

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

**Regular Meeting  
Osceola School District  
Administration Building  
April 10, 2017  
6:00 p.m.**

Present: Jacqueline Baker, James Baker, Sylvester Belcher, Torian Bell, Ollie Collins,  
Kristain Dedmon, Michael Ephlin and Denise Williams

Absent: None

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent  
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanette Walker, Board Recorder  
Sandra Brand, Osceola Times

1. James Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Alfred Hogan offered invocation.
3. Mr. Cox stated we need to talk about Erate again and asked Jeanette Walker to update the Board on Erate. Jeanette Walker stated that in the memo I sent to the Board I explained that I had to change the bid due date on our RFP for the Wide Area Network to be in line with our Erate Form 470 allowable contract date. The reason for the change was that I posted the Erate Form 470 on February 28, and schools were closed the next day due to the storm damage and power outages so it was March 2, before I realized I had not certified the Form 470. I certified it on March 2, which made our allowable contract date March 30, but I did not change that date on our RFP. I posted an addendum to our RFP extending the bid due date to April 7 and notified our bidders of the extended date. We received a new bid from AT&T which was \$1,185.84 less for a 3 year contract and \$1,022 less for a 5 year contract. On Friday, April 7, at 3:00 p.m. Christie Morris and I reevaluated all the bids we had previously received and the new bid from AT&T but Ritter Communications still received the most points on the evaluation. Christie and I are requesting that the Board rescind the motion that was made at the March 30, meeting accepting the 5 year bid from Ritter Communications and we request that the Board approve the reevaluation of the bids and accept the 5 year contract with Ritter Communications for \$4,800. Jacqueline Baker moved to rescind the March 30, Motion to accept the 5 year contract with Ritter Communications and moved to approve the reevaluation of the Erate bids and accept the 5 year contract with Ritter Communications for the Wide Area Network. Torian Bell seconded the Motion and the Motion passed 7-0.
4. Mr. Cox stated that there was an error on page 1 of the March 6, Minutes that was sent to Board members. The multiplier for Mr. Hogan's salary should be 1.36 on both numbers. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the March 6, 2017 Regular Minutes with corrections and approve the March 9 and March 30, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 7-0.
5. Mr. Cox handed out a memo from Lisa Park about house Bill 1155 that passed and has been signed by the Governor. The memo stated that according to this bill the beginning salary for a

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Master Degree must be \$36,050 and our current salary for Master Degree is \$35,865. Mr. Cox stated that Lisa recommended to him and he is recommending that the Board give all staff paid from steps on the salary schedule a 1% increase. The total cost to our operating fund for certified and classified would cost us approximately \$56,400. Michael Ephlin stated he would like to see what it would cost to just give the increase to those with a Master Degree. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 p.m. but Lisa Park came in and told the Board she could get the information they requested together before the end of the meeting. The Board agreed to review the information after Executive Session.

6. Mr. Cox handed out two options for the 2017-2018 school calendar and explained the difference in the two. He stated that certified and classified staff voted on both calendars and the vote was 148 for option 1 and 17 for option 2. Mr. Cox recommended that the Board approve option 1. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Torian Bell to approve calendar option 1 for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion passed 7-0.
7. Motion Ollie Collins, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the Timed Agenda with the adjusted time of 6:22 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.
8. Mr. Cox reviewed the financial reports with the Board. He stated that our balance to date is \$300,000.00 more than it was this time last year and we are in good shape. Motion Ollie Collins, seconded by Michael Ephlin to accept the district financial reports. Motion passed 7-0.
9. Mr. Cox reviewed the list of bills with the Board. Motion Ollie Collins, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the list of bills. Motion passed 7-0.
10. Mr. Cox stated that he received a letter for Arkansas School Board Association about hosting the November 7, 2017 Regional Meeting here. Mr. Cox stated that he would like to host the meeting here and the Board agreed.

Mr. Cox read the names of the students who placed at the State Science Fair at UCA along with the category and the awards they received.

Mr. Cox informed the Board that we had two teams to compete in the State OM competition and our high school team is advancing to world competition. There will be six students and three adults traveling to World Competition in Michigan. Mr. Cox handed out travel options and recommended option 1 which is Cline Tours for a total cost of \$11266.00 and stated that we can pay for it with SIG or NSLA funds. Motion Jacqueline Baker, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve Mr. Cox recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox updated the Board on the new arena. He stated that they are laying water and sewer lines now but the Fire Marshall said the building needed more fire exits. Mr. Cox also stated

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that the handicap areas had to be spread out and as soon as the final drawings are approved we can put it out for bids.

Mr. Cox stated that the AAEA & ASBA Joint Leadership Conference is May 9, so we need to move the May School Board Meeting. The Board agreed to move the May meeting to May 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Cox told the Board to let Debbie Hale know if you plan on attending the Southern Region School Board Leadership Conference in Hot Springs July 16-18 so she can get you registered.

Mr. Cox read the list of students who completed the Arkansas Scholars program stated that the Arkansas Scholar's Banquet is May 2.

Jacqueline Baker stated that we also had several students to compete and win at the National History Day Regional Competition at Arkansas State University.

Executive Sessions was held from 6:56 – 7:30 with no action taken.

Lisa Parke informed the Board that we have 26 teachers with a Master Degree and a 1% increase for them would be \$24,600 and 13 with above Master Degree and a 1% increase for them would cost \$12,400 for a total cost of \$37,000. She stated that those above a Master Degree would also have to receive the increase because they make more than those with a Master Degree. Michael Ephlin moved to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation to give everyone paid from steps on the salary schedule a 1% increase beginning July 1, 2017.

Motion passed 7-0.

11. Mr. Cox recommended hiring Vernon Wilson as Sr. High Head Basketball Coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion Torian Bell, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended hiring the classified staff as listed for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Torian Bell to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended transferring Bill Estell from ALE to CSE ALE. Motion Denise Williams, seconded by Ollie Collins to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignations of Kelsey Clinton (Pre-school), Tynga Coleman (4<sup>th</sup> Grade), Kimberly Washington (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and Teresa Day-Smith (STEM). Motion Ollie Collins, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

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12. Motion Denise Williams, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.  
(7:42 p.m.)

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(Signed) James Baker, President

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(Signed) Denise Williams, Secretary