

Minutes of School Board of Trustees Meeting
Owens Whitney Elementary District No. 6
March 20, 2018

1. Routine Opening of Meeting

- 1.1 Clay Tyree called the Board to order at 7:00 a.m.
- 1.2 Roll Call was taken-all present: Clay Tyree-President, Frank Dazzo-Vice Chair, April Drane-Member, Mikaela Gist-Head Teacher, Lee Gurney-Secretary.
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.4 Moment of silence
- 1.5 Call to the public -none
- 1.6 Clay Tyree made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2018, board meeting, April Drane seconded-motion approved.

2. Information and Discussion

- 2.1 Mikaela Gist presented Chidawn Rippentrop's resignation letter. Mikaela will post the job opening on the ADE (Arizona Dept. of Education) website and will renew Arizona Rural Schools membership in order to post for a teacher there.
- 2.2 Mikaela Gist said she tried to get all the ADE information together in order to know which applicant would be hired so the Board could vote on an hourly pay rate, but not able to get all reference information the ADE wanted before the meeting. Clay Tyree asked how the interviews went; Mikaela said there were a few candidates with some of the ADE requirements. Linda Withrow sat in on the interviews and reference calls. Since the training rate has been voted on, the Board can vote on permanent pay rate next meeting.
- 2.3 Mikaela Gist said she has a woman from Selligman who would work on the budget with her but she is asking \$50 per hour if she has to travel the Wikieup, \$25 if Mikaela goes to Selligman. Mikaela called Bryan Bullington and he is coming to teach Mikaela and Asstrid how to do the revision and get going on next year's budget. Mikaela would like Board approval to pay \$50 per hour for help from the Selligman woman until the school becomes self-sufficient, in regards to the budget. Clay Tyree made a motion to approve \$50 per hour for budget assistance, when needed, up to 20 hours, Frank Dazzo seconded – motion approved.

3. Superintendents Report

-Mikaela Gist presented an email from Lyle Friesen, Deputy Associate Superintendent, School Finance, showing the actual FY2017 budget expenditures

of \$325,526 and rollover of \$167,462. She said the school may have to dip into the rollover portion this year for a new curriculum.

-All the Owens students went to a STEM day at the Bagdad school. They were able to program robots and the fire department did some demonstrations.

-Testing for AIMS Science is next week and AZMerit testing is the following week

-There is a new board member training available on March 26; Mikaela will get copies for the Board members in case they are interested. Mikaela thinks that April will be up for election this year.

-Mikaela Gist presented a report from the Arizona Auditor General's office showing the Owens Elementary School's Operational Efficiency, Student Achievement, Student and Teacher Measures and Revenues, and Operational Trends and Financial Stress Assessment. It shows how Owens compares to other small schools; we spend a lot in instruction but Mikaela feels that is where the money should be spent. Test scores are above district, peer and state, math scores are above state. We don't get a letter grade because we are such a small school.

4. Action Items

- 4.1 The board received, reviewed and signed vouchers. Clay Tyree made a motion to approve payment of the vouchers, April Drane seconded-motion approved.
- 4.2 April Drane made a motion to accept Chidawn Rippentrop's resignation, Clay Tyree seconded – motion approved.
- 4.3 Mikaela Gist told the Board she was hoping to have a candidate selected by now but because of the ADE requirements and having to contact previous employers of the applicants to get verification of specific work experience, she is not able to make a complete, informed decision at this time. She had wanted a candidate chosen by now but will make every effort to have a decision as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Lee Gurney addressed the Board regarding the changes in the existing ASBAIT health insurance; the provider is changing from BC/BS to AETNA. The rates remain the same as last year for the ASBAIT plan. The only concern was the smaller pool of doctors, as AETNA is a smaller company, but the comparison received from the company did not show any current physicians that participants used in the past year as not being covered. The Trust plan has BC/BS as a provider but is an 80/20 plan and costs are a bit more. The Board had received packets to review from both providers prior to the meeting. Clay Tyree made a motion to stay with ASBAIT, Frank Dazzo seconded – motion approved
- 4.5 Units 1 and 3 are heated with propane but do not reimburse the school for usage at this time. Previous discussion regarding meters, separate tanks and monthly fees were reviewed. Clay Tyree said to look into changing carriers and getting a

better rate on gas (with Yavapi) and the \$1/year tank rental. Frank Dazzo mentioned that Yavapi Gas has a program where you can rent to own your tank. The Board decided to leave things the way they are regarding the rental units.

4.6 Lee Gurney informed the Board that we now have GovNet as our internet provider and have 20 Mbps, as our speed. We can up our speed to 40 Mbps for around \$28 more per month, per Frank Vanderhorst. E-rate reimburses the school 90% of our internet costs. Mikaela Gist feels that the doubling of our current speed would be sufficient. We could spend between \$700,000 and \$3,000,000 to bring fiber optic internet to the school, which would be covered 100% by various grants (per last Board meeting). Discussion as to whether there was fiber optics already in Wikieup; April Drane thought that ADOT had it. The Board decided not to call Frank Vanderhorst at this point because they needed to come up with the questions to ask him. Frank Dazzo said he was excited about the fiber optics because it would benefit the whole town. At this point, people in town can't even get internet, they are on a waiting list. Mikaela Gist asked if E-Rate would reimburse the 90% if we went with another company? – another question to ask. Clay Tyree mentioned that the FCC recommended 100 Mbps., per Frank Vanderhorst's email. Clay Tyree said we need to ask about what would benefit the town and the costs we would pay. Clay Tyree will call Mr. Vanderhorst with the questions.

4.7 Mikaela Gist presented two school calendars for the 2018-2019 school year. She said one shows that when the school is closed on Monday (for a holiday), it would be open on that Friday – thus all school weeks would be four days. This coincides with the Bagdad schedule. The other has those four weeks as three-day school weeks. As a teacher, she feels that four days every week is better but is concerned that the students would attend. Frank Dazzo asked how attendance was for Friday school when they have Title I; Mikaela said it was good. Bagdad approves calendar for two years at a time but are addressing the Friday attendance issue tonight at their Board meeting. They have 151 days because they have shorter days, whereas we would have 146; they have a half day the day before Thanksgiving and we have the whole day off. Synergy, our reporting program, wants our calendar as soon as possible. Clay Tyree motioned that we approve the calendar which includes the Friday school when there is a Monday day off, Frank Dazzo seconded – motion approved.

5. Clay Tyree made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:51 a.m., April Drane seconded – motion approved.

6. Policy Updates, Second session

The Board reviewed the following policies for a second time: BDG, DIE, EEAG, GDF-EE, IJJ, IJNDB-E, JFNDBA, JFABC, JFBA JLCC, JR, JRR, LBD-E, GCO, GCO-RA, JJIB-E were approved as written. JKA-R is to be removed. GCCA is being rewritten by David DeCabooter at the ASBA per board's discussion and state requirement.

7. No requests for future meetings
8. Next Board meeting scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2018, due to AZMerit testing being given the second week of April.
8. Clay Tyree made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 a.m., April Drane seconded – motion approved.