

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Osceola High School Library**

August 10, 2015

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Michael Ephlin

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent  
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent  
Tiffany Morgan, High School Principal  
Shantele Raper, Educational Technology Director  
Johnny Key, Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner  
Bobby Lester, Arkansas Department of Education  
Debbie Coffman, Arkansas Department of Education  
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. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the July 13, 2015 Regular Minutes and to approve the July 27, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Mr. Cox introduced Mr. Johnny Key, Mr. Bobby Lester and Ms. Debbie Coffman and stated that they are here from the Department of Education and they wanted to address the Board.

Mr. Key congratulated the Board for receiving the School Improvement Grant. Mr. Key stated that being a two time recipient is unusual and it speaks very well of the District and the District had significant improvements on the first go around. He stated that the former commissioner thought it was important for us to communicate proper use of the grant and it is important for us to continue that communication and we will provide help and support from the Department. Mr. Key then introduced Bobby Lester who also offered congratulations on receiving the grant. Mr. Lester stated that this is an excellent opportunity to continue the growth you've had before. After receiving the first round the scores in 2010 showed double digit gains in both literacy and math. He stated that when you got the first round you wrote a good grant and Washington DC were intrigued that a district received the SIG grant twice and this says a lot for your district and your writers. He stated that we reassess at the end of the year and if everything is going great you will get it the second year and so forth. The five years is not guaranteed but we will look at it each year. He stated that the school will have a SIG site director at least once a week and maybe twice a week. Mr. Lester asked the Board if they agreed with having a person from the Department of Education on site.

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Terry Cole moved to be in agreement with having an onsite monitor from the Department of Education. Denise Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Lester also stated that the liaison will be here to assist and be a part of the leadership team. He stated that one problem here is that the teacher turnover is huge and this grant will help to retain teachers and pull teachers in. The main thing we want to see is the good, the bad and the ugly and don't be afraid to talk to us about it. Talk to and be comfortable with your liaison. Look at ways to sustain what you get and it obvious to us that the sustainability is there.

Mr. Key stated that he appreciated Mr. Lester and the team we've had and we have seen positive things with this grant especially here at Osceola and we want to see the discussion go from adequate to excellence. He told the Board that they are absolutely the unsung hero because they are unpaid and want to help the community and the children.

Mr. Cox stated that we don't feel that having a liaison is a threat to us at all and we are looking forward to it. Our bottom line is what's best for students. We have to find ways to engage these students and I really appreciate this opportunity. The main problem in the delta is hiring and retaining good teachers and this helped us fill 35 positions. We have a lot of NSLA and Title 1 money and we will use that to sustain and help kids. Mr. Cox stated that he is fortunate to have had a good board for the last 5 years. Mr. Cox then thanked Mr. Key, Mr. Lester and Ms. Coffman for taking the time to come down here.

5. Mr. Cox stated that Terry Baker with Mississippi County Child Development Center couldn't make the meeting but will be here in September. He stated that they want to ask for a longer contract on the East Elementary building. Mr. Carney asked what Mr. Cox would be recommending. Mr. Cox stated that he recommends fifteen years if that's what they want. He said they are doing a good job and helping a lot of kids.
6. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the Timed Agenda. Motion passed 6-0.
7. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve the financial reports. Motion passed 6-0.
8. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Denise Williams to pay the bills as listed. Motion passed by 6-0.

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9. Mr. Cox stated we received one bread bid from Flowers Food and one milk bid from Turner Dairy. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the bread and milk bids. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Mr. Cox stated that August 18, is the kick off date to get started on the Middle School building project.

11. Mr. Cox recommended hiring the following certified personnel for the 2015-2016 school year:  
Donna Heavener, Special Ed at STEM  
Scott Napier, Social Studies at STEM  
Kara Ward, Resource/Special Instructor at High School  
Kimberlon Washington, Special Ed at High School

Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation.  
Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Cox recommended hiring the following classified personnel or the 2015-2016 school year:  
Alisha Chew, Bus Driver (full time)  
Mary Goacher, Bus Driver (full time)  
Kimberly Hunter, Bus Driver (full time)  
Tony Lambert, Bus Driver (full time)  
Robert McAdams, Bus Driver (full time)  
Carl Minor, Bus Driver (full time)  
Teresa Flie, Cafeteria Monitor - two hours per day at Carroll Smith Elementary  
Candice Jernigan, Counselor Secretary at High School  
Brandon Morris Tech Specialist  
Marjorie Parker, Secretary at High School, effective 8/17/2015  
Sharyl Stewart, Cook at STEM

Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation.  
Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignation of Lisa Holifield, Social Studies Teacher at STEM. Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation.  
Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Cox recommended the following transfers:

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Beatrice McCorkley from High School Secretary to Superintendent's Secretary

Kelly Stewart from High School Special Ed to CSE Special Ed

Rose Wright from Superintendent Secretary to Assistant Bookkeeper

Motion Terry Cole, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation.

Motion passed 6-0.

12. Motion Randy Carney, seconded by Terry Cole to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. (6:45 pm)

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(Signed) James Baker, President

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(Signed) Denise Williams, Secretary