

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

**Regular Meeting**

July 13, 2015

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent  
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanette Walker, Board Recorder  
David & Ammi Tucker

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 June 8, 2015 Regular Minutes and to approve the June 23, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Mr. Cox stated that Mr. Tucker is here again to speak to the Board about transferring his children to Rivercrest. Mr. Tucker stated that he wanted the Board to hear why he requested a transfer. He stated that he and all of his family graduated from Rivercrest and all of their children's friends attend Rivercrest and he knew that eventually he would be transferring his children there but he missed the school choice deadline. He stated that an event happened and other events over the years have occurred and one thing they like at Rivercrest is safety. He stated that he has complained about the student drop off situation here and concerned about gun safety and stated an event occurred at Musicfest that caused hurt feelings. He stated that he has pulled for Osceola School District but wants to respectfully send their children elsewhere.

Sylvester Belcher asked, "Did you address the safety"? Mr. Tucker stated that he spoke with the teacher, principal and Mr. Cox and things changed for about a week then went back. Mr. Cox stated that he talked to Mrs. Landry and thought the issue was resolved and I thought someone would have brought up the issue again if it was still going on.

Randy Carney stated he is a strong advocate for school choice and moved to allow Mr. Tuckers children go to Rivercrest. The motion was seconded by Michael Ephlin. Motion failed 5-2. Those voting yes were Randy Carney and Michael Ephlin. Those voting no were Jacqueline Baker, James Baker, Sylvester Belcher, Terry Cole and Denise Williams.

5. Mr. Cox handed out copies of proposed changes to the 2015-2016 Student Handbook. He stated there are not a lot of changes, mostly just cleaning up some things. After reviewing the changes,

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Sylvester Belcher moved to accept the Student Handbook with the necessary corrections for the upcoming school year. Jacqueline Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Mr. Cox handed out a list of contracted days and amounts for Generation Ready and the funds from which the amounts will be paid for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Cox stated that we are trying to align the curriculum so each grade level will know exactly what they are to cover that year. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Terry Cole to approve the Generation Ready contract for 2015-2016. Motion passed 7-0.
7. Mr. Cox stated that we spent about \$70,000 last year on Arkansas Leadership Academy. He stated that they build leadership teams in the schools and they will do School Board training if we want them to. He stated that the contract for 2015-2016 is \$70,700 and that comes out of NSLA money. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve the Arkansas Leadership contract for 2015-2016. Motion passed 7-0.
8. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve the Timed Agenda with the adjusted time of 6:30. Motion passed 7-0.
9. Mr. Cox stated that in order to apply for Erate we have to be in compliance with the CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). He stated that there are certain things we have to do to protect our kids on the internet and we are in compliance.
10. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Sylvester to appoint Superintendent Michael Cox as Ex-Officio Financial Officer for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion passed 7-0.
11. Mr. Cox reviewed the financial reports with the Board. Mr. Cox stated that he contacted a lighting company about the stadium lighting and it will cost around \$200,000 but if we wait another year the price will probably drop 40%.  
  
Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Terry Cole to approve the financial reports. Motion passed 7-0.
12. Mr. Cox reviewed the list of bills with the Board. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to pay the bills as listed. Motion passed by 7-0.
13. In the Superintendent's Report Mr. Cox stated that we got a SIG grant for high school and it is 1.3 million dollars. Johnny Keys wants to come and address the Board in August and congratulate the Board. Mr. Cox also informed the Board that the work on Middle School will start in a couple of weeks. Mr. Cox then read a letter from Terry Baker who has the Mississippi County Child Development Center at East Elementary. In the letter Mrs. Baker stated they have 125 kids enrolled, 37 local employees. The letter also listed the amounts they spend for repairs and remodeling and she stated that they now they need to repair part of the roof which will cost

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\$50,000 and wants assurance that the school board will renew the lease for a long term before they spend the money to fix the roof. Mr. Cox stated that and their lease expires in August 2016 and he just wanted to bring this to the Board's attention and it will be put on the August agenda.

14. Mr. Cox recommended hiring the following certified personnel for the 2015-2016 school year:

Chelsie Burnside – 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Lewis Earnest – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades Science

Chris Gage – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Emily Nooner – Kindergarten

Madison Roswell – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies.

Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation.

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended hiring Jennifer Young for Cheerleading Sponsor. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignations of Marie Barnett – Kindergarten Teacher and Courtney Caldwell – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox stated the next regular meeting is August 10, but we may need to call a special meeting if we have more to hire.

Randy Carney stated that other school districts are moving certified teacher to the dyslexia position and asked if that's what we are thinking? Mr. Cox said that we were thinking that and we had an applicant that was interested but she backed out. He stated that Ms. Landry has volunteered to do this and it won't cost us any more money. Mr. Carney asked if she understands what's required because there seems to be a misconception among some people on what's required in that job, it's not an overseeing job. Mr. Cox stated that she does know and she is at the co-op this week.

Michael Ephlin stated he has something he wants the Board to think about. We have five acres here that belongs to the school that is being farmed right now and I would like for the Board to think about letting OPAR to use that land for more soccer fields and football field.

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15. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. (6:47 pm)

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(Signed) James Baker, President

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(Signed) Denise Williams, Secretary