

**OSCEOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT#1 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

December 8, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Present: James Baker, Sylvester Belcher Randy Carney, Terry Cole, Michael Ephlin, Shannon Sullivan and Denise Williams

Absent: None

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent  
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent  
Debbie Hale, Board Recorder  
Steve Knox, Osceola Times  
North Elementary Students, Staff and parents

Prior to opening the meeting, some North Elementary students entertained the Board with some Christmas songs.

1. Shannon Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. James Baker offered invocation.
3. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the November 10, 2014 Minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Motion James Baker, seconded by Terry Cole to approve the Timed Agenda. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. Mr. Cox stated that the University of Arkansas has an office of educational progress and they compare test scores. Mr. Cox then presented a handout that shows us improving in high school math. He stated that they took the scores from 2008/09 and 2009/10 compared to 2012/13 and 2013/14 scores and it showed that Osceola School District in Algebra 1 was the second most improved in the Algebra 1 End of Course scores and they congratulated us on that. We are right behind Beebe High School. In Geometry we are the fifth highest as far as improvements in End of Course Geometry. Mr. Cox stated that this is a bright star for us to increase our math scores and be on the list of one of the most improved schools in the state.
6. Mr. Cox reviewed the district financial report with the Board. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the report as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
7. Mr. Cox reviewed the list of bills with the Board. Michael Ephlin asked, with everything we did with our lights and stuff at the high school, will get a break down of the light bills to see our savings? Mr. Cox stated yes, Siemens has a lady there that does that and Debbie Hale has been doing some of that too, going over the bills and comparing them. Motion James Baker, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to pay the bills as listed. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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8. Mr. Cox stated that when we did the budget, I told you that a \$1000 bonus per employee and a new bus was put in the budget so it's in the budget and it's already been approved. He stated that we've ordered the bus and bonuses were distributed before Thanksgiving break and I hope you will approve this. Mr. Cox stated that we started giving out bonuses before Thanksgiving break so everyone will have money for Thanksgiving and Black Friday. Mr. Cox stated that he went around to every school and personally handed everyone their bonus check and he heard a lot of good comments about having money and being out a whole week for Thanksgiving. He stated that they were really appreciative of it and asked him to thank the Board. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Denise Williams to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
9. In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cox stated that he wanted to add the ALE building to the agenda. He stated that he's not asking for a decision yet but the Board will have to help him make a decision at some point because we have Partnership money for that building, \$856,125, and we are going to have to use it or lose it. The problem is that it's going to cost us another \$2,000,000 to get the \$856,000 because we're talking about new heat and air units, new lights, lower the ceiling and new cafeteria equipment. The only thing we need that building for is if we need the space but we could at some point, if we decided to do this, is move the 4<sup>th</sup> grade out of Carroll Smith and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade out of STEM and have 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in that building and you think about how much room that frees up at Carroll Smith and STEM. I'm just throwing out some things right now and not asking you to make a decision. Right now there's still some energy money left like 2% or something so that \$2,000,000 would cost us \$130,000 a year for 20 years and second lien bonds would cost us about \$150,000 a year for 20 years. The ALE would stay on that one wing and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade would be in the other part of the building. Following further discussion, Mr. Cox stated that he just wanted the Board to think about it and discuss it at another board meeting.

Mr. Cox reminded the Board of the School Board Conference December 10 -12 and the school board training at the Co-op December 9, from 6:00pm. – 9:00pm.

Mr. Cox requested that the January board meeting be moved to Tuesday, January 20. The Board approved Mr. Cox's request.

10. Executive Session was called at 6:37pm to 6:55pm to discuss employment. No action taken.

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Mr. Cox recommended adding assistant girls basketball coach to Donna Pilgrim's teaching duties starting immediately. Motion Randy Carney, seconded Michael Ephlin to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Cox recommended hiring Ira Proctor as Sp. Ed. Caregiver at STEM starting December 9. Motion James Baker, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignation of Frank Witowski, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Carroll Smith, effective at the end of this semester. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by James Baker to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignation of Lakisha James, aide at STEM, effective as of November 7. Motion James Baker, seconded by Terry Cole to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. Motion James Baker seconded by Terry Cole to adjourn. Motion passed by unanimous vote.  
(7:00pm)

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(Signed) Shannon Sullivan, President

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(Signed) Michael Ephlin, Secretary