

MINUTES OF THE  
Special Meeting of the  
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Douglas High School  
April 22, 2009  
5:00 p.m.

***Minutes Approved  
May 20, 2009***

Present:

**Trustees:**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Cynthia Trigg  | President      |
| Thomas Moore   | Vice President |
| Keith Roman    | Clerk          |
| Karen Chessell | Member         |
| Randy Green    | Member         |
| Sharla Hales   | Member         |
| Teri Jamin     | Member         |

Present:

**Personnel:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Carol Lark     | Superintendent                               |
| Nancy Bryant   | Assistant Superintendent, Education Services |
| Rich Alexander | Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources    |

Absent:

|            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Holly Luna | Director of Business Services |
|------------|-------------------------------|

Present:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Mike Malloy    | Attorney  |
| Randy Cahill   | NSEA UniServ Director   |
| Susan Lacey    | President, Douglas County Professional<br>Education Association |
| Debbie Haskins | President, Douglas County Support Staff<br>Organization         |

Mrs. Trigg called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Mr. Green led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Chessell moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ms. Jamin.  
Motion carried, 7/0.

1. Additional Budget Reduction (Action)

Mrs. Trigg read the additional budget reduction action item as published in the Special Meeting Agenda.

Mrs. Lark, Superintendent, began by emphasizing the reason for discussion of additional budget cuts was to have a contingency plan that allowed the District to meet contractual

requirements. Mrs. Lark provided recommendations and explanations that resulted from a meeting of the Leadership Team. The meeting held on this date, was reported to have involved twenty five administrators and directors who had come to consensus as to the best recommendations for \$500,000 in additional budget cuts.

Prior to the administrative meeting, Mrs. Lark stated she believed the best recommendation for an additional \$500,000 budget reduction would be to increase class size by one student. Although, this recommendation to the Board was no longer supported, it was noted that grade levels had not been targeted. Mrs. Lark stated the change in her recommendation, was due to a concern regarding the number of teachers that would be reduced at the secondary level, if both elementary and secondary class sizes were considered for an increase of one.

The following is a list of additional recommended budget cuts contingent upon final legislative decisions:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) Restructuring of the GT program      | \$ 154,000        |
| 2) Library staffing restructure         | \$ 50,000         |
| 3) JHS program restructure              | \$ 65,000         |
| 4) Counselor work year decrease/partial | \$ 40,000         |
| 5) Educational field trips              | \$ 36,000         |
| 6) Reduce support personnel/partial     | <u>\$ 155,000</u> |
|   | <u>\$ 500,000</u> |

Mrs. Lark stated that another option for obtaining the \$500,000 in savings would be to negotiate with personnel groups to freeze all salaries.

Explanations were provided for each of the categories and time allotted for Board discussion.

Mrs. Hales arrived at 5:33 p.m.

The Board was mindful of some additional issues. Questions were raised regarding consideration for increasing class size at the elementary level, as well as, the need for further review of the spreadsheet listing all possible budget reductions in three tiers.

Mrs. Lark asked the Board to create a motion with regard to the budget reduction recommendations provided, as an emergency measure, should it become necessary for the District to implement additional reductions.

Mrs. Trigg called for public comment on this issue and stated protocol for those wishing to speak.

Randy Cahill, NSEA UniServ Director, commented that both classified and certified employees affected by financial resource determinations made by the District, would be reviewed for validity through legal means, subsequent to legislative final decisions.

Approximately ten community members and students spoke in support of continuing to provide agricultural career and technical education courses for students.

Nate Leising, DCSD parent, stated his support of reducing administrative staff, rather than teachers who directly impacted the classroom.

Martha Batchter, CVMS librarian, addressed the Board expressing concerns of restructuring library personnel. The use of unlicensed, nonteaching personnel was stated to not encompass the same support for student achievement as the current program structure. Another concern expressed was that a head librarian was not currently designated to oversee district wide library operations should a decision be made to decrease certified personnel.

The issue of increasing class size at the elementary level was further discussed. This included the fact that a reduction of three teaching positions would be incurred with salary and benefit savings, current teacher to student ratios were noted, and the cut off in class size necessary to maintain a high level of student achievement was questioned.

A break was taken at 5:58 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:12 p.m.

Ms. Jamin moved to approve the staff recommendation list of six items, with the understanding that these would be programs and positions that would be first reinstated should funding allow, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried 5/2, Mr. Moore and Mrs. Hales, nay.

## 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment on issues other than budget cuts.

## 3. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Mr. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chessell. Motion carried, 7/0.

Submitted by,

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*Carolyn Moore*  
*Secretary to the Board of Trustees*

Approved:

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Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meeting held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.