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*Russell County USD 407 is dedicated to providing a culture of learning  
that will lead the state of Kansas in student success.*

- Goal 1:** USD 407 will improve communication from the district to the internal and external publics by May of 2022.
- Goal 2:** USD 407 will provide updated and safe facilities to meet the educational needs of students by May of 2022.
- Goal 3:** USD 407 will increase the percentage of successful high school graduates from 73% to 90% by May of 2022.
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54-022	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER &amp; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b></p> <p>President Raeleen Reinhardt called the USD 407 Board of Education special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Central Administration Office. Additional board members in attendance were Deanna Myers, Kevin Ochs, Kathy Wallert, and Ron Wedel. Mrs. Wallert led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Matt Nichols arrived later during the meeting. Brett Mai was absent.</p> <p>Administrators in attendance were Superintendent Shelly Swayne; Josh Stephenson, Russell High School Principal; Scott Nuss, Activities Director; Jordan Perez, Ruppenthal Middle School Principal; Andrew Dempewolf, Bickerdyke Elementary School Principal; Katie Revell, Simpson Elementary School Principal; and Brenda Odgers, Special Education Director. Cody Campbell, IT Director, and Board Clerk Jane Cline were also in attendance.</p> <p>Guests in the audience included Char Sohm, Albert Linn representing Russell County News, and David Elliott representing KRSL Radio.</p>
54-023	<p><b>WORK SESSION - USD 407 BOARD GOALS AND FOCUS AREAS</b></p> <p>Ms. Swayne led discussion as board members dissected the current goals to highlight successes and weaknesses in meeting the outcomes. Board members were asked to define priorities so that administration and classroom leaders understand the scope of work. Additional information was requested to adjust action statements to continue goal progression.</p> <p><i>Dr. Nichols arrived at 5:39 p.m.</i></p> <p><b>Goal 1: Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Campbell was directed to include a data analysis section to his monthly report to</li></ul>

review access to the website and social media sites.

- Ms. Swayne was asked to set up a schedule to determine the best opportunities for board members to visit the schools without causing disruption.

*Dr. Nichols stepped out of the meeting to take a phone call at 5:48 p.m. and returned at 5:54 p.m.*

**Goal 2: Facilities**

Ms. Swayne was directed to research and provide costs for the following:

- Asbestos abatement at Ruppenthal Middle School and Simpson Elementary School,
- 15-year lease/purchase option for Ruppenthal Middle School,
- First payment date for the lease/purchase option, and
- Cost savings of a 4-day school week.

Discussion was tabled until the August 9, 2021, regular meeting.

**Goal 3: Graduation Rate**

- Mr. Ochs suggested developing an outreach program with Russell High School alumni to build a base of connections to give back to the community and offer encouragement to Russell students.
- The need to define a correlation between the graduation rate and skills obtained to be successful was also discussed.

No action was taken.

54-024

**STAFFING 2021-2022**

At 7:02 p.m., Dr. Nichols made a motion to enter executive session to discuss retirements, resignations, and contracts pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), with the open meeting resuming in the boardroom at 7:07 p.m. Mrs. Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried 6–0. Ms. Swayne, Mr. Nuss, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Perez, Mr. Dempewolf, Mrs. Revell, and Ms. Odgers were invited into executive session.

Open session resumed at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Wedel made a motion to re-enter executive session to discuss retirements, resignations, and contracts pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), with the open meeting resuming in the boardroom at 7:13 p.m. Dr. Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0. Ms. Swayne, Mr. Nuss, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Perez, Mr. Dempewolf, Mrs. Revell, and Ms. Odgers were invited into executive session.

Open session resumed at 7:13 p.m. No action was taken.

54-025

**RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, NEW CONTRACTS & CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS**

**A. Retirements**

No retirements were presented.

**B. Resignations**

1. Linette Klaus - School Nurse for USD 407

**C. New Contracts**

1. Taylor Becker - Asst. Volleyball at Russell High School
2. Audrey Lofland - 5th Grade Teacher (Long-Term Sub) at Bickerdyke Elementary School (.50 FTE)
3. Karen Luder - Special Education Paraeducator at Ruppenthal Middle School
4. Jennifer Matthews - Special Education Paraeducator at Simpson Elementary School
5. Tyson Revell - Career Advocate at Russell High School
6. Kay Self - Special Education Paraeducator at Ruppenthal Middle School
7. Raina Tomlinson - Special Education Paraeducator at Russell High School
8. Jack Williams - Special Education Paraeducator at Ruppenthal Middle School

**D. Contract Modifications**

1. Custodian Wages as Presented
2. Derek Williams - Custodian at Ruppenthal Middle School to Head Custodian at Ruppenthal Middle School

Dr. Nichols made a motion to approve the resignation, new contracts and contract modifications as presented. Mrs. Wallert seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0.

54-026

**BOARD FORUM**

Ms. Swayne thanked board members for talking about the tough issues.

54-027

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Reinhardt adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

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Jane Cline, Board Clerk

Date

UNOFFICIAL - SUBJECT TO BOE APPROVAL