Rural Vista USD 481
Board of
Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 2015
Hope, KS
7:00 p.m.

Unofficial Minutes Until Approved by the Board of Education.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Barten, Larry Goracke, Vicki Gruber, Mike Jacobson, Theresa McCreath and Chad Johnson.

**Others Present:** Superintendent Ralph Blevins, Principal Mike Teeter (Hope), Lead Teacher Joel Kahnt (White City), Joann Kahnt (The Prairie Post), JR Sparke (The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle), Annetta Flax (Board Clerk), Crystal Carson and Steve Cook.

**Call to Order**
President Jim Barten called the USD 481 Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Consent Agenda Approval**
Vicki Gruber moved to approve the consent agenda.
Mike Jacobson seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6-0

**Adoption of February Meeting Agenda**
Theresa McCreath moved to accept the February Meeting Agenda with the following additions:
- A) FFA Work Auction,
- H) Resignation
- I) Kansas Legislative Actions Relating to School Board Elections Resolution 2015
Vicki Gruber seconded the motion.
Motion Carried 6-0

**Public Presentation**
There was no citizen open forum.

Correspondence
The Board of Education received thank you cards from the families of Chase Kneibel and Cathy Stewart.

Governmental Relations
Discussion was held with reference to election date changes, reduction of State Aide and the meeting in Junction City regarding possible cuts to Fort Riley.

Old Business
KASB Policy Updates:
This is the 2nd reading for policies CGI, EBB, IB, ICA, IDAE, GBQA, JGCA, JGFGBB, JR, JRB, KG, GAOE, IDAE, GARA, JDD.
Larry Goracke moved to approve the changes and updates as presented.
Theresa McCreath seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6-0

Negotiations:
The Board of Education received a letter from the Rural Vista Teacher Association which was read by the Board Clerk.
Discussion was held.
No action was taken.

New Business
FFA Work Auction:
Crystal Carson presented to the Board a FFA fundraiser proposal. This would take place on April 16 and 17th with a free will donation meal, silent auction and a live auction.
Theresa McCreath moved to approve the Rural Vista FFA Work Auction.
Mike Jacobson seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6-0
Discussion was held.

Resolution for Board Vacancy:
Vicki Gruber moved to adopt the following resolution;

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the membership of the Board of Unified School District No. 481, Dickinson County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 25-2022 authorizes a Board of Education to fill such vacancies no sooner than fifteen (15) days following publication of notice in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the clerk of the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 481, Dickinson County, Kansas, shall cause such notice to be published in The Prairie Post and The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle.
Theresa McCreath seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 6-0

Chromebooks:  
Chrome books were disbursed to each Board Member to use for Board meetings. 
Discussion was held.

Superintendent Evaluation:  
Jim Barten informed the Board that the Superintendent evaluation needs to be completed by each board member and will be discussed at the next meeting.  
No action was taken by the Board.

Senior Trip:  
Joel Kahnt addressed the Board regarding White City's Senior Trip.  
Their trip is comparable to prior years as they plan on traveling to Colorado Springs.  
Chad Johnson moved to approve the White City Senior Trip and provide 2 district vehicles and the first tank of fuel for each vehicle.  
Vicki Gruber seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 6-0

Mike Teeter addressed the Board regarding Hope’s Senior Trip.  
Additional information will be provided at the next Board meeting.  
No action was taken by the Board.

2015-16 School Calendar:  
The school calendar for next year will be presented at the next Board meeting.  
No action was taken by the Board.

Technology Plan:  
Technology Director, Steve Cook, will request an extension from the State regarding the 5 year Technology plan. The plan will be completed by April.  
No action was taken by the Board.

Resignation:  
The Board received a letter of resignation from Darby Jones who is currently the High School Math Teacher at White City and coaches numerous sports for the District.  
Theresa McCreath moved to accept the resignation of Darby Jones.  
Mike Jacobson seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 6-0  
Discussion was held.
KS Legislative Actions Relating to School Board Elections Resolution 2015:
Discussion was held regarding election date changes.

Theresa McCreath moved to adopt the following resolution;

A RESOLUTION by the Board of Education of the RURAL VISTA Public Schools, Unified School District No. 481, Dickinson County, Kansas, regarding the Kansas State Legislature’s proposed bills to alter the process for electing public board of education members in Kansas.

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of the State of Kansas provided in Article 6 of the State’s Constitution for the establishment and maintenance of public school; and

WHEREAS, the people of Kansas approved by popular vote an amendment in 1966 endowing locally-elected boards of education with the sole responsibility of maintaining, developing and operating local public schools; and

WHEREAS, all children in Kansas deserve access to a public education absent of potentially divisive partisanship; and

WHEREAS, moving local public school board elections to November of even-numbered years would reduce focus on school board candidates as they compete for attention with all other candidates for every federal, state and local office; and

WHEREAS, moving school board elections from the spring to fall would impair a schools district’s efficient operation based on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30; and

WHEREAS, moving school board elections from the spring to fall would potentially create a “lame duck” board, thereby impending discussions of administrator evaluations, contract extensions, teacher evaluations, teacher negotiations and budget preparation; and

WHEREAS, partisan elections would bar federal executive branch and military employees from running for office and serving their communities by holding local office; and

WHEREAS, current options in voting plans allow local districts to determine the best plan to ensure representation from all parts of the district; and

WHEREAS, the current election cycle for electing local public education board members has and will continue to serve the children of Kansas well, as demonstrated by the fact that Kansas ranks among the top states in educational outcome for successful students while spending below the national average per pupil; and
WHEREAS, increasing voter participation can be accomplished without disrupting the current election cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as a Locally-Elected Board of Education call upon the Kansas State Legislature to pass no law changing the election cycle for local boards of education; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as a Locally-Elected Board of Education call upon the Kansas State Legislature to pass no law changing the nonpartisan status of local board of education elections.

ADOPTED by the USD 481 School District Board of Education on this 9th day of February, 2015.

Larry Goracke seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6-0

**Administrative Reports**
Superintendent Ralph Blevins thanked the Board members who refilled for elections.
Governor Brownback is reducing K-12 funding by 1.5% this year which is approximately $50,000 to $80,000 for our district. There will be no reductions this year.
Discussion was held.

Mike Teeter informed the Board that Barb Lorson received the USD 481 Teacher of the Year Award.
Rural Vista’s Athletic Banquet will be held at the Herington Community Building on March 30th at 6:30.
Discussion was held regarding the Broiler Heating System at Hope Schools.

Joel Kahnt informed the Board that February 24th is the child screening for children ages birth to 5 at White City.
Discussion was held.

**Adjournment**
Vicki Gruber moved to adjourn the meeting.
Chad Johnson seconded the motion.
Motion Carried 6-0
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Approved:

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Board President                  Board Clerk