

**Meeting of the Gentry Board of Education
District #19
Minutes of the Board of Education**

Meeting	Type	Location	Time	Date
No. 16	Special	PAC	5:00 pm	January 31, 2024

Present:

David Williamson - President
Jim Barnes -Vice President
Melissa Holland - Secretary
Gary Dunlap- Member
Becky Burkhalter - Member
Stacy Nations - Member
Chad Amos -Member

Absent:

1. Call to order

David Williamson called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm with seven (7) Board Members present. Ms. DePaola, Mrs. Toland, Mr. Harper and Mr. Barrett was present. Mr. Moll was present to represent the local press and Morgan Tucker, parent who served on the Superintendent interview committee was present.

2.Moment of Silence

Observed

3. Interviews

Dr. Aarol “Tyler” Broyles was introduced as the first candidate to be interviewed for Superintendent.

Dr. Broyles gave his background in education. He started out as a non traditional Teacher. He is a first generation college graduate, a graduate of Law school, he has a Doctorate. Teaches an online law class at NWACC. Taught math and Social students as a teacher. He put himself on the fast track to be a Superintendent.

Melissa Holland made a motion to go into executive session for the interview at 5:07 pm

and Stacy Nations seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

The Board returned from executive session at 5:36 pm and the meeting was called to order.

Leigh Carter was introduced as the second candidate to be interviewed for Superintendent.

Dr. Carter took the Superintendent test in 2004. She earned her Doctorate in 2005. She became the Assistant Superintendent in Mountain Home, AR in 2010 for 10 years. She has spent 4 years as Academic Support/ESL at Siloam Springs. She said her background has prepared for the role of Superintendent.

Melissa Holland made a motion to go into executive session for the interview at 5:39 pm and Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

The Board returned from executive session at 6:46 pm and the meeting was called to order for Regular session.

Stacy Nations made a motion to to extend the offer of Superintendent effective July 1, 2024 to Dr. Aarol Tyler Broyles and Melissa Holland seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

4. Facilities and Transportation

Mr. Barrett reported that he had spoken to Hellis and they will extend the bid for the Baseball and Softball turf for 30 days. Hellis offers a lease purchase for the turf if needed. There was a discussion about the options to continue with this project. The question was asked about the building fund balance.

Ms. DePaola reported that it wouldn't be right to take the building fund so low with a new Superintendent coming in. Gentry is growing and may need an additional modular building.

Mrs. Toland reported that we are working on maximizing the class sizes and as of right now we have room to grow.

Mr. Barrett - Right now to build a new High school the cost is approximately \$350 per square foot for Approximately \$50 million. Partnership is only part of funding.

Chad Amos asked at what point during the school year do we have a surplus to replenish

the building fund for what has been taken out?

Ms. DePaola and Mrs. Toland both said they look for the positives.

Stacy Nations asked if the 7 period day will help?

Ms. DePaola said there will be a presentation about the 7 period day at the next Board Meeting

Mrs. Toland said it will help with class size. Core classes are very full. The presentation will go over several different scenarios.

Stacy Nations said it will be exciting for the classes to be longer.

Ms. DePaola asked what does the Board want to do about the turf?

Melissa Holland-We just need to make a decision the fields are bad and all sports should be equally important.

Ms. DePaola- we just can't do them all at once.

Melissa Holland- The longer we wait the more expensive it will be.

Can't justify not getting the turf for softball and baseball. We are grateful that money was saved. I don't think a new person is going to think we drained the fund. We are getting something we have needed for a long time.

Gary Dunlap- struggles with not letting the new Superintendent make the decision. Let him have a vested interest in the decision.

Ms. DePaola- The turf could be financed. I am willing to check with the local banks to see if they can offer a better rate

Chad Amos- The problem with financing is the interest. By the time we have it paid off the warranty is gone and it is time to replace the turf again.

Ms. DePaola- maybe by then you will have the established donations.

Melissa Holland- how will the donations be set aside.

Ms. DePaola- The donor decides how the funds are spent.

Melissa Holland- it hurts to hear our fields are the worst in the conference.

Chad Amos- I understand that, but we need the concession stand and bathrooms as well. We need to complete this project in stages.

Ms. DePaola- Do you want to take a vote? Make a recommendation?

Just the turf for Softball and Baseball.

Stacy Nations if they are willing to give us 30 more days, we can get some more information and make more informed decisions.

Stacy Nations made the recommendation to get more information from the vendor on financing the turf for the fields and Jim Barnes seconded the recommendation. The vote carried 7-0.

5. Minutes

Ms. DePaola gave a report on the updated calendar. We are restructuring some stuff and will not need to add any minutes to the school day. Staff will have to make the days up at the end of the school year. If the staff works on April 19 they will not have to go into June. This will be brought for a vote at the February meeting.

6. Adjourn

Melissa Holland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm and Stacy Nations seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0