

District # 145 Staff,

The following is a summary of the Board of Education meeting that occurred on October 5, 2009. The official minutes of the meeting will be published at a later date. This is for your information from the superintendent's perspective – the purpose is to provide information of district activities.

The meeting was held at Eagle Elementary, Eagle, Nebraska.

After procedural requirements for complying with the Open Meetings Act were finished, the Board reviewed administrator reports (which are submitted in advance and contained as part of the Board packet – also public information). The Foreign Exchange Students at Waverly High School were introduced by Waverly High School Principal Mr. Ricenbaw. Each month a presentation is made to the Board – this month it was from the High School. Seniors shared how they are serving as mentors for freshmen as part of the new Advisory Program implemented at the High School.

The Board's Performance and Assessment Committee gave a report from their meeting held September 30. Click on the [Annual Report](#) to view the 2009 Report – which reflects data from 2008-09, and also is published in Nebraska's State of the Schools Report, which was released to the public on October 5. This information is available on NDE website ([click here](#)).

The Board of Education approved:

- *Jim Christiansen (former Waverly teacher) as assistant tennis coach; Mark Newmyer (Boys basketball assistant). These new positions were approved in September.
- *District-wide Membership in AdvancED for the School Improvement and Accreditation process.
- *Graduation at the end of the first semester for Alexandra Burns, pending completion of all necessary requirements.
- *A lease agreement with the Lincoln Hawks for use of District 145 property in Walton. The Hawks are a "select" baseball team for 9-11 year olds. They will use (and make improvements to) the district owned ball field in Walton. This will alleviate the district from having to be responsible for upkeep and maintenance expenses for a field that was idle the past year.

The Board held a public hearing regarding the proposed tax request for the new budget year. The 2009-10 budget hearing was held and the budget was adopted in September. The Board took action to approve the property tax request, setting the district tax levy at the same rate as last year. The appropriate forms and related materials are being submitted to the State Auditor, State Department of Education, and County Government Offices.

The Board also approved the use of Eagle Elementary for the expansion of the Foundation for Education's Before/After School Program. The Foundation for Education operates a Before/After School program at Hamlow and WIS. This is a great service for students/parents. The FFE will be using the proceeds (in part) of this program to fund classroom grants for teachers, so costs that the district may incur with this program for facility use should be offset from the benefits to students and the grants received.

Approval was given to utilize SPED ARRA funding to enter into a contract with Dina Rathje, Licensed Medical Health Practitioner for the 2009-10 school year, at an annual cost not to exceed \$17,575. The Federal ARRA SPED stimulus money is not supported by local property taxes, and has to be spent in the area of special education. After the end of this year, we will evaluate whether or not to continue in the future using ARRA funds.

Approval was given for the Waverly Education Association Negotiated agreement for the 2009-2010 school year; base salary set at \$30,935, for a 4.12% total package compensation increase. Language changes regarding leave provisions will be made, and Board policies and the 2009-10 school calendar will be adjusted accordingly. Those items that need to be changed will be included on the November Board agenda. As part of the consent agenda, the Board recognized 32 teachers that will receive advancement on the salary schedule (horizontal movement). This movement is in addition to the negotiated compensation package of 4.12%.

The Board authorized the Superintendent to enter a contract with NETAL, Inc. The company was awarded a construction contract for dirt work on the south 134th street I-80 overpass. The dirt for the project will be purchased and removed from District 145 property, located south of the High School. Approximately 40,000 cubic yards will be used. For a perspective, that amount of dirt is roughly equivalent to one acre of land 200 ft x 200 ft x 24 ft (length x width x height). The removal of dirt will be spread out over several acres. NETAL will remove topsoil, stock pile it, remove clay soil, replace topsoil, and grade at a mow-able slope, then reseed the area. The revenue for the district (\$1 per cubic yard) will be added to the Special Building fund, which is used to pay for facility needs. For example, in the last month, 4 compressors on HVAC units need to be replaced at Hamlow Elementary and the High School. Cost of those replacements is over \$30,000 – paid for from the Special Building fund.

As discussion items, the Board reviewed the Superintendent Leave Time Quarterly Report, and discussed the Superintendent Evaluation, which will be conducted in accordance with Board policy and state statute. The Board also discussed the Board Retreat and Work Session, which will be held at the Central Office on October 8, 2009 at 6:00pm. Burma Kroeger, from the Nebraska State School Boards Association will facilitate the meeting. Individual board members completed a self-assessment of the Board of Education. The Board and superintendent will review the results, as well as begin planning for future Board of Education goals. There are no action items on the agenda for October 8.

Board members were encouraged to attend the NASB State Education Conference, November 18-20, 2009 in Omaha. Future committee meetings and board development activities were discussed. The next Regular School Board Meeting is scheduled at the Central Office Building on Monday, November 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

President Francke adjourned the meeting at 9:10pm.