

**BALDWIN CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 348**  
**P.O. Box 67**  
**Baldwin City, KS 66006**  
**District Office**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of a Special Board Meeting**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**708 CHAPEL STREET**  
**BALDWIN CITY, KS. 66006**

**MONDAY**  
**April 20, 2010**  
**6:30 PM**

A. President Alison Bauer called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Board Members Alison Bauer, Ruth Barkley, Blaine Cone, Ande Parks, Scott Lauridsen, Joshua Mihesuah, Bill Busby. Also attending were Superintendent Paul Dorathy and Clerk of the Board, Laura Morford. See attached attendance sheet.

*Call to Order by  
Board President*

B. Blaine Cone moved and Ruth Barkley seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

*Approval of  
Amended Agenda*

C. Alison Bauer explained the board rules and guidelines for public comment. Alison asked Mr. Dorathy if there was anymore to add. A summation was posted on the screen for the public to view.

*Public Comment*

- Jackie Robbins has grandchildren at Vinland. Asked why as patrons we couldn't donate money to the school.
- Nora Cleland lives in the Vinland district. Has had 4 children go through the schools. She encouraged everyone to write to your legislature and to raise cigarette, beer and spirits tax as well as sales tax. Over crowding is not a situation for student learning. After that, you will ask the tax payers to pass another bond issue to build more schools because of the growth. Nora listed several ideas that the board may look at for cuts and the possibility of asking retirees and youth that could work under a coach or director. Nora suggested cutting administration and non-teaching positions. Starting school after Labor day, raising the thermostats to save additional monies and lower the heating bills.
- JoAnn Kite has a son at BESIC, she addressed the four day school week. She has concerns with the pick up time of the morning. She looked at the fact finding report. Looking at the cost per student at the

outlying schools versus those in town, thought the cost was really high. JoAnn felt her child was being short changed. She asked that all kids get fair and equitable.

- Brian Kraus echoed the issue of equity among all students. He hoped the board when looking at cuts would be looking at what is sustainable. Proponent of closing both country schools because of the equity issue and sustaining what you do. Shared his thoughts on where the grades could be moved. Brian sent an email to each board member outlining his concerns and suggestions for the board to think about. Also suggested if you do close a building to not leave it setting, to sell it. Thanked the board for their time.
- Jackie Robbins asked about the size of classrooms.
- Carrie Barth view the fact finding committee. Agreed with much of what Nora Cleland spoke on. Agreed with Brian Kraus about the workman's comp. Feels like by closing down the schools there will be one unit that would benefit from more technology, better libraries, pooling resources. She didn't see benefits from attendance centers. Carrie addressed the bus routes. She agrees if you live 2.5 miles under, charging is the thing to do. Bus leasing looked like a positive idea to be able to budget better. She also said at enrollment, provide a map of what is within the 2.5 mile radius. Doesn't feel eliminating sports is an answer, but feels like we might charge more fees.
- Kim Beilfuss talked about sports, but education should be the priority. She feels to eliminate a sport would be short term. She said Marion Springs does not have small class sizes, the size needs to stay at a certain number to be profitable. Having a choice of buildings to attend is nice to have. Kim shared the CSO purchased computers that the district was supposed to purchase with bond money and elmos were also purchased. Fundraisers are used to provide things the district does not provide but probably should. She addressed the four day school week, felt having consistency be considered.
- Terry Kaufman lives in the far west corner of the district. She does not have children in the district. Been in the school business for 30 years and the MSES is an excellent school. She said this was very emotional for her. She spoke of the state assessments achieved at the school. She has visited and worked with the teachers and students. The question of equity among students, can't see that when comparing transportation doesn't see that it would be a savings. Cannot leave the building tonight without expressing her concern of the notion of closing Marion Springs.
- Jim Robbins would like to know where the website is. Jim agreed with Nora Clelands' comment on closing buildings then turn around and have a bond issue.
- Jackie Robbins added and said they did the same thing in Eudora. Now they have 2 more schools then needed and is afraid we would end up with the same issue.
- Leigh Ann Bathke wanted to say one thing being overlooked is the economic impact on this town if we go to a four day week.
- Kim Beilfuss said the cut policy on sports should be looked at because of the number of coaches. She feels if a cut policy were in place, you would save money in coaching staff and uniforms. It is

sports, not education not that they won't learn something from that. Education is more important.

- Jeannette Blocmoor contacted her legislature as well as each board member. She is opposed to closing schools because that is a permanent action for a temporary situation.
- Carrie is also not for the four day school week and felt the report was pretty much a no brainer.
- Debbie Grosdidier was curious what the comment at the last meeting about cutting \$300,000 already. If every building was asked to come up with cuts enough to cover the \$500,000. The Vinland community is also a very strong community. Increases class sizes will cause issues when a class has 4-5 special needs children. Suggested sharing principals with the in town elementary.  
She asked why there has not been discussion on the new building and how it falls into the plans. What the cost differences might be between the two buildings. Asked what to do with the buildings when they are vacant.
- Windy Berg agree with everything Carrie said. She does not agree with cutting sports. Having a certain GPA meant you played. Keeping sports is important role for scholarships.
- Doris Pratt said she has heard a lot of good comments and also does not want schools to close. If you can't sell the old PC building how would you sell the outlying buildings.
- Heather Jackson has a student at both MSES and VES. She said there is some sharing of staff in both buildings. She is concerned about being at capacity of a new building by closing buildings. She does like a four day week. She felt like there are ways we could find to cut back on days to save, just like this year when we used snow days to cut short.
- Stacy Leslie would like to keep all schools open. She said she has a unique situation. She said we teach our kids to make the state standards. Teaching and learning becomes a different environment to meet those standards. She spoke of her own child and the needs the teachers at VES are taking care of. Please look at every area before closing any building.
- Wendy agreed that rural schools are great as are the in town schools and all children would be taken care of. Has concern that what happens if we have more cuts beyond what are being cut now.
- Jackie Robbins asked if you close the schools and can't sell them what is the expense?
- Cynthia Upton spoke about the 4 day week suggestion. She thought it would be a temporary situation but one that might help the budget recover.
- Tamara Lamb is in favor to keep all schools open. She felt like the cuts should be stretched across the entire district, not taking cuts at the elementary level such as closing a building.
- Mariann Bradely stated if the buildings are closed it will affect the church. What if someone does buy those buildings and someone comes in and starts private school, how will that affect the budget?
- Darlene Schwartz asked if we are only looking at elementary cuts, have we looked at BHS or BJHS? Has the board looked at the class

sizes in those buildings for certain classes? The start for the schools is at the elementary level.

- JoAnn also hates to see class size enlarge, but if we have to make a closing, then the out of district kids may need to be turned down.
- Tony Brown said he is in a unique situation with a daughter in the HS and works in Topeka at the state capital. Tony commended patrons that got up and spoke. We are stretched about as thin as we can be. To come back to cut a half a million more is asking too much. The overwhelming passion for the schools speaks loud. Whatever decisions are made need to be sustainable. I would suggest, we need to get political about this. There are powerful people in the state that are trying to cut public education as much as possible. Tony said he will always back public education and feels the state is not being fair. We need to support the seven people at the table in the tough decisions to be made. It is going to take some political pressure to make that happen.

- D. Ande Parks moved and Bill Busby seconded to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:47 p.m.

*Adjournment*

Approved:

Attest:

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Alison Bauer, President  
Board of Education

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Laura Morford  
Clerk of the Board