

**GUTHRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE GUTHRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD, 802 EAST VILAS, GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA ON JUNE 21, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Jennifer Bennett-Johnson, Gail Davis, Janna Pierson, Travis Sallee, Tina Smedley and Sharon Watts

**Board Member Absent:** Terry Pennington

**District Level School Officials Present:** Dr. Mike Simpson, Superintendent  
Dennis Schulz, Ass't Superintendent  
Carmen Walters, Executive Director of Federal Programs/Elementary Ed  
Eldona Woodruff, Director of Special Education  
Dee Benson, Director of Technology  
Jerry Gammill, Director of Facilities  
Jessica Callaway, Director of Child Nutrition  
Cody Thompson, Director of Operations  
Dale Dorsey, Interim Director of Transportation  
Jean Watts, Deputy Minutes Clerk  
John Moyer, District Legal Counsel

- 1. The meeting was called to order by President Watts.**
- 2. Members Jennifer Bennett-Johnson, Gail Davis, Janna Pierson, Travis Sallee, Tina Smedley and Sharon Watts were present for roll call.**  
**Member Terry Pennington was not present for roll call.**
- 3. A quorum was established.**
- 4. President Watts asked everyone to stand and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 5. President Watts asked everyone to join her in a Moment of Silence.**
- 6. President Watts called for Presentation of Superintendent's Recommendation calling for a reduction in the minimum number of contract days for all GPS support personnel employed for the 2016-2017 school year, including: Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James; Kary Jarred; Pam**

**Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; Lisa Woods; and those listed on SCHEDULE A, due to lack of funds resulting from the financial crisis facing Oklahoma schools.**

**John Moyer presented the information on behalf of the Superintendent in order to advise the Board and the public on the action being considered. He explained a presentation would be made regarding the recommendation as well as instruction on how the meeting would proceed. He asked Dr. Simpson if the words presented accurately stated Dr. Simpson's recommendation to which Dr. Simpson affirmed. Mr. Moyer presented handouts to Board members and all GPS support personnel registered to speak regarding GPS finances as well as a copy of the letter sent to all GPS support personnel on June 1, 2016. Dr. Simpson confirmed the letter presented was the one sent to GPS support personnel. He explained the recommendation would guarantee GPS support personnel a minimum of 160 working days for 2016-2017 but agreed with Mr. Moyer that he believed the GPS support personnel would still be able to work the same amount of days as they did for 2015-2016.**

- 7. President Watts called for questions, if any, of the Superintendent by: Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James Kary Jarred; Pam Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; and Lisa Woods.**

**Jackie Scannell asked if taking away 20 days will affect retirement?**

**Dr. Simpson explained as long as the employee works the full amount of days on his or her contract they will still be considered having worked a full year and the employee's retirement will not be affected. This information was verified with TRS.**

**Ann Eaks asked how this recommendation will affect her paycheck?**

**Dr. Simpson explained the District is not planning to reduce anyone's pay. This action is being recommended so that the option is available to reduce 1-5 days of work if need be. Tonight is about setting a guaranteed minimum number of days worked for GPS support employees.**

- 8. President Watts called for Presentations by: Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James; Kary Jarred; Pam Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; and Lisa Woods, subject to questions by the Superintendent or his designee.**

**Mick Fredrickson requested that any decision that affects him also be applied to his Army Instructor who is in the same situation and circumstance as he is. He explained that half of his salary is paid for by the U.S. Army and he would want to make sure GPS is not**

**overpaid by them if, in fact, GPS support personnel are furloughed any days.**

**Mr. Moyer explained that he has drafted a proposed motion for item #11 and that any changes can be made as the Board so desires.**

**Member Saltee asked how significant of a budget reduction by the State would call for a reduction of work days and how would the reduction be applied? Would it be applied the same number of days across the board or would it begin with 12 month employees and go from there?**

**Dr. Simpson explained if that situation arose, a discussion would be had with the entire Board and the intent would depend on the severity of the economic crisis. He would hope that decision would be made as early as possible so the employee would not be impacted as significantly in their paychecks. This would be a Board decision.**

**Mr. Moyer stated this situation is extremely difficult to speculate on as we do not know which time of year the loss of revenue may occur or whether or not there will be a loss of other funds. Any other step regarding a cut in days worked would have to be Board approved as it is essentially affecting the school calendar.**

**Member Bennett-Johnson asked if there was Board Policy regarding carryover funds.**

**Mr. Schulz advised that Board Policy states every effort must be made to maintain a fund balance carryover of 12% each year. If that amount drops below 8% then all resources will be used to restore that fund balance to 12%.**

- 9. President Watts called for rebuttal and surrebuttal if necessary.**

**There were no rebuttals or surrebuttals.**

- 10. President Watts called for proposed executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment of: Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James; Kary Jarred; Pam Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; Lisa Woods and those listed on SCHEDULE A, as authorized by 25 OKLA STAT Section 307 B 1.**
- 10A. A motion was made Saltee and seconded by Pierson to go into executive session.**
- The motion carried with 6 ayes and 0 nays. Executive session began at 6:26 p.m.**
- 10B. President Watts acknowledged the Board's return to open session at 7:06 p.m.**
- 10C. President Watts stated that in executive session only those items listed in Agenda Item 10 were discussed and no votes were taken.**
- 11. President Watts called for discussion and vote by the Board to accept or reject the**

**Superintendent's Recommendation for a reduction in the minimum number of contract days for all GPS support personnel employed for 2016-2017 school year due to lack of funds resulting from the financial crisis facing Oklahoma schools and recitation of the facts supporting this action.**

**The following motion was made by Bennett-Johnson and seconded by Sallee:**

**Having heard the presentations, testimony and evidence presented, I move that the Superintendent's recommendation for a reduction in the minimum number of contract days to 160 days for all Guthrie Public Schools support personnel employed for the 2016 – 2017 school year due to lack of funds resulting from the financial crisis facing Oklahoma schools be approved and that the following Findings of Fact upon which this decision is based be adopted.**

- 1. On or about June 1, 2016, Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James; Kary Jarred; Pam Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; Lisa Woods; and all those Guthrie Public Schools support employees listed on SCHEDULE A, were provided written notification of the Superintendent's recommendation for a reduction in the minimum number of contract days for all GPS support personnel employed for the 2016 – 2017 school year due to lack of funds resulting from the financial crisis facing Oklahoma schools.**
- 2. Sonata Boyce; Doyle Caldwell; Ann Eaks; Kimberly Evans; Mick Fredrickson; Leola Gilstrap; Donna Goodwin; Robert Hall; Michele Hamby; Manwana Harvey; Mary Horton; Kendra James; Kary Jarred; Pam Johnson Fields; Brenda Lane; Cody Lewellyn; Heather McDonald; Delta Rains; Jackie Scannell; Linda Tucker; Nita Wainscott; Maxine West; Denise Wohldmann; Lawrence Wohldmann; LaDonna Brooks; Sheryl Miles; and Lisa Woods replied that they would be attending this hearing.**
- 3. A serious financial crisis in Oklahoma has resulted in the Guthrie Public Schools suffering a substantial reduction in state aid of in excess of \$1.6 million dollars from 2014 - 2015 to 2015 - 2016 school year and a forecast of further reductions for and during the 2016 - 2017 school year. In addition, GPS revenue per student declined in 2015 - 2016 to \$5,939 from \$6,399 in 2014 - 2015; a \$460 per student drop representing a 7.189 % decrease year over year.**
- 4. Assuming the reemployment of all support personnel identified in Finding # 1 above, Guthrie Public Schools does not have the guaranteed resources necessary to fund all 2016 - 2017 support employee contracts at the 2015 - 2016 school year levels. Guthrie Public Schools is required by the Oklahoma Constitution to balance its budget annually and is committed to doing so.**
- 5. It is in the best interest of Guthrie Public Schools that all support employee contracts for the 2016 - 2017 school year provide for a minimum of 160 days.**
- 6. The Findings set out above are supported by a preponderance of the evidence.**

7. All support personnel identified in Finding #1 above, including those listed on Schedule A, are hereby assured employment for 2016 – 2017, subject to execution of a written contract consistent with these Findings.

And that any reduction in days from the 2015-2016 school year levels due to financial shortfalls would require Guthrie Public Schools Board approval.

The motion carried with 6 ayes and 0 nays.

12. President Watts called for recommendation, consideration and action to accept any resignations tendered since the posting of the agenda.

President Watts stated there were no resignations received.

13. A motion was made by Smedley and seconded by Sallee to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried with 6 ayes and 0 nays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

  
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Jana Frey, Minutes Clerk

  
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E. Sharon Watts, Board President

APPROVED

JUL 11 2016 

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GUTHRIE, OK