

**GUTHRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 09, 2015**

**MINUTES OF THE GUTHRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING HELD AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD, 802 EAST VILAS, GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA ON MARCH 09, 2015**

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

**District Level School Officials Present:** Dr. Mike Simpson, Superintendent  
Dennis Schulz, Ass't Superintendent  
Doug Ogle, Executive Director of Personnel/Secondary Ed  
Carmen Walters, Executive Director of Federal Programs/Elementary Ed  
Eldona Woodruff, Director of Special Education  
Jerry Gammill, Director of Facilities  
Dee Benson, Director of Technology  
Steve Cordell, Director of Transportation  
Jean Watts, Deputy Minutes Clerk

1. The meeting was called to order by President Pennington.
2. Members Jennifer Bennett-Johnson, Gail Davis, Janna Pierson, Travis Sallee, Tina Smedley, Sharon Watts and Terry Pennington were present for roll call.
3. A quorum was established.
4. President Pennington asked everyone present to stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. President Pennington called for Student Recognition.

Superintendent Simpson introduced Mr. Jerry Gammill, Director of Facilities, and Dr. Lacy Hoel and Mr. H.C. Patel of the Guthrie Kiwanis Club. They introduced GHS student Katie Dronberger who was named Sophomore of the Year. She was presented a plaque and a \$250 cash award. Mr. Patel stated Ms. Dronberger was selected among several applicants.

6. President Pennington introduced Mr. Brian Billings from Sonic of East Guthrie.

Mr. Brian Billings from Sonic East presented a check for \$7,000 to Principal Dani Watson from Central Elementary School. This is an annual donation made by Mr. Billings for a number of years. In years past, Mr. Billings had donated \$1,000.00 to each site to use where

the sites felt most needed. He stated 2 years ago he would like to make one large donation to a site whose name had been randomly selected in a drawing. He felt the larger contribution could better be used for a purchase that the school otherwise would not have the funds to do. He thanked Guthrie Schools and stated he hoped to be able to continue the donation for many years. Superintendent Simpson thanked Mr. Billings for his generosity in helping the students of our community.

7. **President Pennington called for presentation of Certified and Support Employee of the Month.**

**Mr. Doug Ogle, Executive Director of Personnel and Secondary Education, announced the award winners for March: Rusty Crockett, Kindergarten PE teacher, as certified employee of the month and Janet Ludlow, GUES Paraprofessional, as support employee of the month. Nomination letters were read by the staff member who submitted the nominations: Mr. Doug Ogle read the nomination letter submitted by Ms. Carmen Brown, Cotteral Elementary teacher, for Rusty Crockett and Mr. Jeff Ball, GUES Assistant Principal, read the nomination letter submitted by Ms. Kara Walters, GUES Special Education teacher, for Janet Ludlow.**

**Mr. Ogle presented the award winners a plaque and a \$25.00 Sonic Gift Card donated by the Guthrie Lions Club.**

- 8A. **President Pennington asked the Superintendent if there were any citizens registered to speak to the Board.**

**Superintendent Simpson stated there were no citizens registered to speak to the Board.**

- 8B. **President Pennington called for any comments to the Board by Board members.**

**There were no comments by Board members.**

**President Pennington spoke on recent committee appointments.**

9. **President Pennington called for the Superintendent's Reports.**

**Superintendent Simpson reported on the following:**

**Condolences were given to the Chappell family for the passing of a former school board member, Hollie Chappell, who was the Father and Grandfather of several staff members.**

**GPS will be hosting a candidate forum for the City Council and Mayoral election. The forum will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Guthrie High School Cafeteria.**

**Appreciation was given to Bancfirst and Laverne Dowding as they have offered to sponsor a teacher to attend the National Creativity World Forum in Oklahoma City on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Stated this conference will have approximately 1,500 attendees who come together to celebrate ideas across multiple disciplines. Attendees will include entrepreneurs, educators, business leaders, students, community and cultural leaders and technology experts. Stated we would be working with our Curriculum Directors to identify the lucky teacher.**

**The Chamber Coffee scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at Fogarty Elementary has been rescheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Another Chamber Coffee is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at a school site to be determined.**

**Congratulations were given to Alex Nelson for finishing state runner up at the State Wrestling tournament.**

**Congratulations were given to our Girls Basketball team for advancing to the Area Tournament and finishing with a record of 14-11.**

**Reported that we have exhausted our built in snow days which were at the end of the calendar. The last day of school will now be Friday, May 22.**

**Special thanks were given to the City of Guthrie and County Commissioners for their road work during the recent inclement weather. He especially wanted to thank our maintenance, custodial and transportation staff for what they do to make our students safe every day but especially during our most recent bout with challenging weather.**

**Stated plans are in process to present a revision to the school calendar at the April Board Meeting for the 2015-2016 school year with regard to Spring Break. We have been in discussion with Stillwater Schools and Meridian Technology Center to align our Spring Breaks with the majority of schools statewide. Stated this is a goal that we are working to accomplish in cooperation with the other entities.**

**Reported that the legislative session is in full swing. The State is trying to patch a \$611 million hole in revenue that accounts for estimated effects of less Gross Production Tax and a lowering of sales tax as Oklahomans have less money to spend. This figure also accounts for the lowered income tax because the economic growth in 2014 met the “trigger” that stipulated the tax would be lowered. This in turn has school districts being told to brace for a potential cut to state aid for the 2015-2016 school year that could be as high as 5%. Consequently, at this time, all bills aimed at a raise for teachers are considered dormant.**

**Stated while at the National Superintendent’s Conference, two issues became clear: (1) All States believe we have too much testing (2) Not all states are experiencing the teacher shortages we have in Oklahoma (approximately 800 statewide currently) which speaks more to our salaries than ever in his career as an educator.**

- 10. President Pennington called for Transportation Department Update.**

**Mr. Steve Cordell, Director of Transportation, and Mr. Dean Mileto, Director of Staff Development with TransPar, gave a power point presentation on improvements within the transportation department for 2014-2015 and goals for 2015-2016.**

- 11. President Pennington called for any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.**

**Member Davis requested Item 10A be removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration.**

**A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Sallee to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 10A.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

**A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Watts to approve Item 10A, Minutes of regular meeting held on February 9, 2015.**

**The motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 abstention - Member Davis abstaining.**

- 12A. President Pennington called for presentation of the 2013-2014 audit by Putnam and Company, LLC.**

**Superintendent Simpson introduced Ms. Amy Ziemba of Putnam and Company, LLC who presented the 2013-2014 audit. Ms. Ziemba stated there were no material weaknesses found in the District's internal accounting control and praised the staff for their work.**

- 12B. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action upon contract renewal with Municipal Accounting Systems, Inc. for providing software and support for financial accounting, personnel, child nutrition, student information programs including student gradebooks.**

**A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Davis to approve contract renewal with Municipal Accounting Systems, Inc. for providing software and support for financial accounting, personnel, child nutrition, student information programs including student gradebooks.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 12C. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action to approve E-rate Technology Plan for 2015-2018.**

**Discussion followed.**

**A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Bennett-Johnson to approve E-rate Technology Plan for 2015-2018.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 12D. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action to approve E-rate contracts for 2015-2016.**

**A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Smedley to approve E-rate contracts for 2015-2016.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 12E. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action upon request for Special Education students to attend State Special Olympics Summer Games May 13-15, 2015.**

**A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Watts to approve request for Special Education students to attend State Special Olympics Summer Games May 13-15, 2015.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 12F. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action upon K-8 Remedial Summer School Program.**

**A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Smedley to approve K-8 Remedial Summer School Program.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 12G. President Pennington called for consideration and possible action on a resolution authorizing the calling and holding of a special election on May 12, 2015 for the purpose of submitting to the registered, qualified voters of the Guthrie School District the question of the issuance of bonds for (i) repairing, renovating and making improvements to Central Elementary School, Fogarty Elementary School, Guthrie Upper Elementary School and Guthrie High School, including but not limited to, roof replacement, replacement of HVAC unit ventilators, window replacement and tuck point exterior repair; (ii) acquiring classroom technology equipment, including additional computers, software licenses and service agreements at sites district wide; and (iii) constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new elementary school to be located just East of the intersection of Douglas and Charter Oak to accommodate increased student growth in the southern part of the school district which will have a planned capacity of five hundred (500) students and will be approximately 50,000 square feet in size.**

**Discussion followed.**

**A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Bennett-Johnson to approve the resolution as read with the inclusion of Guthrie Junior High School.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

- 13. President Pennington called for proposed executive session for the purpose of discussing employment of personnel, FMLA requests, resignation/separation from employment and transfer of position requests all as set out on the Personnel Reports, discussion of all building level administrator's contracts as listed for 2016-2017 and discussion of extra-duty assignments for 2014-2015, disclosure of which information would violate the confidentiality requirements of state and/or federal law all pursuant to 25 OKLA. STAT. Section 307 (B) 1 and 7.**

- 13A. A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Davis to go into executive session.**

**The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays. Executive session began at 7:55 p.m.**

- 13B. President Pennington acknowledged the Board's return to open session at 8:29 p.m.**

- 13C. President Pennington stated that in executive session only those items listed in Agenda Item 13 were discussed and no votes were taken.**

- 14. President Pennington called for a vote on action as set out on the Personnel Reports.**

**A motion was made by Davis and seconded by Pierson to approve action as set out on the Personnel Reports.**

The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

15. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action upon building level administrator's contracts as listed for 2015-2016 without specification for salary or assignment.

A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Smedley to approve building level administrator's contracts as listed for 2015-2015 without specification for salary or assignment.

The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

16. President Pennington called for action upon recommendation of extra-duty assignments as listed for 2014-2015.

A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Bennett-Johnson to approve extra-duty assignments as listed for 2014-2015.

The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

17. President Pennington called for recommendation, consideration and action to accept any resignations offered since the posting of the agenda.

Superintendent Simpson stated there were no new resignations.

18. President Pennington called for discussion and possible action on new business not known about or could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time of the agenda posting.

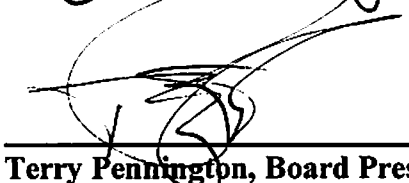
Superintendent Simpson stated there was no new business.

19. A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Bennett-Johnson to adjourn the meeting.


The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jana Frey, Minutes Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Pennington, Board President

APPROVED

APR 13 2015 

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GUTHRIE, OK