

OSCEOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT#1 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

February 9, 2015

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Shannon Sullivan

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent
Tiffany Morgan, High School Principal with Arkansas Student Leadership Academy Student Representatives
Shantele Raper, Instructional Technology Director
Col. Stan Cooper, JROTC Instructor with JROTC Cadets
Phillip Cook, High School PLTW with PLTW students
Melissa Calvert and Gary Raper, EAST Lab
Jeanette Walker, Board Recorder
Sandra Brand, Osceola Times

1. James Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Randy Carney offered invocation.
3. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the January 20, 2015 Minutes. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Mr. Cox stated that he asked Col. Cooper to come and he brought six Cadets with him. Mr. Cox went on to say that the JROTC participates in a lot of events and they do a great job and I am really proud of this group. Mr. Cox stated that they went through an inspection this week and they will tell you about that. Col. Cooper stated that 65 Cadets participated in this inspection and every Cadet had to do a special part and they were ready. He stated that we did have a few things to work on and we've already started on that but we exceeded in ten areas. JROTC Commander Terrance Chew stated that the areas we exceeded in were fund raising, recruiting, interaction with other school activities, community service, mission briefing, marching, ownership (the students run the program), curriculum, action trips and uniform inventory. Col. Cooper also stated that two members received awards for being in the top 2 percent of the state, two members have the National Award of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and one Cadet is already an active member of the US Navy, she has already been sworn in and another member has received the US Senator's Nomination for the Air Force Academy.
5. Mr. Cox stated that we have some students here who are in the Arkansas Leadership Academy. He stated that we are piloting this program and they are representing us well and is very proud of them. Mrs. Morgan introduced Dylan Dampier, Kyra Guy, Andrea Ramsey and Tavion

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Bass. The students handed out thank you cards to Mr. Cox and the Board for allowing them to participate in the program. The students said it opened up a lot of opportunity for them. The students stated that they wanted to start a leadership team for upcoming freshmen and be a mentor for them and we plan to stem this down to younger students. The students also stated they are very thankful for the beautification of the schools. Dylan Dampier expressed his disappointment about the fights at high school last week and stated that we are taking steps to let students know that this is not who we are and that's not what we are about. He stated that high school is full of students who are there to learn. Mrs. Morgan stated that we have 42 students in the program. She stated that 60 invitation letters were sent out last summer and 42 students came, in the middle of summer, on the 8th of June to be a part of this program. She stated that these students went through professional development training along with teachers and administrators. The team has presented its program to the Delta Bridge Project.

6. Mr. Cox stated that Shantele Raper is here to talk about the Advanced Placement (AP) Academy. Mrs. Raper stated that we were identified as needing to increase our AP scores so we surveyed the students and asked what we can do for you as AP student, so we developed an action plan and started the AP Academy. The students stay after school to work on their AP courses. She stated that the District Action Plan is more comprehensive than the state plan and the students are participating and are willing to work so we are meeting our goal.

Mrs. Raper also updated the Board on Project Lead the Way. She stated that they had a local competition last Saturday and will be competing at University Of Arkansas at Monticello on Feb. 21. Mr. Phillip Cook along with three of his students presented their robot R1D1 and showed what the robot can do, they spoke about how they programmed it and how they worked out problems they encountered while building the robot.

Mrs. Raper then introduced Gary Raper and Melissa Calvert who are working with the EAST Lab students at High School and spoke about some of the projects they are working on. Mrs. Raper stated that the EAST Lab has been cleaned up and is set up nice and neat now and the children are enjoying it. She stated that one of the projects the students are working on a monopoly game that is set up for Osceola and is called Osceolanopoly.

Mr. Cox stated that he asked Donn Mixon to come tonight; he is a school board attorney for a lot of different schools. Mr. Mixon provided some background information about himself and his firm. He stated that for \$300.00 a month his office will be available for consultation for whatever legal help the district needs with no limit but if we have to go through hearing then we charge \$150.00 per hour. Mr. Mixon also stated that his firm is certified to do board training and we do that at no charge for the schools we represent but if we travel to the district for training then we do charge for mileage. Mr. Mixon then explained the suspended expulsion option that several schools are using stating that this is another option for the Board. It is an expulsion but it won't be imposed unless the student doesn't do what is outlined in the agreement. If the student breaks a rule then the superintendent is authorized to impose the

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expulsion then reports that back to the Board but the Board still has the ultimate authority. This option diminishes the hearing to the standpoint that it's less of a trial and adversarial type setting.

Mr. Cox explained that when you expel a kid and send him home then when he comes back you don't know where's he's been or what he's been doing but if you suspend expel him then he had conditions he has to follow so when his time is up at the end of the year, at least you'll know he's done something before you have to take him back the next year.

7. Mr. Cox handed out a letter from the Arkansas Department of Education and stated that last spring we were put on academic distress based on the last three year test scores and the state department rules and regulations states that if 49.5% of students don't pass the benchmark then you're on academic distress. Mr. Cox stated that the 2010-2011 school year is the year that hurt us bad but I knew that when they dropped off the 2010-2011 school year and added the 2013-2014 that we would get above the 50% and I understood at the time that when you get above the 50% then you're ok but that's not the case, we had to go and appear before a state department employee and convince him that if they took us off we wouldn't go right back on then the state department makes a recommendation to the State Board. Mr. Cox then read part of the letter that states the Arkansas Department of Education will recommend that the State Board remove the Academic Distress designation for Osceola High School because the percent Proficient or Advanced is 52.348. Mr. Cox said that he believes the State Board will go along with the recommendation and the meeting is this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Little Rock.
8. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Michael Ephlin to amend the Timed Agenda to show 8:04. Motion passed 6-0.
9. Mr. Cox reviewed the district financial report with the Board. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the reports as presented. Motion passed 6-0.
10. Mr. Cox reviewed the list of bills with the Board. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Terry Cole to pay the bills as listed. Motion passed by 6-0.
11. In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cox stated that we are hosting the Jr. High Basketball Tournaments this year. Mr. Hogan gave the Board a copy of the bracket and stated that the team has this event well organized. He stated he did a walk through and everything looks good. The cafeteria opened up its doors for the hospitality room and they've done a good job. He stated that the local businesses have donated food and teachers are bringing in in food so they are putting on a good show.

Mr. Cox reminded the Board about the Southern Regional Leadership Conference and stated that ASU will be hosting some School Board Training.

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12. Executive Session was called at 8:08 pm to 8:25 pm to discuss employment. No action taken.

Mr. Cox recommended hiring Alexander Lloyd for high school math for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Randy Carney to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignation of Jody Baugus, Technology Director as of Friday, February 6, 2015. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Terry Cole to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 6-0.

13. Motion Terry Cole seconded by Michael Ephlin to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. (8:30 pm)

(Signed) Shannon Sullivan, President

(Signed) Michael Ephlin, Secretary