



*Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning*

## **Board of Education Meeting Summary November 9th \* 6pm \* WMS Library**

Below you will find highlights from the November 9th, 2020 Board of Education Meeting. The complete agenda can be found at [USD 353.com](http://USD353.com). A replay of the live stream of the meeting can be found on the USD 353 website. Please note that this is only a summary to provide a timely recap of each BOE meeting. Approved minutes posted by the Board Clerk can be found at [USD353.com](http://USD353.com) under the Board of Education tab.

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### **Discussion Items:**

- **WMS Presentation**

WMS Principal Jason Halling and Assistant Principal Brian Aufdengarten gave an update on Wellington Middle School. They spoke about the challenges and successes of the hybrid/remote schedule, behavior trends and initiatives, highlighted some classes, and answered questions from the BOE.

- **Facilities Plan**

The BOE agreed at the Oct. BOE meeting to have a representative from DCS Services present at the Nov. meeting. Brett Miller from DCS was in attendance and gave the BOE more information on their services and what it entails. If approved, DCS would assess all USD 353 facilities and help make a prioritized list of projects including cost and a plan to complete these projects. This could include improvements, repairs and any new projects. They would also assist with the bidding process as well, once a project was approved to begin. Their fee for the assessment and plan is \$7,500.

- **Financial Strategies**

Dustin Avey from Piper-Sandler was present to discuss the financials of the district and possible strategies for financial planning moving forward.

- **WRC Board Nomination**

The Wellington Recreation Commission (WRC) board of directors voted to nominate Betty Zeka to serve another 4 years on the WRC board. This nomination needs USD 353 BOE approval.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Betty Zeka to another 4 year term on the WRC Board.

Motion passed 7-0

- **SPARK Money Purchases**

Dr. Kern and Wendy Goodrum presented bids for items the district would like to purchase using Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) funds the school has received. SPARK is a program that awards money to help the state recover from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. The program was part of the federal CARES Act. Dr. Kern reported at the Oct. BOE meeting that the district is looking at spending this money to bolster technology for the district to enhance remote and online learning. She emphasized at this meeting that the district is being mindful and making sure all purchases will benefit the district in the long term, not just during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SPARK funds must be used by Dec. 31st of 2020. The BOE was presented with some of the items the district would like to purchase. Due to the quick turnaround, not all of these items had the three bids needed at the time of the meeting. The items included: Chromebooks for students and staff, remote video equipment, and the online portion of the ELA curriculum for WMS and WHS.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the items the district would like to purchase using the lowest bids when they come in.

Motion passed 7-0

- **Negotiated Agreement**

The teachers have ratified the 2020-21 Negotiated Agreement and it was available for discussion. There was little discussion and the BOE took action to approve the agreement.

A motion was made and seconded that the BOE approve the negotiated agreement.

Motion passed 7-0

- **Enrollment Planning Session**

Mr. Hatfield asked to set a date for a planning session this month regarding enrollment numbers in the district. He suggested and the BOE agreed to set the date for Monday. Nov. 23rd.

- **Remote Learning**

Dr. Kern presented on the district's Remote Learning operations in order to give the BOE more insight on what remote learning entails. Brianna Young, 1st grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary, recorded a lesson with her remote students and also facilitated a Q&A with the parents of these students.

- **Winter Sports League Guidelines**

Luke Smith presented to the BOE regarding the AVCTL and USD 353 health guidelines for winter sports. League guidelines are attached to this email. USD 353 guidelines can be accessed [here](#)

- **K-5 Information**

Mr. Hatfield informed the BOE that, as requested, he has met with administrators and teachers to begin the process of making a plan for full on-site learning for grades K-5 even if the schools are operating in the hybrid (yellow) phase.

- **Facility Rental**

The BOE requested discussion regarding the rental of USD 353 facilities during the pandemic. The original reopening plan states that no outside organizations would be able to rent or utilize USD 353 facilities until the district was operating in a green phase with the exception of WRC teams. The BOE discussed the possibility, some citing concerns, of changing this policy and allowing outside organizations to go ahead and rent and utilize facilities regardless of the phase schools are operating in. The BOE agreed to have all requests for renting and utilizing facilities be brought to them with the local youth wrestling club being the most recent request.

A motion was made and seconded, to allow the youth wrestling club to utilize USD 353 facilities for practice.

Motion passed 4-3.

**Action Items:**

- **Audit Approval Action**

Last month, USD 353 accountant, Harold Mayes, discussed the USD 353 financial audit with the BOE. It was presented for approval at this meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the USD 353 financial audit.

Motion passed 7-0.

**Executive Session:**

BOE went into executive session for 20 minutes, beginning with a 5 minute break, to discuss non-elected personnel.

Motion passed 7-0.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Approve the Minutes of the October 12th Meeting

- Approve Payroll and Bills

Payroll: \$1,098,514.38

Bills: \$662,226.22

Transfers: At-Risk \$200,000

Vocational-\$50,000

- Personnel

Approve Resignations:

-Rick Roitman- WHS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Approve New Hires

-Robin Nichols- Float Custodian -WHS

-Patrick Mitchell- Float Custodian-WMS

-Troy Wylie- SRO

-Piper Fisher- Para- Washington Elementary

-Colton Zimmerman- WHS Freshman Boys Basketball Coach

A motion was made and seconded to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Passed 7-0