

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas**  
**Monday, November 11, 2024**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice President Greg Lackey called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Burkholder Administrative Center.

**2) ROLL CALL**

Board Members present: Greg Lackey, Jessica Goering, Chris Shank, Tim Lackey, and Mike Green.

Board Members absent: Monte Cross and Laura Meyer Dick

Administration present: Director of Finance Shane Hecox

Administration absent: Superintendent Cindy Couchman

Others present: Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio; Michael Ellegood, BHS; Kate Irelan, Hutch Tribune; Kim and Steve Schonborn, Cat Poland, Liz Humor, Case Brown, Cegan Lansdown, Chris Mintz, Mike Kaasgaard, Walter MacArthur, patrons; Zade Kelley, PHMS student; Jenn Keller, BNEA; Lyle and Natalie Goertzen, Kylee Bradshaw, Matt Babcock, Emily Allen, Addie Caywood, Sofia Spies, Katelyn Harding, BHS tennis; Brennon Torgerson, Juliette Shank, Harlie Terrell, Macy Miller, Addison Specht, Paityn Weber, Anika Paulsrud, Brad Specht, Ben Weber, BHS girls golf; Izzy Rivera, Corbin Starkweather, Haylee Kinast, Kinley Combs, Allie Johnson, Khloe Blackwell, Bella Friesen, Ava Koster, Gavin Lindahl, Andrew Morgan, Ryan Cherry, Curtis Morgan, Adam Willis, Andrew Cherry, BHS Cross Country ; and Wendy Neill, board clerk.

**3) INVOCATION**

Board Member Jessica Goering gave the invocation.

**4) STATEMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Chylind Kelley, student at Prairie Hills Middle School, addressed her concerns about bullying with the board. Chylind discussed the anti-bullying policy and encouraged more training for staff on handling bullying situations.

**5) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was recommended that the Board approve the addition of the following item:

7D – vii – Resignation of Classified Staff – Misty Ulloa

Motion (1) Mike Green, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the agenda as amended.  
Motion carried. (5-0)

**6) SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**A) BHS Girls Golf**

Coach Brennan Torgerson introduced his assistant coaches and players who were in attendance. He had 24 girls on the team this year. They were a young team but still had a very successful season. The JV team were AVCTL champions. The varsity team earned second at League and third at regionals, which qualified the team for the State tournament. The team qualified for day two of the State tournament and finished fifth.

**B) BHS Girls Tennis**

Coach Matt Babcock introduced the team and his assistant coach, Lyle Goertzen and gave highlights of their season. The team had only one returning varsity player this year

but they still had a very successful season. They placed third at League and they were the Regional champions with all six players qualifying for the State meet. The team placed sixth at State with Sophia Spies finishing as the State runner up for singles.

**C) BHS Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams**

Coach Curtis Morgan has built a great program that encompasses grades 7 through 12. He introduced his assistant coaches and had the athletes who were in attendance introduce themselves. Eighth grade boys and girls, JV boys and girls and varsity boys and girls all won their league championships! The varsity boys went on to win Regionals and earn second place at the State Championships. Kai Mendenhall was the boys individual Regional Champion. The varsity girls had a stellar postseason as they were champions at the Regional meet as well as State Champions! Corbin Starkweather was the girls individual Regional Champion.

**7) CONSENT AGENDA**

**A) Approval of Minutes**

It was recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 14, 2024.

**B) Approval of Building Financials**

It was recommended that the Board approve the financial reports from each building.

**C) Retirement/Resignation of Licensed Staff**

It was recommended that the Board accept the retirement/resignation of the following licensed staff, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year:

- i) Karen Overton, Interventionist teacher at Union Valley Elementary, retirement.
- ii) Martin Vieyra, Interventionist teacher at Union Valley Elementary, resignation.

**D) Resignation of Classified Staff**

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation of the following classified staff:

- i) Pam Shelton, Shining Stars assistant at Plum Creek Elementary, effective September 30, 2024.
- ii) Julie Willis, daycare room aide at Crusader Corner Daycare, effective October 21, 2024.
- iii) Brittany McConnell, daycare room lead at Buhler Beginnings Daycare, effective October 22, 2024.
- iv) Adrian Hawkins, Shining Stars assistant at Union Valley Elementary School, effective November 6, 2024.
- v) Carl "Brian" Sosnoski, sub driver, effective October 25, 2024.
- vi) Chloe Cooper, Cares Club aide at Union Valley Elementary School, effective December 20, 2024.
- vii) Misty Ulloa, dishwasher at Prairie Hills Middle School, effective November 8, 2024.

**E) Resignation of Supplemental Staff**

It was recommended that the board accept the resignation from Kara Warren, 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach at Prairie Hills Middle School.

**F) Change of Status**

It was recommended that the Board approve the following status changes:

- i) Sonny Deister, paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary School, termination effective October 31, 2024.

**G) Transfer of Staff**

It was recommended that the board approve the transfer of Kathy Keller from Kindergarten teacher at Plum Creek Elementary to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Union Valley Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year.

**H) Employment of Licensed Staff**

It was recommended that the board approve the employment of the following licensed staff:

- i) Chelsey Nichols, Business/Computer Science teacher at Buhler High School for the 2025-2026 school year. She will be placed in the MA Column, Step 6 with a salary of \$53,635.
- ii) Bailey Gorges, ELA teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. She will be placed in the MA column, Step 5 with a salary of \$53,135.
- iii) Jennifer Inslee, Kindergarten teacher at Plum Creek Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year. She will be placed in the BA+15 column, Step 24 with a salary of \$53,445.
- iv) Emma Wilson, Kindergarten teacher at Plum Creek Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year. She will be placed in the BA column, Step 0 with a salary of \$45,715.
- v) Mattyson Schrag-Galloway, third grade teacher at Union Valley Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year. She will be placed in the BA column, Step 1 with a salary of \$46,215.

**I) Employment of Classified Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of the following classified staff:

- i) Donavan Scott, cooks assistant and Shining Stars assistant at Plum Creek Elementary School. He will work 5.25 hours per day as cooks assistant and 2.75 hours per day as the Shining Stars assistant. He will be paid a wage of \$13.00 per hour for a total of 8 hours per day through the school year. He will start work on October 28, 2024.
- ii) Kayla McGarrah, daycare room lead at Crusader Corner Daycare. She will be paid a wage of \$14.50 per hour starting on November 1, 2024.
- iii) Destiny Powell, daycare aide at Buhler Beginnings Daycare. She will work 8 hours per day at a wage of \$13.00 per hour as soon as she completes her paperwork.
- iv) Addyson Matthews, daycare aide at Crusader Corner Daycare. She will work 2 hours per day at a wage of \$13.20 per hour. She will begin work on November 11, 2024.

**J) Acceptance of Gifts and Grants**

It was recommended that the board accept the following gifts and grants:

- i) \$5000 from the Buhler Community Foundation to Buhler Grade School for playground equipment repairs.

**K) Out of State Travel**

It was recommended that the Board approve the following out of state travel requests:

- i) Buhler High School baseball coaches to travel to Washington, DC from January 2 to January 5, 2025 for the American Baseball Coaches Association National Convention. All expenses will be covered by the athletic department and the Diamond Club.

**L) Band Uniforms**

It was recommended that the board approve the quote for the design change on the band uniforms in the amount of \$3,346.50.

**M) Professional Development Council (PDC) Report**

It was recommended that the board approve the Professional Development points as presented. These points are for those teachers who reflected on the September 9, 2024 professional development day and the new teacher observations.

**N) ATS Contract Renewal**

It was recommended that the board approve the proposed 3% wage increase from ATS. This would increase our monthly payment to \$73,412.00.

**O) Other**

There were no other items for the consent agenda.

Motion (1) Mike Green, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the consent agenda as amended.  
Motion carried. (5-0)

## 8) PERSONNEL

### A) Additional Supplemental Positions

It was recommended that the board approve the proposal to restructure the coaches for the boys and girls swimming program as presented. This includes the addition of two assistant coaches, one for each season.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Chris Shank to approve the proposal to restructure the coaches for the boys and girls swimming program that includes the addition of two assistant coaches, one for each season.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

## 9) FISCAL STEWARDSHIP – FACILITY AND FINANCE

### A) Facility Updates

Mrs. Couchman shared that the HVAC project is in progress at Buhler Grade School. We are still waiting on city and county decisions to take the next steps on the water situation at Crusader Corner Daycare.

NexTech Wireless has contacted the district and would like to put up a cell tower on the Prairie Hills Middle School property. They would lease a square of land to do that. This tower could also serve a double purpose as a light pole if we ever decided to put up lights on the football field. More information will be coming to the board in the following months.

### B) Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hecox shared the treasurer's report and the district finance reports. He informed the board that we received tax money this month which increased our unencumbered cash balance. He also noted that the electric bill has been greater this year than typical.

### C) Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #70668 – 70820 in the total amount of \$926,866.92.

Motion (1) Jessica Goering, (2) Mike Green to approve the issuance of checks #70668 – 70820 in the total amount of \$926,866.92.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

## 10) CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

### A) Administrative Reports

#### i) Director of Finance

- Mr. Hecox, Tammy Heidel and Tanya Emery attended the Fall KASBO conference where they were able to attend sessions and network with other business office staff from around the state.
- Busby, Ford, Reimer LLC will be in our office next week for the district financial audit.

#### ii) Superintendent

- Mrs. Couchman reminded the board that the Buhler High School musical, Sound of Music, is being performed this week on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.
- The Buhler High School FFA attended the National Convention in October where they received awards for their accomplishments in the past year.
- Congratulations to the football team as they move on in the postseason with a win over Mulvane last week.
- Mrs. Couchman will be out of the office later this week to attend the Superintendent of the Year banquet as well as the KASB Annual conference.

#### iii) Board of Education

- Board Member Mike Green reported that ESSDACK, along with other area service centers are looking at the possibility of merging together for health insurance benefits.

## 11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

### A) Executive Session – Personnel

Motion (1) Mike Green, (2) Jessica Goering at 6:51 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:21 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session.

Motion carried. (5-0)

Cindy Couchman was invited to join the meeting at 6:55 pm.

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:21 pm.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Mike Green at 7:22 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:37 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman is invited to attend.

Motion carried. (5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:37 pm.

Motion (1) Mike Green, (2) Jessica Goering at 7:38 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:48 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman is invited to attend.

Motion carried. (5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:48 pm.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Jessica Goering at 7:48 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:58 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman is invited to attend.

Motion carried. (5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:58 pm.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Mike Green at 7:58 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 8:03 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman is invited to attend.

Motion carried. (5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 8:03 pm.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Mike Green at 8:04 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the exception for non-elected personnel under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 8:09 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman is invited to attend.

Motion carried. (5-0)

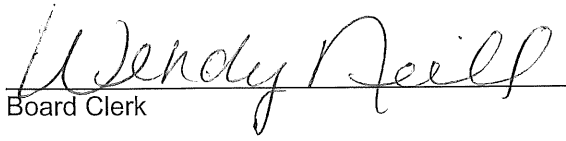
The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 8:09 pm.

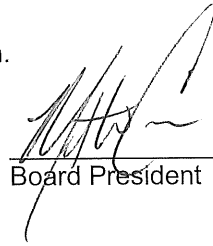
## 12) OTHER

There were no other items for discussion.

**13)ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

  
Board Clerk

  
Board President