



NORTHERN VALLEY SCHOOLS USD 212

DISTRICT OFFICE
512 WEST BRYANT PO BOX 217
ALMENA KS 67622



ALMENA

PHONE (785) 669-2445

LONG ISLAND

A Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northern Valley Schools was held Wednesday, July 5, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Almena High School , 512 W Bryant Street, Almena, KS 67622.

Shanna Hammond: Present
Christopher Rogers: Present
Laquita Smith: Present
Hilary Van Patten: Present
Rich Wenzl: Present
Steven Whitney: Absent

Also in attendance are Ken Tharman, Superintendent/HS principal and Marvin Gebhard, GS/Jr High principal, and Amber Brown, Board clerk. K-9 Deputy Ryan Blecha and his drug dog, Jaida from Norton Sheriff's Department

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Agenda

I recommend the board approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Christopher Rogers, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea
Christopher Rogers: Yea
Laquita Smith: Yea
Hilary Van Patten: Yea
Rich Wenzl: Yea
Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

III. Approval of Minutes

I recommend the board approve the minutes as presented. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Rich Wenzl, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea
Christopher Rogers: Yea
Laquita Smith: Yea
Hilary Van Patten: Yea
Rich Wenzl: Yea
Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

IV. Approval of Bills

I recommend the board approve the bills as presented. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Christopher Rogers, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea



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Hammond:

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

V. Hearing of Visitors

A. K-9 Deputy Ryan T. Blecha and Jaida

Deputy Blecha shared with the board two programs he wishes to bring to Northern Valley. Adopt-A-Cop is designed to encourage more of a law enforcement presence around students to build positive relationships. This is done with frequent visits, allowing his canine partner, Jaida, to interact with students, and involvement with students at P.E., recess, etc. The second area is K-9 Deployment; this program has random drug dog walk-throughs of the buildings and parking lots. These would be done monthly and whole-ground deployment quarterly. I recommend the board approve the agreement to be a part of the K-9 Deployment and the Adopt-A-Cop programs. This motion, made by Rich Wenzl and seconded by Laquita Smith, Carried.

Shanna

Hammond: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

K-9 Deputy Ryan T. Blecha and Jaida left the meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Summer Projects

Mr. Tharman updated the board on the summer projects: summer staff are cleaning rooms, buffing floors, touching up paint, cleaning closets and storage areas, installing shelves, and many other things. We have a good group this summer. Gutter work in Long Island is still on the agenda. We need to add dirt around many of the buildings to keep water away from the foundation, grout work is planned once Mid-Continental Restoration completes last, HS and LI gyms will have annual work done, LI concrete floor work is complete and curing (looks awesome), GS NE exit door has been installed, and carpet is planned to be installed within the month.

B. Transportation

Mr. Gebhard updated the board on a new rule change. School districts are no longer restricted from crossing into neighboring districts for pick-ups. There is still a general courtesy of notification if that is done, however. This in some ways allows more freedom but also adds complexity to bus routes and times.



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It was decided to inform parents at enrollment that busing arrangements are able to be made for those out-of-district students, but what that exactly looks like, is still to be determined.

C. K - 12 Handbook

I recommend the board approve the K-12 handbook as presented. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Shanna Hammond, Carried.

Shanna
Hammond: Yea

Christopher
Rogers: Yea

Laquita
Smith: Yea

Hilary Van
Patten: Yea

Rich
Wenzl: Yea

Steven
Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

D. Long Island Lawn Care

There were two parties interested in pursuing Long Island lawn care. There was much discussion involving tasks to be done, financial considerations, and the use of equipment. I recommend that Jimmy Winchel mows the lawn, on a trial basis, to allow a more complete bid, per his request. This motion, made by Christopher Rogers and seconded by Rich Wenzl, Carried.

Shanna
Hammond: Yea

Christopher
Rogers: Yea

Laquita
Smith: Yea

Hilary Van
Patten: Yea

Rich
Wenzl: Yea

Steven
Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII. Personnel

A. Staffing

I recommend the board go into executive session to discuss nonelected personnel matters to protect the privacy interests of the individual to be discussed; retaining Mr. Gebhard and Mr. Tharman and returning to open session in this room at 7:52 PM. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Laquita Smith, Carried.

Shanna
Hammond: Yea

Christopher Yea



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Rogers:

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Board returned to open session at 7:52 PM; no action was taken.

B. Long Island Janitor Position

I recommend hiring Silvia Marquez for the Long Island janitor position with a start date of August 1st. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Christopher Rogers, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

C. Substitute Teachers

Mr. Tharman shared information he had collected from superintendents across the state of Kansas in regard to substitute pay, teachers' leave times, time cards, benefits, etc. I recommend the board raise the substitute teacher pay to \$120 and increase (after five long-term sub days) to \$140 using the current 1/2, 3/4, and full-day divisions. This motion, made by Christopher Rogers and seconded by Laquita Smith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond: Yea

Christopher Rogers: Yea

Laquita Smith: Yea

Hilary Van Patten: Yea

Rich Wenzl: Yea

Steven Whitney: Absent



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Whitney:

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII. New Business

A. Consent Calendar

Breakfast and lunch prices were raised by fifteen cents. Reduced prices are set by the state and did not change. I recommend the board approve the Consent Calendar and Fees as presented for the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Laquita Smith, Carried.

Shanna

Hammond: Yea

Christopher

Rogers: Yea

Laquita

Smith: Yea

Hilary Van

Patten: Yea

Rich

Wenzl: Yea

Steven

Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

B. Appointments: Professional Development, KASB Governmental Relations, Negotiations, and NCKSEC Interlocal #636

I recommend we leave everyone on the committee where they are: Mrs. Hammond on the Professional Development Committee, Mr. Wenzl on the KASB Government Relations Committee, Mrs. Van Patten and Mrs. Smith on the Negotiations Committee, and Mr. Rogers on the NCKSEC Representative. This motion, made by Laquita Smith and seconded by Rich Wenzl, Carried.

Shanna

Hammond: Yea

Christopher

Rogers: Yea

Laquita

Smith: Yea

Hilary Van

Patten: Yea

Rich

Wenzl: Yea

Steven

Whitney: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

C. Unencumbered Cash Balances

Mr. Tharman shared with the board the process he and Amber had used to close out the fiscal year 2023 and gave them a copy of the unencumbered balance report that had been sent to KSDE.

IX. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent / 9-12 Principal Report

Ryan working on getting server information moved to the cloud and making staff computers able to access that information/ Kacie getting staff supplies ordered and organized once they arrive/ EOYA report to



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KIDS/ Amber doing payroll and getting classified staff set up to start using AptaTime/ Both Kacie and Amber closing out FY23 and doing rollover for FY24/ Match day was successful... a big thank you to all that donated and helped get the word out for raising funds for a new set of pole vaulting mats - still accepting donations if anyone is so inclined/ Finished ESSER quarterly report/ DLT meeting tomorrow to compile information for board on Building Needs Assessment/ Amber working on communicating with KDOC about help with putting dirt around school buildings to keep water away/ If anyone has dirt they would like to donate and a truck to haul it, please contact Mr. Tharman/ Mr. Gebhard and Mr. Tharman have each contacted some local contractors to assist with larger summer projects/ LCP (Title I) Annual Review due July 14th- Mrs. Hueneke putting together that information/ Budget Review in Topeka on July 17th/ Enrollment will be August 1st & 2nd.

B. K-8 Principal Report

Mr. Gebhard reported that the hallway in LI looks great/ Leo Graham had been contacted to do some maintenance work in Long Island/ K - 3rd-grade teachers have started their LTRS training that will consist of several meetings throughout the school year/ and interviews will start next week for the Para-professional position.

X. Reports of Board Members

XI. Adjournment

I move to adjourn. This motion, made by Shanna Hammond and seconded by Laquita Smith, Carried.

Shanna Hammond:	Yea
Christopher Rogers:	Yea
Laquita Smith:	Yea
Hilary Van Patten:	Yea
Rich Wenzl:	Yea
Steven Whitney:	Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.