

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 26, 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, Blaine Cone, Ruth Barkley, Ande Parks, Scott Lauridsen, Joshua Mihesuah and 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 Ande Parks seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. *Approval of Agenda*
- C. Ruth Barkley 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. Mr. Dorathy and Cynde Frick were invited to attend executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 6:31 p.m. *Executive Session*
- Bill Busby moved and Joshua Mihesuah seconded to extend executive session 10 minutes. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:01 p.m. Mr. Dorathy and Cynde Frick remained in executive session.
 - Blaine Cone moved and Bill Busby seconded to extend executive session 5 minutes. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:12 p.m. Mr. Dorathy and Cynde Frick remained in executive session.
- D. President Bauer opened the floor for public comment. *Public Comment*

- Kim Beilfuss recalled last meeting suggesting not to allow out of district students. She said about \$4012.00 per student, the district would lose a large number. \$8800.00 loss at MSES. Suggested usage of buildings to have a higher fee. A savings of \$110,503 to close MSES doesn't seem to be worth tearing a community apart.
- John Tomilison agreed.
- Alice White is an out of district parent and lives closer to VES and would like to continue attending this school. Please keep in mind, we are communities. It may not look like it, but if you close down the outlying buildings, you close down communities.
- Barb Tomilison cannot imagine increasing class size and not cutting sports. She said the board needs to support the education, follow the trend.

E. Mr. Dorathy began discussion of the 2010-2011 budget explaining where the legislature is at as of today. Mr. Dorathy felt like the board will have to look at big ticket items. We can no longer continue to whittle away at smaller items and maintain quality education. May 10 is the goal to present a plan that will be the guide should cuts come to the district. The board can look at some fee increases for user fees, textbooks, increase building rent and preschool rent. Administration positions that are open will not be replaced. We have some principals retiring and returning at a lower rate. Will not replace the librarian positions and will not do K-1 testing. The HS handbook will be online instead of printing and some positions will be considered. Mr. Dorathy also said the board may look at a shortened school year. He said the board will need to discuss whether to close buildings or not. The four day week is still to be considered. He explained the pay to play idea means an athlete will pay most of the cost to participate. Mr. Dorathy explained that currently the PAT program is on the state's chopping block. A percentage of the grant is matched by the district. If the grant goes away the board will need to consider whether to keep this program or cut back. The board discussed possibly keeping the program, just not as large. Ande asked Cynde about the cost savings of shortening the year. The board continued discussion of the savings of a shortened year.

2010-2011 Budget

Ande began discussion about what is a practical plan should we consider closing a building. Mr. Dorathy asked the board what size classes the board is looking at. The next discussion needs to be what to do as the area growth increases if a building is closed.

Scott said if 85% of your budget is staff, then we need to look at it from a staff level based on the budget, or how we can maximize staff. We talked about 18-20 students as our goal. The average is in that range.

The board discussed the pay to play scenario. Scott said the board needs to discuss some type of schedule on how much what group pays, sports that do not cost as much shouldn't have to carry the cost of more expensive activities. We also need to look free and reduced participants.

Joshua asked if other district have done this, and if there has there been any research.

Bill Busby said in theory he was in favor of Scott's suggestion for a schedule

to a pay to play policy. Scott also added that there should be a maximum per family as well. Alison shared that not all students are academic driven to attend school, that many students are attending high school so they can participate in sports, working toward a scholarship. Ruth Barkley shared a situation of a pay to play that she learned about from a fellow alumni saying the pay to play worked well for them. Participation was maintained.

Joshua would like to have Mr. Dorathy or someone do some research on who else is doing the pay to play and how it is working or not working for their district.

The board continued discussion about pay to play sports and what importance level there is to continue sports.

Scott is recommending a \$50,000 less pay to play going into next year as we are working towards the cuts in the district. Maybe make it a 3 tier step.

Scott thought the Administrative cuts being recommended seem to be solid and are already in place. Scott asked if the Tier one cuts are already done.

Ande said the librarian positions that are open will not be filled, but will have a supervising librarian with 5 aides. The board was in agreement with that plan. Increasing textbooks seems to be reasonable, the board agreed with that recommendation. Increasing building rents was also agreed upon, however would not generate a lot of money.

The board took at break 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Dorathy reminded the board to look at balancing class size in the buildings and the staff affected. The board discussed the difference in amount paid per student in each building. Scott suggested we may need to revisit the transfer policy. Alison wanted to be sure everyone understands we do support students coming in to the district.

Board members continued discussion on class sizes. Joshua added that class size average in Lawrence is about 26.

Mr. Dorathy reminded the board about the health insurance and that it will be going up slightly. He also said that covering the budget this year was the moving around of some monies to make it work and it was a one time deal.

We will have those issues to deal with. Mr. Dorathy asked the board to keep those things in mind. The board continued discussion.

The board discussed increasing class size and what happens if based on increasing class size we physically can't do it. Do we look at redistrict first? The board asked what increasing class size by 2, 3 and 4 would look like.

Scott said we can re-draw boundaries right now, we can't re-district this year.

The board moved back to discussing closing one building and the savings as well as which staff would be affected. The board referred to the fact finding report for figures on savings and cost to maintain the building if it were closed.

Bill suggested if we are coming up with half the savings in K-5 we need to equal that savings in the other grades as well. The board shifted their

discussion back to class sizes.

Ande said we owe it to the audience to ask if the board was in agreement not to support a 4 day week. The board agreed they did not want to go to a 4 day week. The board continued discussion reviewing the items on the FFC report.

Administrative organization is still on the table, but the principals have already been addressed, there are other administrative cuts to consider.

Closing one or two buildings is still on the table.

Attendance center model didn't feel like it was an option, but discussion is still open.

The 4-day week plan is not a viable option.

Student activities has been addressed and under discussion.

Transportation, the board asked if there were any real savings involved. Discussion lead to not really. The board felt the board should have discussion about charging under 2.5 mile riders. The board had more discussion about using crossing guards and figuring in that cost. Mr. Dorathy said you would have to start early to gather information from parents on who would ride or not so there is enough time to plan. The board had lengthy discussion on transportation. The board agreed it would not be practical to try to do this at this time, but to keep it in mind to review at a later date.

- F. Blaine Cone moved and Alison Bauer seconded to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 9:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Approved:

Attest:

Alison Bauer, President
Board of Education

Laura Morford
Clerk of the Board