

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

DISTRICT OFFICE
708 CHAPEL STREET
BALDWIN CITY, KS. 66006

MONDAY
May 10, 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 and Bill Busby. Joshua Mihesuah 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. Blaine Cone moved and Bill Busby seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. *Approval of Amended Agenda*
- C. Ande Parks moved and Ruth Barkley 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 28 minutes. Mr. Dorathy and Cynde Frick were invited into executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 0 no. Time: 6:35 p.m. Joshua Mihesuah arrived at 6:34 p.m. *Executive Session*
- Alison Bauer moved and Ruth Barkley seconded to extend executive session 5 minutes. Mr. Dorathy remained in executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 7:16 p.m.
- D. Blaine Cone moved and Bill Busby seconded to approve the Consent Agenda and the April 12, 2010 regular board meeting; April 8, 20 and 26, 2010 special board meeting minutes and monthly operating account in the amount of \$660,902.80, bond account in the amount of \$1,156,549.46 and payrolls in the amount of \$600,141.80. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes, 0 no. *Approval of Consent Agenda*
- E. The board recognized Journal World Academic All Star students, Lauren *Recognition*

- F.
- Gary Stevanus said he sent a letter to the board in regards to the activities in our district. He spoke of the cuts that have already taken place for activities.
 - Susan England handed the board a report and voiced concerns about equitable funds for the district.
 - Kimberly Wolff handed a petition to the board. She addressed concerns about cutting seventh grade sports. Kimberly read a letter she had given to board members.
 - Amy Carlson, student, stated her concerns about cutting seventh grade sports by reading a letter she wrote. She asked the board to explain why.
 - Corey Valentine, 7th grader at BJHS, expressed her concerns about cutting seventh grade sports. She gave the board a list of names of students that agree with her statement shared with board members.
 - Darren Owings gave board members several sheets with research and the impact of cutting a program.
 - Ann Christy just wanted to say she agrees with what everyone has said tonight.
 - Amy Berg said it is time to combine all four elementary buildings. Amy gave the board a print out on enrollment in our surrounding area.
 - Ashley Strand teaches at MSES and said she respectfully disagrees with a decision to close a building and stated her feelings about the choice of closing a building.
 - Jill Cannon stated education comes first and foremost.
 - Debbie Frazel agrees with what Ashley Strand stated.
 - Kim Bielfuss is a proponent of MSES and the outlying schools. Closing the buildings will affect many lives. She thanked the board for looking at all options. She hoped that our voices are heard. Education needs to be first.
 - Kelly Brown, volleyball coach said she was a result of budget cuts. Agrees with Amy Bergs comments. She stated she knows students are suffering with not using the library. Being a single parent with no job and raising user fees will put a strain on our budget.
 - Sarah Barth respects everyones statements and their feelings about the possible changes. She said the patrons and staff need to know what is coming.
 - Marilee Valentine shared she is the web coordinator for the sixth graders coming in and tells them to be involved and succeed in Junior High. She is concerned about cutting seventh grade sports and agrees with statements previously made. Marilee spoke of a disciplinary issue.
 - Nora Cleland agreed that 7th grade activities are important. Nora feels it is possible to have volunteers from Baker and KU as well as parents. If folks would come together she feels if everyone would come together no programs would need to be cut.

Public Comment

- Carrie Barth agrees with Amy Berg and sister in law Sarah Barth. Carrie shared concerns of cutting seventh grade activities.
- Lisa Colley said they spent 2 years looking for a place to live. She said they lived in a large district and it did not allow her children the opportunities they are offered in Baldwin.
- Lisa Smith has seven children. She states it is the job of the board to make sure students receive an education.
- Brenda Shawley teaches in the district. She voiced concerns with cutting athletics. She is directly involved in gathering GPA scores for the student athletes and knows it directly affects the of students.
- Robin Crabtree said she explained to her 12 year old why she was going to the board meeting at the opportunity to be able to speak. He son said he couldn't go without playing football. She spoke of her daughter that has received a scholarship on cheerleading. She stated how important activities are and please consider everything.
- Ed Kite state this situation is all about education and how the monies are spent. It is about spending equitable among every student. That is the decision the board needs to make.
- Bruce Burton agrees with everyone that wants to keep seventh grade sports. Said gives a chance we will raise the money.
- Jennette Blacbar stated the long term decisions that will be made. The representation of our district is unique. The smaller neighborhood schools do better, research has shown.
- Julie Davidson agrees with keeping sports. She addressed raising user fees. She said she supports an increase but to consider families that will not be able to afford an increase.
- Eric Toot is a seventh grade teacher and coach. We have 6 buildings, the up keep in the buildings is suffering. Eric said we are spread so thin because we do not have enough staff to maintain.
- Cloe Gaylord, a senior at the high school, said it is hard to open her locker in the dark.
- Jeff Flory wanted to make a point that if the bond issue was passed, the outlying schools would not be closed.
- Tracy Newell grew up in this district and graduated BHS. She was given the opportunities to play sports. She said she now has a first grader and a sixth grader. Shared additional concerns about cutting seventh grade sports. Agrees with Jeff Flory's statement about passing of the bond and closing buildings.
- Dee Dee Snieder was happy with the district the first two years but is now disappointed as it seems everything is a quick fix and we have not moved ahead. Please do not make a quick fix. Increasing user fees and how the middle class or working poor will come up with funds for their child to play sports. That opportunity for a scholarship is lost.
- Leigh Ann Bathke has never felt her child is lost in the shuffle, but states she is there. She has never had trouble communicating with staff. She said it is my job as a parent to be sure my child has what they need. Talked about the bill for sales tax and fears that when December comes around we have more cuts.
- Carrie Barth is also concerned about other programs being cut. Was impressed with the current programs such as culinary, forensics,

debate.

- Kathy Gerstner wanted to encourage the board to make decisions tonight. Move, make a motion. Let's get the small things taken care of tonight so we can move on as a community. Is concerned with the splitting of the district. Has been in every building and the people are freaking out.
- Tina Caruthers doesn't want to see buildings closed, but if they do I will deal with it. Tina agreed with Kathy Gerstner, make a decision. Tina said we need to know what direction to go.
- Brad Wright said we are either one school or we are three, the board needs to decide.
- Darren spoke again, said he feels like Baldwin Elementary gives a great education as well.
- Stephanie Ramirez, a non-tenured teacher and she said she agrees with Leigh Anne Bathke, please make a decision tonight, we are tired of waiting.
- Jessica Lancaster said she has two strikes against her, she is a non tenured teacher and works in an outlying building. She also agrees and would like to here a decision tonight.

The board took a 5 minute break

- G. Cynde Frick reported to the Board regarding the school district's present cash balances and budget standing.

Financial Report

Blaine Cone moved and Aude Parks seconded to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

Blaine Cone moved and Alison Bauer seconded to approve bids from Midwest Bus Sales for \$72,657.00 for a 2011 bus and Allied Bus Sales for \$69,202.00 for a 2010 bus. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

- H. No reports at this time.

Administrative Reports

- I. Alison Bauer moved and Bill Busby seconded to approve all building handbooks as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

Old Business

Blaine Cone moved and Alison Bauer seconded to amend Policy CG-348, 03-01, Conditions of Employment. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

The board continued discussion of the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. Alison explained that the board has been diligent in the process in making tough decisions. The teachers deadline for notification is May 21, 2010. Mr. Dorathy talked about the tier one budget cuts such as increase in fees, rental increases, retirement of principals, not re-hiring an assistant principal at the junior high for savings in administration. The board talked about librarians and not replacing but hiring teacher aides. They also talked about QPA and three classified positions. It should be noted that due to a number of things the health insurance increase is coming. Mr. Dorathy talked about the sales tax increase. He encouraged the board to be prepared in case we have additional

cuts in the fall. We have no way of knowing that but to plan for some room should this happen. Mr. Dorathy said it is a real possibility. Shortening the year by eight day, closing buildings talked about 4 day week possibility, full pay to play activities was discussed.

Mr. Dorathy said this problem is not temporary and any monies that might come back will be slow to return. We have long term decisions to make for sustainability in this district. Ande Parks addressed activities and some of the items on the list. Ande said that seventh grade sports was not on the list. Scott said it appears we are shooting for a lower number than \$500,000. Until legislation tells us what is going to happen, we just don't make any cuts, so he is concerned we are not at the bottom yet. There is no data to support that and we don't know if the sales tax will support the state budget. If we wait to make decisions to cut teachers, then we will be pushed into a corner after the teacher notification date.

Blaine stated she was comfortable with the tier one cuts. The board had discussion about what number we were working towards to make a plan. Scott said he would like to wait to see what the legislature comes up with so we can actually determine what we are looking at.

Alison said it is a hard discussion and puts us a difficult place because we don't value one group of students over another even though it appears we do that now.

Joshua said we need to seriously consider closing a building. We know we are going to have additional cuts and need to plan for that. Raising fees will hurt families that cannot afford the increase. Ruth brought up the discussion she and Blaine had today addressing redistricting. A google earth map was shown on the screen marking where students are located.

The board continued discussion about what makes a school a great school. Scott stated he believes it is the parents and community. He doesn't see a negative impact from moving a building six or seven miles. Scott expressed he has been a long time supporter of the outlying schools and has made other cuts to avoid closing a building. He said he doesn't think he can in his right mind not close a building. Blaine said she doesn't feel it is in the best interest of the students to close a building. The new facilities were not built to house all the students in our district. Scott said he doesn't want to pack kids into buildings. He also doesn't believe we can close two buildings, he believes we can close one and be able to house those students, increasing class size 20 -21. Scott said he didn't feel we are going into unreasonable territory especially if we have good teachers. Ruth thought the reduction in staff we are currently looking at, that closing one building at this juncture is not necessary.

Alison mentioned that if we do not decide to close a building at this time, it will be the first thing on the table when we receive further cuts. Ruth said we would leave some time to find use for the building or a buyer if we hold off on closing a building at this time. Ande said he is currently agreeing with what Ruth said. He is still not happy with the librarian situation. Ande supports carrying along with tier one and then when the state makes their decision the board will need to take in consideration to close a building, but right now is not comfortable with doing that.

Ruth said she would like to find some funds to keep PAT open if we loose the funding. The board continued discussion on closing a building and what the actual impact would be. Bill Busby said he was inclined to accept the tier one. Bill said it hard to look at closing a building because I come from the rural area. Bill said he agrees with some of Scott's comments but doesn't feel there

is that large of a savings at this point. However, I would be going in that direction if we receive further cuts. Alison agrees with tier one and said it sounds like the board is divided on closing one building. Alison asked board members if they were prepared to make a decision. Scott said he would like to wait until the next meeting to make any decisions. The board discussed user fee increases and what could be agreeable. The board will retain the right to take action on deciding on a fee.

Mr. Dorathy said some of the cuts we have found other ways to support and if we get cut again, we will not have a choice, we will have to close buildings.

J. No new business discussed.

New Business

K. Blaine Cone updated board members on the Coop.

*Board Member
Input*

Alison asked what board members will be at graduation. Ruth cannot attend.

Alison attended the Regional meeting and said it was very interesting. The meeting was poorly attended.

Alison informed board members to abstain is a no vote. Blaine added, the only time you can abstain is to leave the room.

L. Mr. Dorathy had nothing more to report at this time.

*Superintendent's
Report*

M. Ande Parks moved and Blaine Cone seconded that we 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 15 minutes. Mr. Dorathy was invited to attend executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 10:10 p.m.

Executive Session

- Joshua Mihesuah moved and Alison Bauer seconded to extend executive session 5 minutes. Mr. Dorathy remained in executive session. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 10:25 p.m.

N. Blaine Cone moved and Bill Busby seconded to approve personnel report as presented.

*Consider
Executive Session
Matters*

Resignations:	Bldg	Position	Effective
Shelley McKaig	MSES	Food Service Worker	5/21/2010
Laverne Deay	BJHS	Custodian	5/10/2010
Connie Hadl	BHS	Food Service Worker	4/16/2010
Roger Davidson	BHS	Asst Baseball Coach	4/26/2010
Kyla Lewis	BESPC	First Grade Instructor	5/24/2010

Retirement:

Gayle Dempsey	BHS	Business instructor	5/24/2010
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Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

Alison Bauer moved and Blaine Cone seconded to approve to affix proper signatures to contracts as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

Ande Parks read a resolution of intent to non-renew Brooks Heath, Tony Schwager and Linsey Sola.

Ande Parks moved and Blaine Cone seconded the intent to non-renew Brooks Heath, Tony Schwager and Lindsey Sola for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no.

O. No other discussion at this time.

Discussion Items

P. Bill Busby moved and Alison Bauer seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 7 yes and 0 no. Time: 10:35 p.m.

Adjournment

Approved:

Attest:

Alison Bauer, President
Board of Education

Laura E. Morford
Clerk of the Board