

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on March 18, 2019 at the Unified District Office. Those present were Robert Miller, Rani Pecenka, Jeremiah Van Doren, Ray Swearingen, Warren McDougal, Juanita Morris and Rosemary Neaderhiser; Administrators Steven Kimmi, Craig Gantenbein and Curtis Nightingale; Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Clerk Cindy Regnier and 14 guests.

President Warren McDougal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted. Motion by Ray Swearingen, seconded by Rani Pecenka. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Robert Miller to adopt the consent agenda, approval of February 18, 2019 minutes and checks 59834 through 59937 totaling \$86,288.09. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0.

Jim McClain made a presentation on behalf of the Bennington Senior Center asking the board to join in supporting the Center's request to be excluded from ad valorem property tax. Motion by Rosemary Neaderhiser to issue a letter of support for the Bennington Senior Center addressed to the Ottawa County Appraiser's Office. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

The discussed Redesign with teachers, parents and students in attendance.

Superintendent Van Ranken reported on the status of CPA audits for the district. Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to hire Swindoll Janzen Hawk & Loyd, agreed upon fees to be paid when audits completed for fiscal years 16, 17 and 18.

Motion by Rosemary Neaderhiser to approve out-of-district student requests as recommended by principals. Seconded by Rani Pecenka. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Robert Miller that the board enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0. The board entered executive session at 9:50 p.m.

The board reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Motion by Ray Swearingen to approve the hiring of Anna Williamson as district Vo-Ag Instructor 19-20, Leonel Alvarado as district Spanish instructor 19-20, Anissa Bigler as district ELA instructor 19-20, Joshua Paulino as Bennington assistant baseball coach for 2019 season, and Samantha Fyfe as part-time food service at Bennington effective immediately. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ray Swearingen to hire Roberta Miller as full time food service at Bennington effective immediately. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 6-0-1, Miller abstaining.

Motion by Ray Swearingen to accept the resignations of Alex Blue and Ashley Sandlin from Bennington Food Service, effective immediately, and Sally Pedruzzi as district Spanish instructor, effective with the close of the 18-19 school year. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Rani Pecenka to pay a salary bonus to Shirley Dennis for her extra work during the transition to a new Maintenance Director. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Rosemary Neaderhiser to extend the contracts of administration through the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren that the board enter executive session for 5 minutes to discuss negotiations. Seconded by Rani Pecenka. The board entered executive session at 10:05 p.m.

The board reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

President Warren McDougal adjourned the meeting.

Cindy Regnier  
Clerk of the Board