

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
BENKELMAN NE 69021**

The Dundy County Stratton Board of Education met in regular session on February 13, 2012 at the Dundy County Stratton High School. The following members were present: C Kerchal, S Krug, K Lorens, M Lutz, L Melchert, J Metzger, S Noffsinger, and S Stamm. Also present were Principal Mike Rotherham, Superintendent Dallas Watkins and staff member JoAnn Decker. Visitors were Robert Beck, Scott Lambley, Tracy Lambley, Rami Albers, Tom Ham, Stacey Waters, Sonya Auffet, Cindy McVicker, Lisa Fox, Marilyn Lorens, John McDonald, Jerry Fries, Amy M Haines, James Decker, and Jason Frederick from The Benkelman Post. Board member M Blecha was absent. Principal Jim Kent was absent.

President Metzger called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

President Metzger stated that the board follows the Open Meetings Act Guidelines which are located in the meeting room. The Board of Education may enter closed session during the meeting when it determines that doing so is appropriate and is authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

President Metzger excused Mike Blecha.

Motion by Kerchal seconded by Lorens to approve the agenda and minutes of the January 9, 2012 regular meeting and January 11, 2012, February 1, 2012, February 6, 2012, February 7, 2012, February 8, 2012, and February 9, 2012 special meetings. Yes: Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Under public items of discussion Jason Frederick from The Benkelman Post addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to participate on the community Superintendent search committee. "It was both an honor and a great learning experience."

Motion by Lutz seconded by Krug to approve the administrative and financial reports and payment of bills. Yes: Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Principal Rotherham reported on writing assessments; spelling bee date; annual 5th & 6th grade pizza party; and important dates. Superintendent Watkins gave Principal Kent's report. He congratulated the state qualifiers from FCCLA, FBLA, FFA and wrestling. He also reported on the 2012 graduation date; calendar adoption for 2012-2013; class schedules for 2012-2013; football scheduling; school improvement; and district activity dates. Superintendent Watkins reported on the concussion policy; Nebraska Association of School Board news; and the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Legislative Forum meeting; and state aid. He also thanked Lisa Fox, Technology Coordinator, and others involved in technology for their hard work.

Under board items of discussion John Metzger, and Shad Stamm discussed highlights from the Nebraska Association of School Boards Legislative Conference Meeting. Shad Stamm addressed the public and thanked the focus groups for their time and help and the public for their support during the Superintendent search process. He explained how the process of hiring the consulting firm of McPherson & Jacobson, LLC helped the Board in making the selection of the Superintendent. "It was truly one of the toughest things the Board has had to do and by doing such as made the Board members come together as a Board." He also thanked Connie Willis for providing refreshments and getting the room ready for all the special meetings. Sandy Noffsinger also thanked the public for their support during the Superintendent search.

Motion by Kerchal seconded by Stamm to extend a two year contract to Jim Kent for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. Yes: Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: Krug and Kerchal. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Motion by Melchert seconded by Noffsinger to authorize Superintendent Watkins to advertise for the position of Secondary Principal, Athletic Director, and coaching available but not required. Position is open until filled. Yes: Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Kerchal, and Krug. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Lisa Fox presented the Technology plan for 2012-2013.

Motion by Melchert seconded by Noffsinger to approve the Technology Plan as presented for the 2012-2013 school year. Yes: Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Kerchal, Krug, and Lorens. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Motion by Lorens seconded by Krug to adopt the 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented. Yes: Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, and Lutz. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Motion by Stamm seconded by Noffsinger to set a public information meeting on February 28, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the Haigler Elementary gym to discuss enrollment, curriculum, and other challenges. To set an election date for patrons of the original Haigler School District on March 6, 2012 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Haigler Elementary gym to decide if the school should close. A 25% participation level is required or the Dundy County Stratton Board of Education will make the decision as to whether the school should remain open. Yes: Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, and Melchert. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

The Board discussed negotiations for 2012-2013.

Motion by Krug seconded by Stamm to approve the quote from Extreme Green for grounds care this summer. Yes: Noffsinger, Stamm, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, and Metzger. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

The board recessed at 7:40 P.M.

The board reconvened at 8:00 P.M.

Motion by Stamm seconded by Melchert to enter closed session to discuss Administrator contract negotiation for 2012-2013 and to prevent needless injury to the reputations of individuals and because it is in the interest of the public to do so. The Board may invite guests as it chooses. The Board entered closed session at 8:09 P.M. Board President Metzger restated the motion and reminded the board that its discussion would be limited to the issue in the motion. Yes: Stamm, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, and Noffsinger. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried. Invited guests were Principal Mike Rotherham and Superintendent Dallas Watkins.

President Metzger declared the Board out of closed session at 8:44 P.M.

Motion by Lorens seconded by Melchert to offer an administrative contract to Mike Rotherham as presented for the 2012-2013 school year. Yes: Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

The Board discussed personnel and staffing for 2012-2013 and Pre-School in Benkelman was discussed.

Motion by Stamm seconded by Noffsinger to adjourn at 8:49 P.M. Yes: Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Sandy Noffsinger, Secretary