

**Rural Vista U.S.D. 481 Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Hope, Kansas**  
**August 8, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Board Members:**

Present: Duane Blythe, Esther Dillon, Larry Goracke, Casey Riedy, Vicki Gruber, Theresa McCreath and Jim Barten.

Others present: Renae Hickert, Ashley Tokoi, Scott Fairbanks, Ryan Fairbanks, Jace Beavers, Branden Paige, Sam Morgan, Dustin Ash, Stephanie Berry, and Joann Kahnt.

**Proceedings:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jim Barten, School Board President.

Duane Blythe moved, Larry Goracke seconded the approval of the agenda with the addition of item #4 to old business regarding the Hope bus route, the treasures report, and approval of warrants.

Passed 7-0

Duane Blythe moved, Theresa McCreath seconded the approval of the consent agenda.

Passed 7-0

Citizens Open Forum: Scott Fairbanks addressed the board about a desire to form a cooperative with Herington High School for boy's baseball. Mr. Fairbanks asked for the Boards blessing in the same.

Duane Blythe moved and Vicki Gruber seconded to support a baseball cooperative with the same restrictions as the softball cooperative to include, but not be limited to, fund raising for reimbursement for gas and bus drivers et cetera.

Passed 7-0

Superintendent Hickert shared two letters sent by Terrance and Janet Waugh to the Board regarding the sale of the former district office building.

Mr. Blythe emphasized the importance of tightening the budget in light of the United States credit down rating.

**Executive Session:** Duane Blythe moved, Casey Riedy seconded, to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing student matters commencing at 7:21 p.m. and returning to open session at 7:26 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 7:26 p.m.

Vicki Gruber moved and Casey Riedy seconded to accept the following out-of-district students conditionally:

Carina Coup;  
Makayla Coup;  
Brett Coup;  
Austin Pierce;  
Shelbie Sizemore;  
Lezlie Settgast; and  
John Settgast.

Passed 7-0

Casey Riedy moved and Duane Blythe seconded to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing non-elected personnel commencing at 7:30 p.m. and returning to open session at 7:40 p.m.

Passed 7-0

The Board returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

Duane Blythe moved to accept the following substitutes:

Ardeth Sherwood;  
Bonnie Birzer;  
Christina West;  
David Allison;  
Debbie Blythe;  
Emilee Morgan;  
Joyce Rock;  
Ken Riffel;  
Matt Ross;  
Meghan Wells;  
Missy Smies;  
Stephanie Anderson;  
Stephen Ash;  
Steve Riedy;  
Tracey Oltmanns;  
Tracey Campuzano;  
Trent Sanchez;  
Tristan Utech; and  
Jodi Reeves.

And the following supplemental contracts:

Marlene Teeter: Hope High School Assistant Volleyball and Hope High School Girls Assistant Basketball.  
Kyle Lorson: Hope High School Assistant Boys Basketball; and  
Mike Jarvis: White City Assistant Volleyball.  
Steve Riedy: Hope Athletic Director, Rural Vista JV Football Coach

Esther Dillon seconded the motion.

Passed 6-1

Larry Goracke voting no

Duane Blythe moved and Vicki Gruber seconded to approve the following mentor teachers:

Greg Berens;  
Joe Ross;  
Pam Krause;  
Mary Lawrenz;  
Joel Kahnt; and  
Nancy Morgan.

Passed 7-0

Vicki Gruber moved to accept the resignation of Ashley Tokoi as school board clerk. Larry Goracke seconded.

Passed 7-0

Superintendent Hickert addressed the Board about the board treasurer's desire to decrease her work load to 75%. With that being said, Superintendent Hickert recommended the Board Clerk position be upgraded to a full-time position. In so doing, the Board Clerk would also be responsible for payroll, on top of all the other duties entailed within the job.

The Board agreed to upgrading the position to full-time with the understanding a formal proposal by Barb Stroda to decrease her time will be submitted.

Larry Goracke made the motion to restore the board clerk position to full time. Duane Blythe seconded the motion.

Passed 7-0

Superintendent Hickert requested board members participate in the board clerk interviews. Jim Barten, board of education president, and Casey Riedy, board of education vice-president, volunteered to participate in the interview process.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Former District Office Building**

The board discussed the repurchase of the former district office. Various items were discussed: Mr. Waugh being approached by individual board member about selling the building back to the district, the time involved in discussions by the previous board of education before the building was sold, the district office being located separately from the school, statement by former superintendent that district office would never be moved, price for which the building was sold, security of district office files.

The board recessed to take a tour of the district office document storage. (Information about the tour is attached but is not part of the official minutes.)

The board returned from recess.

Additional thoughts were shared by board members. Vicki Gruber stated the board clerk needs to be separated from the White City School Office because of distractions. Duane Blythe stated in a time of budget cutbacks, adding costs such as moving the district office back would not be wise. Theresa McCreath stated her vote to buy the former district office back was to regain ownership, not what it would be used for.

### **Comark**

Superintendent Hickert told the board that a bankruptcy hearing will be held on September 13, 2011 in Dallas, Texas.

### **Liquidated Damages-Mrs. Sweeney**

Board Clerk Tokoi told the board the paperwork for the garnishment of Mrs. Sweeney's salary has gone through. Approximately 75% of her pay will be garnished until her obligation to U.S.D. 481 is met.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Clerk Tokoi told the board she has been submitting board of education meeting minutes to the newspapers.

### **Leadership Dickinson County**

Superintendent Hickert told the board that Mr. Teeter, Hope Principal, has agreed to participate in the next Leadership Dickinson County class.

### **Hope Bus Route**

Larry Goracke asked why the board voted to eliminate a bus route at Hope during the June board of education meeting. Superintendent Hickert stated bus route reductions were part of budget reduction discussions held during previous years. Mr. Goracke stated that perhaps the decision to eliminate route should come later perhaps after enrollment. Mrs. Hickert stated the budget has become very tight and there are few areas left to cut. Mrs. Hickert stated she would share bus route information with the board as soon as it was available from the transportation supervisors.

## **New Business**

### **Surplus Equipment—Busses**

Superintendent Hickert recommended to the board of education that 2 busses (1992 Ford with 109,355 miles and a 1995 International with 135,923 miles) from the White City Fleet be declared as surplus. She further recommended the board sell the busses by sealed bid.

Duane Blythe moved the two busses be declared as surplus and to be sold by sealed bid. Esther Dillon seconded the motion.

Passed 6-1

Larry Goracke voting no

## **General Discussion**

The board of education and Superintendent Hickert compiled the following list of items that should be put on the agenda for future meetings: credit card with rewards, job descriptions for board clerk and district treasurer, a letter from Barb Stroda, district treasurer stating her interest in reducing her hours, board member boundaries (redistricting), follow-up on board of education minutes being on the [www.usd481.org](http://www.usd481.org),

sharing efficiency surveys results with the board of education, sharing bus routes with the board of education.

Casey Riedy asked about season passes to the games for families. The superintendent and the principals will talk to the athletic directors in both schools.

**Adjournment:** Esther Dillon moved to adjourn. Duane Blythe seconded.

Passed 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

---

Board President---Jim Barten

---

Board Clerk---Ashley Tokoi

Date Approved: