

Hoxie Public School
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT
P.O. Box 240
HOXIE, ARKANSAS 72433
APRIL BOARD MINUTES

The Hoxie School Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2015, at 7 o'clock with all members present. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Romine, seconded by Mr. Dobbs with a unanimous decision.

There was no public input, so the board proceeded to the next agenda item which was hearing from Tim Cowen and Tom Sears concerning placing turf on the football, baseball, and softball fields. Mr. Cowen did a presentation for the board, stating that he and Mr. Sears had visited some businesses and individuals in and around Hoxie and most were very positive about the project. Mr. Cowen pointed out that presently, water was standing on the football field and track, and placing a turf field would alleviate the drainage problem by moving the water from the field area to the ditch behind the field. He also stated that a turf field would allow use of the fields for many activities, including P.E., recess, partnering with Williams Baptist College, and many other possibilities. The field could be used 5 minutes after a rain. Mr. Cowen stated that a turf field has been proven safer than a grass field and would be much easier to maintain. The board discussed many options concerning raising funds to go toward financing the project and exactly what part the school would play in the process. Mr. Hart suggested the board look at paying half the cost over a ten year period. All board members agreed they felt the school should commit to the project. Mr. Hart asked Superintendent Baker to research our finances to see what he felt the school could commit to without financially hurting the district. Although the board decided to not take any action, they stated they would like to study the possibilities of providing up to half the project cost over a ten year period, if feasible. If not feasible, they stated they would like to do whatever the budget would allow. The superintendent stated that he would like to see the project encompass baseball, softball, track and football. He stated that this would provide significant practice and play time for all sports and would dress up the campus. The board agreed and wished to promote the entire project for the betterment of Hoxie School and community. The board authorized Mr. Sears and Mr. Cowen to continue with the project and to seek as much other independent funding as possible.

The superintendent presented the financial report. After the financial report, the superintendent informed the board, and the public (per these board minutes), the findings of the last legislative audit. Superintendent Baker informed the board that there were no findings, and the district was in compliance with state and local laws. The board accepted the financial report and the audit report on a motion by Mr. Worlow, and a second by Mr. Dobbs, with a unanimous decision.

On a motion by Mr. Romine, seconded by Mr. Gates, with a unanimous decision, the board took the recommendation of the superintendent to accept the resignations of Kevin Reddick as Assistant Elementary/High School Administrator and Ruth Mercado as an Elementary Teacher, and to also accept the retirement of Susie Jones as the High School Librarian.

On a motion by Mr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Worlow, with a unanimous decision, the board took the recommendation of the superintendent to hire Jordon Blake as a Secondary Art Instructor, on a probationary status for the 2015-2016 school year.

On a motion by Mr. Romine, and a second by Mr. Worlow, with a unanimous decision, the board took the recommendation of the superintendent to hire Jennifer Huff as Curriculum Director, effective the upcoming week and placing her on a twelve month contract on a probationary status for the 2015-2016 school year. Tami Watson, retired elementary teacher, was asked to assist Jennifer in her third grade classroom for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year.

The superintendent presented a proposed 2015-16 school year calendar to the board. On a motion by Mr. Dobbs, seconded by Mr. Worlow, with a unanimous decision, the board accepted the 2015-2016 calendar as presented. (copy attached)

On a motion by Mr. Romine, seconded by Mr. Gates, with a unanimous decision, the board took the recommendation of the superintendent to renew the contracts of non-certified employees for the 2015-2016 school year (list attached), but to table the contracts of the custodians until June to evaluate the SG360 cleaning service which was hired for a probationary period.

Administrative Reports.

Mrs. Gates informed the board that the elementary had been testing every week for the entire month of March and that there was not a lot to report otherwise, with testing being such a priority. She informed the board of a newspaper article stating the Freedom of Choice deadline date had been moved back for this year and that our school was trying to get information out to the public that the forms had to be in by May 1st, versus the last year's deadline of June 1st.

Mrs. Gillham also said the high school had been testing all month and was still in progress. She stated that the 2015 Jr./Sr. Prom was a success. She mentioned that the FFA chapter had an auction last Friday night and it too was a success with over a hundred people in attendance, raising over \$5,000. Mrs. Gillham passed out a calendar of events for the remainder of the school year. She also informed that Mrs. Donna Pinkston was honored by being named the Secondary Counselor of the Year.

