

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2021

5:30pm in Commons in Middle School

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chairman Nathan Zito

Trustees Present: Kelley Oakes, Luke Romo & Rich Pope. A quorum was present.

Trustees Absent: Jay Jamieson

Administration Present: Superintendent Nathan Schmitz, Principal Mike Rice, Principal Jesse Moore and Business Manager Julie Copeman

Administration absent: none

Adopt the Agenda: A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo Pass: 4:0

Public Present: Keith Phillips, Misse Iverson, Trevor Daer, Kelsey Daer, Michelle Sparks, Erica Larson, Kevin Larson, Kevin D., Jodi Rookhuizen, Lauren Johnson, Lindsey Parson, Jennifer Grimm, Stephanie L., Erin Dailey, Jenn Hoffman, Whisper Anderson, Kristina Hubbard, Carol Phillips, Michal Hoffman, Katie Burke, Terrilynn James, Kari Tounsend, Vicki Green, B.J. Johnson, Tammy Robertus, Jessie Kaupp, Katie Baier, Julie Miller, Danielle Lackman, Joseph Beeson, Amber Marsich, Kirsten H., Linda L., Amanda Wiederien and Brittany Jore.

Public Comment – Amand Wiederien spoke her opinion about masks in school

Reports and Recognitions

A. Administration Report

- a. **Superintendent:** Mr. Schmitz stated open houses went great for all the students. Possible jury duty next week. First Student has a reduced workforce now, modifications being made until further notice. Administration meetings have resumed. Student cleaning program is getting underway. Waiting for supplies to come in. Strategic Action Plan is being worked on. Because MTSBA is not traveling yet, they cannot sign off on it until they can actually travel. Have reached out to OPI with regards to ANB funding for FY22, because our district is a little different than other districts. Waiting for them to respond.
- b. **Middle school Principal:** Mr. Rice stated they started school with a red carpet. Had an assembly for students to go over rules. 8th grade trip meeting was held. DEA Agent will be holding an assembly for parents and students. STUCO is getting under way. Coupon book sales are starting soon. Fall sports are underway. RCA ideas are getting started in the school.
- c. **Elementary Principal:** Mr. Moore stated open houses were amazing. Great success. STUCO 5th grade elections are coming up soon. New reading series CKLA is being implemented. Dibels is a new platform used to help with student placement. RCA will eventually move forward in the elementary. Vision teams meet regularly as do leadership teams. Our para's are being led by Julie Bundschuh again this year and she is doing great.

B. Technology Report: Panels have arrived and getting set-up. Tech team will start 1st week of Oct.

C. Financial Report: Mrs. Copeman stated bank accounts have been balanced and books are balanced with the county. Working on new hire paperwork. Infinite Campus Payrix has a few hiccups downloading payments to the bank and fees being assigned to the right account. A trouble ticket was submitted. Transportation program is up and running. Just a few bugs to work out the first weeks of school, but running smoothly now. Tuition deposits have been made regularly.

D. Correspondence: None

E. Committees: Trustee Luke Romo stated he contacted a couple grant writers. Payment to the writers is a % of the grant amount.

Consent Agenda:

- A. **Minutes** – Regular meeting minutes from August 10, 2021
- B. **Claims Clearing Warrants-** 9019466 - 9019477, 9019478 - 9019497, 9019498-9019506
- C. Payroll Clearing ACH & Warrants
- D. Bank Accounts
- E. Cancelled Warrants
- F. TR-35
- G. FP-14

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: Kelley Oakes Second: Luke Romo Passed: 4:0

Discussion

Chairman Zito moved Item M & R to Items A & B respectively.

- A. **Policy Review 4000 Series:** First reading of Policy Series 4000. New language being added: 4210p & 4211. Public comment: Kelsey Daer recommended the PTO be involved in the writing of the 4000 Series.
- B. **EGPTO Compliance:** Chairman Zito opened the floor for comments. Trustee Pope read names off the sign-in list to start the conversation. The following spoke for 5 minutes: Trevor Daer & Michelle Sparks. Presentation by EGPTO president Kelsey Daer and members of the EGPTO board. Mrs. Daer mentions the EGPTO now has their own liability insurance policy, website is in compliance, listed events that have transpired recently and district access was given to district member. In 2012 group changed from PTA to PTO 501 c3. Vice President Erica Larson mentioned several items to include: new ADA compliant playground was installed on the elementary campus with funds raised through the EGPTO, several teacher grants fulfilled, stock teacher lounges with snacks and drinks. Lauren Johnson asks that PTO members be kind and respectful to everyone and follow chain of command. Mrs. Daer asked the board of trustees to change the 4000 series to read that EGPTO be allowed to report to the board directly instead of the superintendent. Superintendent Schmitz stated he has several documents available to review. He then ran down of list of event that took place from his side. Saturday morning he disagreed with decision being made by other party. District lawyer sent out correspondence with a legal memorandum. Continual contact with legal counsel. Release of files jeopardizes student and parent privacy. Is the EGPTO a standalone organization or part of the school? Chairman Zito read an email from the district attorney Larry. Discussion was held after. Chairman Zito asked Superintendent Schmitz what his recommendation would be. Superintendent Schmitz responded that yes he supports the EGPTO just so long as board policies are followed. It was discovered that the board policy and direction from legal counsel were different. It was recommended that the policy be reviewed, adjust the policy and allow the EGPTO to operate under the district to save them money (insurance policy). Luke Romo commented on the situation. Gave his understanding, put a positive spin on it and asked how can both sides learn from this? Principal Moore shared his opinion on the situation. Recommends we keep the PTO as part of the district. He appreciates all the PTO has done. Trustee Rich Pope stated his opinion. As in the past, we can work on this. Let's update the policy and move forward. Chairman Zito stated the board needs the superintendent's approval to move forward. Superintendent Schmitz wants to make sure all the items in the board policy are in compliance. Trustee Kelley Oakes shared her opinion. Because the EGPTO has their own liability insurance and the board is getting the policy updated, the PTO should be able to operate.

7:50pm - 8:05pm: 15 minute recess taken.

Conversation resumed. It is determined that the EGPTO is not a new organization. Recommendations from lawyer being considered. EGPTO do not need board recognition at this time, just updates to comply with board policy. Superintendent Schmitz agreed with this and stated he wants to make sure the district is protected. Board held discussion. The board has decided to clarify some items with the attorney, allow EGPTO to submit their recommendations, get confirmation that 4210 & 4210p can be modified to support a 501c3. Chairman Zito to consult with the lawyer about revision to current policy. EGPTO can still function, just need approval from principals.

- C. **Master Agreement:** Motion was made to approve the Master Agreement.
Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0
- D. **YWCCSSC:** Motion was made to appoint Superintendent Schmitz as advisory board member.
Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0
- E. **Para hourly wage:** Motion was made to increase para hourly wage to: \$14/hour for licensed & \$12/hour for non-licensed. All current para's wages would increase to either \$14 or \$12 except for R.L.
Motion: Kelley Oakes Second: Rich Pope P: 4:0
- F. **Sub pay wages:** Motion was made to increase substitute teacher pay to \$84/day & \$12/hour for para sub.
Motion: Rich Pope Second: Kelley Oakes P: 4:0
- G. **2% increase for classified staff & \$2/hour wage increase for Roxann Lefevre:** Motion to open for discussion.
Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo

Discussion was held about the 2% increase and who it was for? Clarification was made that the 2% increase is for classified staff other than paraprofessionals. The \$2/hour increase for R.L. was due to her longevity with our district and loyalty. The board decided to split the vote and provide two motions. Motion was made to give classified staff, other than para's, a 2% increase.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0

Motion was made to give R.L. a \$2/hour increase.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Kelley Oakes P: 4:0

- H. **New hires:** Motion was made to open for discussion hiring of: N.G., T.A., E.H., A.M., S.E., K.N., K.D., & D.S. Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo

Discussion was held about the logistics of these new hires. These are part-time positions filling a few para staff positions that were vacated. Motion was made to hire the above listed people.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0

- I. **RO units for water fountains quote:** Superintendent Schmitz explained the quote is attached and the two available options. Instead of putting in a whole building RO system, these will provide good tasting water where needed. Motion was made to move forward the RO Tankless systems.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0

- J. **Striping quote:** Superintendent Schmitz stated the striping was completed before school started but the quote still needs to be approved.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0

- K. **Gravel path paving quote:** Motion was made to open for discussion.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo

Discussion was held about the quote and gravel path being recommended to be paved. It was agreed that the quote was a good deal and discounted, but not enough information was present to make a decision. Motion is tabled until more options are received.

- L. **Insurance claim January 2021:** Information only. Mrs. Copeman gave an update on the claim and when repairs are expected to be completed. Depending on when supplies are received will dictate when work can be completed.

- M. **NWEA quote:** Superintendent Schmitz explained the district will be going with NWEA as the provider of MAPS testing this year. Cost is the same as other providers. Motion was made to go with NWEA and accept their quote for MAPS testing.

Motion: Luke Romo Second: Kelley Oakes P: 4:0

- N. **Handbooks:** Motion was made to approve the Classified and Certified Staff handbooks for the 2021-22 school year.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P 4:0

- O. **Out of district tuition:** Motion was made to open for discussion.

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Kelley Oakes

Discussion was held about staff members, other than certified staff, having children attend Elder Grove as out of district students. It is being asked that the board of trustees approve \$500 tuition per child for all staff of Elder Grove District, same as certified staff. Motion was made to approve \$500 tuition per child for all staff members of Elder Grove:

Motion: Rich Pope Second: Luke Romo P: 4:0

- P. **District Credit Cards:** Information Only. Discussion was held about district credit cards.

- Q. **CSCT:** Information Only. Superintendent Schmitz explained how funding was cut for the CSCT program per state law. He has requested contracts from two local companies, but has not received anything back yet. These companies are still unsure about wording for the contracts and funding of these programs. More information to follow as it comes in.

- R. **Legal Counsel:** Information Only. Chairman Zito explained that the district uses two legal counsels: MTSBA & Felt Martin. He has requested a breakdown of the costs for both firms. Business Manager Copeman will provide this information later this week. Along with the additional services MTSBA provides the school.

- S. **Superintendent Review:** tabled until next meeting

The next board meeting is **October 12, 2021 at 5:30pm**

Adjournment

Chairman Nathan Zito recommended adjourning the meeting at 10:05 PM

Motion: Kelley Oakes Second: Luke Romo Passed: 4:0

Signed:

Attest:

Nathan Zito, Chairman

Date

Julie Copeman, District Clerk

Date