere of Westside. It was stated that they had toured. June also asked if it is strictly a financial issue. Jon stated that he feels it is. He again stressed the importance of highly qualified staff and the fact that it is more costly to employ a staff of that caliber. June also asked if students are moving in and out of the facility faster than in the past years. Dick Bixler, Administrator at Westside, stated that 20% of students are in and out quickly, 30% of the population stay between 3-5 years, and the rest fall somewhere in the middle. Jon again asked the staff in attendance for direction along with the board. The consensus was to submit a bid to the state outlining what it will take to provide a quality education.

David Sanger moved to submit a bid for educational services at Westside School for the 2016-2017 school year.

June Barger second.

Yes 4 No 0

Jay Haremza and Jenny Manry returned to the open meeting at 7:25 p.m.

13. ELECTION FORMAT DISCUSSION

It was discussed at previous meetings to look at the process it would take to move school board elections to an at large format. The board was hoping to take action on this item tonight. Phil Martin, Attorney, for the school board, stated that the process to get this done is quite lengthy and involved. Phil handed out an outline explaining the timeline and steps that are involved. Jon stated that he feels the entire board needs to be present when this decision is made. Jon thanked Phil for his work on this. It was decided to table this until a later date when all members are present and more information has been gathered.

14. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Lea Harding, Elementary Administrator, presented information on last year's state assessment scores. She explained that this test would help set a cut score. She stated that the scoring on this assessment is different also. Our district is at grade level in math. She asked that board members keep in mind some of the students that were tested are new to common core and the students are learning from a new math series this year, which takes time. Lea stated that science scores were excellent. These scores were based on the old standards.

Shane Sundahl, Middle School Administrator, outlined middle school scores for the board. Shane shared that the middle school students are required to take the most tests of all grade levels. Shane stated that the scores were good, but there was room for improvement and he felt as though the new math series would help students in the future.

High school level scores were at grade level equivalent in most areas. Troy stated that there are some discrepancies in the numbers, but that the students are progressing. All in all, the scores were good and the administration was pleased with the student's efforts. Jon shared that he wanted the board to understand the challenges of the state assessments. The system was not completely functional again this year. The state is asking students to take a very judgmental test in an atmosphere that is not very conducive to that.

15. EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST

According to board policy, the board must approve early graduation requests. This year, two individuals are requesting early graduation.

David Sanger moved to accept the request for early graduation from LHS students.

Jenny Manry second.

Yes 6 No 0

16. REPORTS

a) Principals
Dick Bixler (WS)

Parent teacher conferences were held on Oct. 22 at the school. Mr. Bixler stated that attendance was down a bit. An open house was also held that day also. Westside's Student Council had been busy making cards to send to

pediatric patients at Children's Mercy Hospital. The hospital was reviewing them and had verbally accepted them. The students are also working on cards for a retirement center. The student council also sold pizzas to staff recently as a fundraiser. The students were able to raise close to \$200. This type of activity helps with social skills, as well as raising money. Mr. Bixler expressed his thanks to Mr. Hulse for the extra effort he had put in to get this activity off the ground. December 11 is graduation at Westside. Mr. Bixler invited the board and administration to attend.

Shane Sundahl (LMS)

Winter sports are underway at LMS. This evening, the basketball teams were playing at Reno Valley. Next Monday is the annual community give back day. Students will be raking leaves around town for those people that need assistance. Shane said the weather forecast looked great. Shane also shared some good news on student eligibility. On the last eligibility report, there were only two students ineligible. Shane stated that this is a testament to his staff and their hard work.

Lea Harding (HS, PH, & NS)

a) School Wide Title

Lea Harding shared a power point with the board outlining the benefits of going to a school wide Title program. Presently we are participating in a targeted program, where students must be identified and parents must be notified for students to participate. Support materials purchased with Title funds must only be used in the Title programs and for those identified students also. Lea hopes to move that by moving to a school wide Title program, more students will be reached and benefit. Under the new program, all teachers will be considered Title teachers. All of our paras and aides must be highly qualified to participate. This will require testing for the paras and aides that do not have 60 or more college hours. The district meets the low socio-economic status of 40% needed to participate. Lea has completed the application and is waiting to hear back from the state.

Troy Langdon (LHS)

LHS students had the opportunity to participate in activities at Fort Larned recently. Students from the FACS classes, and several history and math classes were invited to attend. Students were provided hands on activities to compare life on the prairie to life now.

Students from FACS classes and Vocational classes were also given the opportunity to tour the campus of North Central Vocational School in Hays, Ks. Mr. Norris and Miss Johnson accompanied students. Their goal was to showcase some other secondary learning opportunities to students. Over 65 students toured. They were able to experience the campus first hand through hands on activities in departments.

Larned High School will be represented at this year's District Honor Choir and Band Concert. There are four band students and one vocal student that will be attending. Troy shared that the Scholar's Bowl team had placed 2nd at the meet in Russell today.

a) Brandon Bartz

Brandon Bartz is a junior in Mrs. Fleske's English 11 class. Students are required to participate in a Do Hard Things project to complete the class. Brandon has chosen to raise money for an Indian statue to be placed at the Larned High School football field in memory of his father. Brandon hopes to raise the money through grants and donations from individuals and businesses. He has currently raised \$7000.00 of the \$29000 needed for the statue. He was asking the board for permission to place the statue at the field. The board wished him well and hoped he had success in this endeavor. They accepted his request to place the statue at the football field entrance. Brandon will be corresponding with Roy Prescott, Maintenance Director, on details later in the project.

b) Directors
Roy Prescott, Maintenance

The ground keeping is done for the year. The staff has begun looking at the mole problem at Phinney. Boilers have been turned on at buildings and all is going well. Kimi Bowman asked Roy if the bat problem at the high school was still present. Roy shared that the staff feels the bats have moved on.

Richard Fairchild, Transportation

Richard shared that the school zone sign in front of the bus barn had been repaired and was now operating. The school zone sign on Trail St. is being surveyed presently. Initially, they had been placed there when Park School was in operation. That school is no longer used and the city is doing a study to see how many students cross that road. As the new school building approaches, Rich has begun to look at future bus stops and locations. The present stops are at the elementary buildings and if those are sold, that is no longer a viable option. Richard asked for the board to begin thinking about this and asked for their input. Winter sports are beginning and the staff is ready.

c) Jon Flint, Superintendent

Jon shared that Alan Taylor with the Street Dept. at the City of Larned had conducted the traffic study at the school zone on Trail St. and had shared the results. Four students had crossed at the point over a period of several days. The city manager has decided he would like to keep that zone and sign in place at this time.

A meeting with the architects and general contractor had taken place last Thursday. The plans and budget had been discussed. The goal is to let bids Dec. 1, and ask that they be back by Dec. 25. The general contractor shared that there is competition among sub contractors because of several projects going on in the coming months. Jon shared that he is quite impressed with the architects. They have a great job incorporating aspects of the fort into the plan.

Jon had received a letter from Lane Massey asking the board to look into offering middle school golf in our district. Jon did forward this request to the middle school and high school administration. Presently there are 13 middle school golf programs in the state, none of which are in our league. Rusty Wrinkle plans to bring this up at the Middle School League meeting. Conversations had taken place with other schools, and the consensus is that most do not plan to bring golf to the middle school level. The request will be explored though. Jenny Manry questioned if there was a limit to how far our district will drive to an activity. Jon said there is not a policy set presently. Jenny Manry stated that most districts that participate in middle school golf are not close to our area or size. Jon shared that KSHAA does have start time guidelines for activities and our district does follow those. Jon stated that our community does participate in the Junior Golf program and this could be a viable option.

d) Board Discussion

None at this time.

17. ADJOURN

June Barger moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Kimi Bowman second.

Yes 6 No 0

Board President

Board Clerk