

BALDWIN CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 348
P.O. Box 67
Baldwin City, KS 66006
District Office
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

DISTRICT OFFICE
708 CHAPEL
BALDWIN CITY, KS 66006

MONDAY
February 23, 2009
7:00 PM

- A. Vice-President Blaine Cone called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Board Members Blaine Cone, Ruth Barkley, Bill Busby, Scott Lauridsen, Joshua Mihesuah and Ande Parks. Alison Bauer was absent. Also attending were Superintendent Paul Dorathy and Clerk of the Board, Laura Morford. See attached attendance sheet.

Call to Order by
Board President

- B. Ruth Barkley moved and Ande Parks seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. Because of the large volume of attendance, Vice President Cone asked the audience if there were any comments to be made at this time. She asked to limit comments or questions to 5 minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Stacy Leslie emailed a letter to board members and thanked them for taking time to respond. Her concern was the attendance center option stated in the letter sent out to parents. She has a 4th grader and kindergartner.

Ralph Tomlinson said the letter sent out by the superintendent was a great nationalization of health insurance. His concerns are teacher cuts; he stated activities should be the first cut.

Rebecca Christener stated concerns about extending the days by 2 hours.

Andy Rhodes, from Marion Springs said cutting extra curricular activities would be a mistake, he suggested raising the cost to play.

Kim Beilfuss shared concerns with low fees and said the fee should be increased. Keeping the community center atmosphere is the best choice. Activities are good outlets. She suggested parent volunteers as an option.

Mason Stewart has children at MSES and BJHS and asked board members if they had asked the city to help with a special tax

assessment?

JoAnn Kite has children attending the primary center and intermediate center and also said the sense of community schools is positive. Her main concern is class size and the P.A.T. program.

Jennifer Flory said she has 6 children attending, BJHS, VES and PC. Her concern is the attendance center option. She said she has 2 special needs children and every new environment is an intense adjustment.

Karen Wray, food service employee at the BJHS said she has concerns with the proposed cuts to the food service department. She said she feels food service is very important.

Kathy Gerstner has a 2nd grader at the PC and wanted to thank the board for working hard and said she did not envy their position and was glad she did not have to make the choices. She said if attendance centers are the preference she could live with it if it meant saving activities for kids.

LeAnn Bathke has a 1/2-day 4 year old and 2nd grade extended development student at the PC. Her concern was she was only hearing “I” instead of “we”. It should be the community working to solve the issues at hand. She also asked the board to look more closely at bussing and the distance requirement and to adhere to that policy.

Kristy Darnell said she would rather pay higher fees than to discontinue activities. She asked if teachers have feed back without putting their name on the line? Blaine answered this question, yes.

Martin Tomlinson asked why we needed to have this discussion? Blaine explained that we needed to have this meeting because of State funding cuts that will affect the money needed to run schools. Blaine thanked the audience for attending and said they were welcome to return after executive session.

- C. Ande Parks moved and Bill Busby seconded to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interest of the individuals to be discussed, and that we return to open session in this room in 30 minutes. Cynde Frick and Mr. Dorathy were invited into executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:22 p.m.
- Ande Parks moved and Joshua Mihesuah seconded to extend executive session 15 minutes. Cynde Frick and Mr. Dorathy remained in executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:53 p.m.
 - Scott Lauridsen moved and Ande Parks seconded to extend executive session 5 minutes. Cynde Frick and Mr. Dorathy remained in executive session. Motion carried with a vote of

Executive Session

6 yes and 0 now. Time: 8:09 p.m.

The board discussed budget years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Mr. Dorathy explained we have \$65,000 in cuts for this year. This year personnel will not be affected. We are looking at the supplies budget this year. The budget will not affect classrooms or activities. Mr. Dorathy said we may curtail cuts this year in house with maybe reallocation of funds. Next school year is not pretty; we are dealing with health insurance issues. We need to increase the number of people in the pool; in order to do that the district will have to increase the amount of employee participation. Health insurance proposals are due Friday to the broker and we should have some numbers by the second week of March. The governor originally said \$113,000 in budget cuts for next year, with that we worked on a list from staff, teachers, administration and patrons. We have reviewed those suggestions. The challenge has been the legislature said we need to make a 10% - 18% cut. This has not gone to the final phase yet. We have been asked to prepare for at least a 10% cut. They may not finish discussion until as late as May. We need to let employees and patrons know something before then. Scott asked how the activities were chosen. Mr. Dorathy replied, it was figured by a cost per student including gate receipts. The amount figured higher cost per pupil for these activities. Mr. Dorathy said when it comes down to making the cuts he intends to go to those areas to visit with those people affected before making the cut. He said he wants to give an opportunity to come up with an alternative to those programs being cut. Blaine asked if we would know numbers by the March board meeting? Phase one would come in to play when we know health insurance is going to be. Phase two and three would be later towards June. Scott asked if it was the April meeting when we would know personnel? Mr. Dorathy said probably the April meeting we should know those personnel cuts so those employees will have enough time to find other work. The health insurance issue has to go through negotiations. The next negotiations meeting is March 23 and hopefully we will be able to have numbers put together.

Budget 2008-2009,
2009-2010

5 minute break 8:48 p.m.

- D. Mr. Dorathy clarified that bond money cannot be used to offset any of those things we discussed earlier in this meeting. The board has had discussion to sell bonds now or sell bonds later. Mr. Dorathy said it would be in the best interest of our taxpayers to wait. He said bids on projects are coming late spring, after that we can determine how many bonds we can sell or not sell. We select to do enhancements on projects or do not spend the money at all and the savings would go directly back to the taxpayers. If we jumped in right now the interest will accrue and it will cost us more in interest. We had to sell the original bonds because bills were coming in. Mr. Dorathy recommended the board wait until close to the August date before we sell additional bonds. Our 20-year history in our district has had

Bonds

significant value increase. We are not locked into payment plans except only on the first ones we have sold, so we will have the option to say how we want the payment plan.

Mr. Dorathy recommended to the board to wait until August until we see how our bids come in. Scott said he agreed with Mr. Dorathy now that we have numbers. Scott asked why did we make the back end payment higher on the bond? Mr. Dorathy said more loan payment is at the back end because you would have a wider tax base, in order for the district to afford more. We need to be conscious about the mill levy for the taxpayers. When some refinancing was done on some of those bonds, they are recaptured into the refinancing. Taxpayers will not see a decrease. Blaine said John told board members we would have to re-qualify; does this matter if we wait? Mr. Dorathy said no it would not. We have an "A" rating and could go to the market with just that. Mr. Dorathy did say we had some local finance people that helped with numbers. The board agreed to wait to sell bonds.

Joshua Mihesuah moved and Bill Busby seconded to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. Time: 9:14 p.m.

Adjournment

Approved:

Attest:

Alison Bauer, President
USD 348 Board of Education

Date

Laura Morford, Clerk of the Board