

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT # 368  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIAMI COUNTY

Regular Meeting  
FEBRUARY 9, 2009  
7:00 P.M. – BOARD OF EDUCATION ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Members Absent:

Stacy Bledsoe  
Kelly Franke, Vice-President  
Brenda Hallstrom  
Shelly Schierman  
Amiee Seck, President  
Tom Vohs  
Mike Yocam

Dr. Rod Allen, Superintendent of Schools  
Jimmy Hay, Business Manager, /Clerk  
Cheri Cowman, Deputy Clerk

Staff: Many Staff Members

Visitors: Approximately 300 Paola Patrons and the local media

**AGENDA**

Mr. Yocam moved to approve the agenda with a change in the order of agenda items moving the executive session before the action items. Mr. Vohs asked Action Items #3 “a” be divided into three separate items for action to be taken. Mrs. Hallstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Vohs moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mrs. Hallstrom congratulated the PHS girls’ basketball team for finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Eudora JV tournament. Dr. Allen congratulated Cottonwood Elementary School staff and students for raising over \$4,600 for the family of a CW student with a serious illness. The eight state finalists for the Kansas Teacher of the Year toured our facilities and were quite impressed with our district. They were the guests of our state finalist, Julie Miller.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three patrons appeared before the Board of Education to discuss their feelings on the possibility that our board would vote to eliminate allowing Holy Trinity Catholic School and Trinity Lutheran School to participate in Paola Middle School athletic program. Those speaking included Kyle Minden, Amy Johnson, and Jim Lee. All brought different perspectives to this issue but the bottom line was they are taxpayers, we have had a cooperative team for many years, the parochial schools and USD 368 have always supported each other, these students feel like “Panthers”, and it brings our community together.

Jeff Hines, Paola High School VoAg teacher, spoke to the Board of Education asking them to reconsider reducing the number of extended days some teachers have. The board can save almost \$55,000 by reducing these numbers and Mr. Hines was in hopes the board could find the money elsewhere. He felt that if salaries were “frozen” for the next school year, these same teachers could take a double-cut in pay.

Jen Runyan, Sunflower/Cottonwood PTO president, let the Board of Education know they appreciate the difficult decisions to be made in the future and wanted to assure the board members that the PTO will do everything in their power to help pick up the slack due to budget cuts. They have funded field trips and Character Education in the past to name a few and vow to continue in the future.

**CURRICULUM PRESENTATION**

Hillsdale Principal Amy Hastert and Hillsdale PTO President Melinda Pitzer made the curriculum presentation. They reported to the BOE that their parent groups would be working with the school to provide the most positive learning environment for their students. They recognize the district is having a financial shortfall and they are "stepping up to the plate" for their kids and their learning. They have made many large and small purchases for the teachers and the students including goodie bags, books, pool parties, etc. and are planning more fund-raising to help pay for field trips (which have been frozen) for the remainder of this school year. They vow to do their utmost to preserve the integrity of the staff, students, and curriculum at Hillsdale Elementary School.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Franke moved to enter into executive session with Dr. Allen, Jimmy Hay, Judy Welter, Jerry Henn, Matt Meek, Staci Wokutch, Janis Grandon, and Amy Hastert until 8:15 p.m. to discuss personnel and negotiations. Mr. Yocam seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board of Education entered into open session at 8:15 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Vohs moved to approve the district audit for school year 2007-2008 as prepared by Agler & Gaeddert. Mrs. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Bledsoe moved to acknowledge the exchange of the negotiation letter with PEA for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Yocam seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schierman moved to continue to allow Holy Trinity and Trinity Lutheran students to participate in the athletic programs at Paola Middle School and to continue to provide services in Band and Choir for these students with the parochial schools providing their own transportation. Mr. Vohs seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-3.

Mr. Yocam moved to approve Dr. Allen to talk to the parochial schools to determine how they can help share the financial cost of including their students in the middle school athletics. Mrs. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1.

Mr. Vohs moved to approve the reduction of extended day contracts for Paola staff members as recommended by the administration for the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Franke seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Vohs moved to approve increasing district fees for the 2009-2010 school year as recommended by administration. Mr. Yocam seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

No further action was taken. The Board of Education adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

President \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: