

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2014 6:00 PM

City of Gering Council Chambers
1519 10th Street
Gering, NE 69341



Minutes

1. Signature of Notification

2. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Welcome Visitors

2.1. Acknowledge Open Meeting Laws

2.1.i. The Board of Education reserves the right to enter into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest; or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting.

2.1.ii. Notice of this meeting was published in the Gering Citizen on May 15, 2014.

3. Excuse Absent Board Members

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. Sequence of agenda items are subject to change. Please plan to attend the entire meeting.

4.2. Approval of Agenda/Amendment of Agenda Items

4.3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

4.4. Approval of Claims/Bills

4.5. Second Reading of Board Policy 1001 - Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

4.6. Second Reading of Board Policy 1002 - District Annual Report

4.7. Second Reading of Board Policy 1004.01 - Media Relations

4.8. Second Reading of Board Policy 1004.02 - News Conferences & Interviews

4.9. Second Reading of Board Policy 1004.03 - Live Broadcast or Videotaping

4.10. Second Reading of Board Policy 1004.04 - Crisis Management

4.11. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.01 - Public Complaints

4.12. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.02 - Parent Relations Goals

4.13. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.03 - Parental Involvement in the Schools

4.14. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.04 - Community Relations Goals

4.15. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.05 - Community Involvement in Decision Making

4.16. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.06 - Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

- 4.17. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.07 - Visitors to School
- 4.18. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.08 - Public Conduct on School Premises
- 4.19. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.09 - Skateboarding and Rollerblading
- 4.20. First Reading of Board Policy 1005.10 - Distribution or Posting of Materials
- 4.21. Personnel Items
 - 4.21.i. Contract Approvals
 - 4.21.i.1. Brett Moser (Science Teacher at the High School)
 - 4.21.ii. Resignations
 - 4.21.ii.1. Kathy Baxter (Resource Teacher at Geil Elementary)

5. Recommendation to Approve Consent Agenda

6. Patron Comments

6.1. The Board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school business. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the Board shall set a 3 minute time limit per patron, not to exceed a total of 30 minutes for all comments.

Robert Rahmig spoke regarding upcoming Strategic Planning Meetings, grades offered at Cedar Canyon Elementary, bus routes and seating at the tracks.

7. Reports & Discussions

7.1. Recognition of Accomplishments

7.1.i. GHS Journalism State Championship Team

Janelle Schultz and three of 19 students who participated in the Journalism State Championship competition, a NSAA sanctioned event, explained the process of participation, placement and competition recognition. This is the 4th year in a row that they GPS has won.

7.1.ii. Fifth grade students at Northfield held a Science Fair on Thursday, May 15th. Judges were Mr. Randy Hughes and Mrs. Barb Manasek. Each participant received a participation ribbon and trophies were awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd places.

7.1.iii. Cedar Canyon and First National Bank won the Apple Award, 1st place for the best Adopt-A School Team at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Geil and Allo won runner up. Both businesses have been very supportive of our schools and education.

7.1.iv. Lincoln Elementary students collected \$4,288 for the American Heart Assoc. Students Mya Rupp & Ali Thurman-Boswell were the top money contributors to Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart.

7.1.v. Martika Campbell, Lesane Hernandez & Iziah Blanco were selected to attend the 2014 ExxonMobilBernardHarris Summer Science Camp at the University of Wyoming from June 15-24. Lincoln's Space Kids names were selected to be onboard the next spacecraft "Orion" into outerspace!

7.2. School Resource Officer Presentation

Chief George Holthus and Freshman Academy Assistant Principal Kraig Weyrich, along with Captain Jason Rodgers, High School Assistant Principal Shawn Seiler and High School Principal Eldon Hubbard, met and discussed the cooperative efforts, implementation and

utilization of a School Resource Officer (SRO). This group met with board committees prior to presenting the concept to the full board. The project would involve placing an experienced full time Gering police officer in the school buildings for nine months out of the year. This individual will be responsible in assisting both students and staff with law violations, developing relationships between the students and the police department, and facilitating communications between the district and law enforcement. Research has shown that the key to this type of program is placing the right individual in the position. District staff would be involved in the selection process. The SRO could also participate in crisis planning, drills, education and policy review. The individual can provide a primary response, assist personnel with violations and can be a resource to the school community. Training will be provided specific to building needs. They will work closely with counselors, can explain legal ramifications and can assist and facilitate HHS interviews with students. The SRO will also act as a liason between the Juvenile Detention Center, the probation office and the school district. Benefits to the district if this position is implemented could include an increased perception of safety in the buildings, deterrence of law violations, faster response time, facilitation with issues and this individual will become a positive roll model for the students. Benefits to the Gering Police Department could include a reduced workload to officers, they would have one of their own in the school buildings, an improved image of the police department from students, improved police service to 19% of Gering population (the students) and education to the community on police relevance. Seiler stated that 286 incidents occurred this year that involved police involvement. Hastings reminded all that incidences of school violence are on the rise in suburban, upper-middle class districts. He believes that the implementation of this position will benefit the district greatly and will make the schools a safe place by providing a better learning environment by aleaving stress on staff and students. Gering PD will establish parameters and protocols with the Sherriffs Department to monitor Cedar Canyon Elementary. The school district will fund 50% of this position and the police department will fund 50% of this position, which is expected to cost \$37,000 to \$45,000 annually including benefits. Overtime will be covered by either party, depending on the reason. The district will provide office space and computer access and the City will provide a uniform, a vehicle and maintenance, insurance and personalized equipment. The entities will apply for a federal grant in June to offset associated costs. The position will be implemented in October of 2014.

7.3. Wonders Language Arts Program Presentation

Elementary Principals Mary Kay Haun, Betty Smith and Pam Barker presented a brief review of the new language arts program for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades that will soon be implemented. The trio distributed information and presented an overview of the Wonders curriculum. After training for two and a half days with a consultant, they held a conference call with Norfolk and are excited to apply student's skills and knowledge to build upon their strong foundations. A video was shown to the board about the program's core components. The district expects to begin the program with actual books but will eventually evolve into the technology component. Wonders was chosen because it addresses NeSA standards and students can apply their previous reading skills to this program. The principals encouraged the board to view other videos that are available for additional information. An example of a daily instructional plan was provided for review and the importance of having all kids receive grade level instruction was discussed. Board members were invited to the buildings to view progress. An additional two days of training will take place in the fall and teachers will have access to the materials to they can review it over the summer. Sixth grade will be adopting Pearsons Curriculum. Peters expressed his support of this program and is excited for the opportunity to present it to the students.

7.4. Curriculum Committee Meeting Report

Peters said that the Curriculum Committee received an update on a recently conducted technology audit from staff from ESU in Kearney. The district's core network infrastructure is

in fairly good shape, although additional work will need to be completed in the area of communication. The district plans to implement more regular meetings to ensure no issues slip through the cracks. Assessment has been completed. There will be no Curriculum Committee meeting in June.

7.5. Facilities Committee Meeting Report

Upp stated that the Facilities Committee met and concentrated on creating a list of priorities for the Jr. High and Freshman Academy. This building is in decent shape when compared to other district priorities. Major issues in the district are at the High School. Business Manager Tim Meisner confirmed that summer maintenance has been scheduled.

7.6. Business Committee Meeting Report

Copsey was absent for the Business Committee so Brunner explained that they met with Meisner to review the bill listing, the trial balance summary and preliminary numbers for state aide. This committee will be working with the Facilities Committee to determine priorities from a financial standpoint.

7.6.i. Financial Report - The Business Committee reviewed all bills for this consent agenda. Bills unique to this month were discussed for clarification. The total amount of bills approved in the consent agenda for the month of April, 2014 by specific funds are as follows:

7.6.i.1. Trail Balance Summary

7.6.i.2. Fund Balances

7.6.i.3. Schedule of Investments Held

7.6.i.4. Financial Statement

7.6.i.4.1. Revenues: General Fund=\$1,444,686.04; Depreciation Fund=\$29.12; Cafeteria Fund=\$90,838.30; Activities Fund=\$43,307.37; Fees Fund=\$4 640.40.

7.7. Personnel Committee Meeting Report

Winn said that the Personnel Committee met on May 8th and discussed classified pay and the district organization table.

7.8. Superintendent's Report

Hastings said that the Gering Public Schools District was proud to graduate 148 students at this year's graduation ceremony at Western Nebraska Community College. Over three million dollars in scholarships were awarded this year. He hopes the Gering staff is proud of the role they play in the success of these students. He also provided kudos to staff for their hard work in pulling off the graduation ceremony. Hastings provided an update regarding strategic planning meetings, which are scheduled for July 13, 14 & 15, 2014. Fifteen hours will be spent meeting about this project. Teams will consist of 35 representatives, including parents, staff from each level, administrators, classified staff, local business leaders, ESU & WNCC personnel and board members. Hastings provided an update on the status of Cedar Canyon Elementary. Students in 4th grade have been visiting other elementary buildings in town for a tour and orientation. There will be no change to the grade configuration this year. The district will make the transition from 4th to 5th grade a positive one and will continue discussions regarding the future of this facility.

8. Action items

8.1. Approval of technology purchases not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$300,000.

8.2. Authorize the superintendent to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the City of Gering regarding the establishment of a School Resource Officer position within the Gering Public Schools.

9. Tentative Committee & Meeting Dates

10. Board Comments

Upp thanked the principals for their involvement in the selection of the Wonders curriculum. Copsey reminded all that there are lots of end of year activities. He thought the graduation ceremony was done well and it was gratifying to see all of the young adults with their achievements. Brunner said that this was his 11th and final graduation ceremony. It still gives him goosebumps when kids walk across the state to receive their diploma, as it is a culmination of everyone's efforts. Doll mentioned that this years graduation was a great experience. Visitors he spoke with said that the decorum was very impressive and that the ceremony had alot of dignity. Doll also mentioned the district music program and stated that Band Director Randy Raines and Misty Curtis did a fantastic job with the kids as they scored a superior plus rating. Both the jazz band and mass band concerts were amazing. Winn reiterated that the graduation ceremony was great. She felt that the crowd was well behaved, everyone gave great speeches and the music was fantastic. Winn also stated that Dr. Upp was the keynote speaker at the Elks Scholarship Banquet two weeks ago. Scholarships totaling \$46,000 were awarded that night. Winn also attended the Celebration of Life Ceremony for Chuck Deter. Many former wrestlers were in attendance, which shows the impact Deter had on the students and community. Peters said that going to the Gering Graduation is a highlight of serving on the board. He also felt that the decorum of visitors and students was at a high level and everyone did a nice job.

11. Executive Session

12. Adjournment