

Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD #327
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
May 13, 2024
District Office, 145 West 15th, Ellsworth, Kansas

Call to Order - Mrs. Edgerle, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office. Board members and visitors recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Board members present: Ashley Bohl, Cynthia Edgerle, Gina McGowan, Brian Rush, and Jake Svaty

Others present: Deena Hilbig, Superintendent; John Cannon, Kristy Rodriguez, and Chris Delay, Administrators; Dan Magie, Curriculum Director; Cursstyn Browning, Business Teacher; Karl Dawn Stover, CTE Coordinator; Michelle Skurkis, ECLC Board member; Aaron Romero and Angela Stuart, OPAA; Christy Romero, Scott and Carol Clemenson, patrons; Caleb Sheesley and Layton Leiker, EJSHS students; Karen Bonar, Ellsworth County Independent Reporter; and Dina Rankin, Clerk

Approval of Agenda – Mr. Svaty moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda – Mrs. Bohl moved to approve the consent agenda items including regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2024; financial reports, and bills in the amount of \$423,346.99. Mrs. McGowan seconded, motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence – A thank you was received from Emily Thomasson for the stipend for LETRS training

Board Recognitions: Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge - Josie Kueser was a state qualifier representing Ellsworth County with her venture, Elkhorn Silver at the on Tuesday, April 16. Josie secured a top-tier position, earning a commendable cash prize of \$2,500 as an "Exemplary Existing Business."

Career and Technical Education Scholar - Rebekah Vague is being honored as a CTE Scholar for 2024 in Comprehensive Agriculture Science

KSHSAA State Music Large Group completion Congratulations to Chris Barlow, Hayden Sillmon and our ESHS band and choir students who recently competed and all walked away with I ratings!

Art: Christine Schlecta's students have been competing in several competitions. 16 Art students earned 28 merit awards from the Ft Hays State University Art Show! League Art first place medals: Jessa Schultz, Acrylic; Alexis Borah, Watercolor; Will Donley and Micah Galvan, Batik; and Kay Ritchie, Textile and Hand-built Ceramics.

Music: Senior Vocal Trio Peyton Coonrod, Avery Holecek, and Zoe Wimmer; French Horn Solo Kate Rathbun; and Vocal Soloist Zoe Wimmer all earned a I rating at the State Small Group & Solos Festival at Southeast of Saline on Saturday! Congratulations!

FFA State Career and Leadership Development Events were very successful! This was the biggest state contest on record and our students competed well! *Horse: Will Donley-10th overall , Jodi Donley-9th overall, Ellsworth team – state runner up; *Ag communications: Josie Kueser-8th overall; *Dairy: Ellsworth team – 6th overall; *Livestock: Noah Goss-10th overall, 8th in reasons; Ellsworth team 4th

Spring senior sports participants - 34 seniors were recognized on May 1 for their commitment to Bearcat athletics.

Tennis: Congratulations to Brendan Anderson who took 3rd place in singles at Regional tennis. He celebrated with his 100th win. Brendan represented the Bearcats at the 321A State Tennis Tournament this weekend, placing 11th! Brendan finished his high school career with a win against South Barber and a record of 104-26 (all 26 losses were to state medalists). Also, thanks to Coach Eric Anderson and Ron Davis, Jr. They were instrumental in helping to make the 2024 321A Tennis Regional a great success.

COTY competition: Congratulations to our Senior class who won the Class of the Year or COTY competition! COTY was a yearlong competition for High School students to increase participation and school spirit at all activities. Classes earned points for the number of students present at a school sponsored event or activity. This was the first year of the competition and it was a huge success with a very close race on the final day of participation between the Seniors and the Freshman.

Kansas Governor's Scholar: Congratulations to Layton Leiker for this recognition on May 5.

State Journalism: Peyton Coonrod, Nash Hellebust, and Allie Thomasson competed in 3A State Journalism! Peyton placed 1st in Advertising Design! Her talent is used as editor of our yearbook.

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Forensics State Festival: Four students moved into semi-finals, placing them 6-12 in the state! Andrew Hipp with informative, Charlotte Bettenbrock with prose, Reygan Coonrod with serious solo, Riley Rodriguez earned 6th place in prose! Also three students performed at Festival in Maize. This is a one time performance. Congrats to Kay Ritchie for a I in poetry, Bergin Wacker for a I in prose, and Jane Magie for a II in poetry.

Masonic Lodge Foundation of Kansas - Congratulations to Deb Talbott who was named an Exemplary Teacher and Kieran Vague who was named Outstanding Student by the Masonic Lodge Foundation of Kansas through our local Ellsworth Lodge No 146, AF&AM. Both were presented with certificates to honor the occasion.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Gifts/Grants Mr. Rush moved to accept the following grants/gifts: ProStart Professional Development Educator Grant \$2,000 for Mandy Burger PD opportunity; True Value Foundation 20 gallons of paint; and Oneok \$2,669.50 for robotics program. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0.

FBLA Supplemental After a presentation by Karl Dawn Stover and Cursstyn Browning, Mrs. McGowan moved to add Future Business Leaders of America to our supplemental contract list. Mr. Rush seconded, motion passed 5-0. During the negotiations process, the compensation for this position will be determined.

ECLC Transportation Ellsworth Childcare and Learning Center is requesting transportation for EES students from EES to the center for the after school program, with compensation of \$2,000. Mrs. McGowan moved to approve the transportation request by ECLC for 24-25 year. Mr. Rush seconded, motion passed 5-0. The center will also continue to provide a bus attendant for supervision.

FSMC addendum renewal Mrs. McGowan moved to approve the 2024-2025 OPAA! addendum as presented with a CPI increase of 2.5% per meal. Mr. Rush seconded, motion passed 5-0. After discussion, Mr. Rush moved to keep all meal prices constant for the 24-25 year. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0.

Out of State Travel Mr. Rush moved to allow out of state travel for a professional development opportunity for Mrs. Burger this summer. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0. Travel will be to New Orleans for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation professional development. Expenses are covered by a \$2,000 grant and Perkins funding for PD.

Data discussion Mr. Magie presented FastBridge testing information from fall and winter. The data indicates the district is moving in the right direction. Mr. Magie will be at the June meeting to present the spring data. This is part of the district needs assessment process for KESA 2.0.

Policy - second reading It was moved by Mrs. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Svaty that the board adopt on second reading recommended revised, deleted, and new board policies as presented. Motion passed 5-0. Policies approved: EBBD, EE, GARIA, GARID, GCIA, JBH, JDDAA, and JGFGBA. Copies are attached.

School handbooks Updates were presented for the high school handbook. After discussion, the updates were tabled till the June meeting. Mrs. Hilbig will survey the certified staff regarding the cell phone usage and what they would like to have.

School start and end times In order to equalize start and end times for each building, and address some supervision issues, the board discussed changing those times. Mr. Rush moved to approve the adjustment to the start and end times for KMS and EJSHS as presented. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0. Starting in 24-25, all buildings will start at 8:00 a.m.; EES will end at 3:05 pm, and KMS and EJSHS will end at 3:00 pm.

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Transportation Mrs. McGowan moved to increase the district's reimbursable mileage rate to the state rate of \$0.655/mile effective immediately. Mr. Svay seconded, motion passed 5-0. This will give the district more regular route expenses to offset the loss in state aid in transportation.

KASB membership Mrs. Edgerle moved to renew district membership with KASB, including the legal assistance portion for \$13,190.49. Mrs. McGowan seconded, motion passed 5-0. KASB provides an invaluable service to school districts, and will provide all our legal services for 24-25.

Open Enrollment/Nonresident Mrs. Hilbig presented enrollment projections, including current nonresident students, and provided anticipated open seats. The application process will be June 1-30, with students notified in July. Nonresident thresholds were approved in October. Mr. Rush moved to approve the USD 327 student enrollment projections and the nonresident enrollment capacity as presented by Mrs. Hilbig. Mr. Svay seconded, motion passed 5-0.

Calendar Mrs. Edgerle moved to approve the 24-25 calendar as amended, to change the teacher work days from what was presented in the initial calendar. Mr. Rush seconded, motion passed 5-0. NEA has partially ratified the negotiated agreement to make this adjustment, removing references to specific months, and instead allowing the work days to be scheduled in conjunction with the school breaks.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Graduation is May 19

Last day of school is May 21

Staff End of Year BBQ will be May 22 at 11:30

Next regular Board meeting will be June 10 @ 7:00 pm at the District Office (June 24 will be the second June meeting)

Headstart end of year program is May 21, 2:00 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. McGowan moved that the Board and Superintendent go into executive session in the board meeting room at 9:05 p.m. to discuss employment of non-elected personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and return to open session at 9:15 p.m. in the board meeting room. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0.

At 9:15 p.m., the Board and Superintendent returned to open session in the board meeting room.

Mrs. McGowan moved that the Board and Superintendent go into executive session in the board meeting room at 9:15 p.m. to discuss employment of non-elected personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and return to open session at 9:20 p.m. in the board meeting room. Mr. Svay seconded, motion passed 5-0.

At 9:20 p.m., the Board and Superintendent returned to open session in the board meeting room.

ACTION: Mr. Rush moved to approve the following personnel: hiring of Jeff Landon as EHS Head Boys Basketball Coach, Marc Compton as Jr High Head Boys Basketball Coach; Brecka Schroeder as EHS Assistant Cheerleader Sponsor, Sondra Claassen and Tiffany Parsons as Certified Substitute Teachers; and to accept resignations from Sandy Choitz as KMS After School Aide; Angela Montoy as KMS Secretary and Teryn Irvin as EES Secretary; and to accept the retirement notice of Dina Rankin as Business Manager effective February 1, 2025. Mrs. Bohl seconded, motion passed 5-0.

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ADJOURNMENT Mrs. Edgerle adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.



Cynthia Edgerle, President

ATTEST: Dma Rankin, Clerk

Date 6-10-24