Minutes in Review

Attendance
Tom Alstrom, Halstead USD 440, Region 5
Mike Berblinger, Buhler USD 313, Region 5
Bob Diepenbrock, Kingman-Norwich USD 331, Region 8
Mike Folks, Clay County USD 379, Region 7
Cory Gibson, Valley Center USD 262, Past President
Kenneth Harshberger, Meade USD 226, Region 10
Justin Henry, Goddard USD 265, President-Elect
Josh Meyer, St John-Hudson USD 350, Region 8
Suzan Patton, Pratt USD 382, President
Richard Proffitt, Chanute USD 413, Region 3
Mike Roth, Leavenworth USD 453, Region 1
Jeanne Stroh, Ottawa USD 290, Region 2
Corbin Witt, Geary County USD 475, Region 4
Robert Young, Ellis USD 388, Region 7
David Younger, Ulysses USD 214, Council of Superintendents Chair
G.A. Buie, USA-Kansas, Executive Director

I. Call to Order
   • President Suzan Patton called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m., and wished the Board a Happy Friday. With this being her first meeting as President, she thanked Cory Gibson for his leadership and advice.

II. Consent Agenda
   • Corbin Witt moved to approve the agenda, which included minutes from the April meeting, Membership Dues Rate at $150 + USA Membership, Appointing G.A. Buie as Secretary/Treasurer, and the 2017-2018 Slate of Officers. Richard Proffitt seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

III. President's Report
   • President Suzan Patton discussed superintendent changes. There are currently about 46 changes. Last year on July 1, KSSA Board Members made phone calls to welcome them and let them know there is a lifeline. It would be helpful to get the list on Google Docs so Board Members can sign up for in-person visits, especially with the new ones.
IV. Executive Director’s Report

- G.A. Buie reported on the April finances. He reported finances are in very good shape. There is still a little bit of money coming in from a reimbursement from AASA, and also still owe about $40,000 to AASA which will be paid when the bill comes, but is left in savings as long as possible to collect interest. We then hope to put $5,000 in a CD for 4-5 years to get closer to the goal of having half of the associations money in investments. We will end ahead of last year. A motion was made by Robert Young to approve the Finance Report. Seconded by Mike Berblinger. Approved Unanimously.

V. USA-Kansas Update

- G.A. Buie gave the USA-Kansas Update. He asked that if Board Members heard anything from their staff, or had suggestions of their own on improvements that can be made to Convention, please share. Numbers are up from last year. Between Convention and KASB Law Day registrants, we brought about 600 people to Wichita, which the vendors loved. Justin Henry felt that having fewer breakouts made it better. Suzan Patton observed even the last breakout sessions had full rooms. Mike Berblinger felt that having USA Board Members in the rooms helped a lot and kept presenters on schedule. G.A. mentioned that will larger numbers, it put more pressure on room size in some of the breakouts.

VI. AASA Report

- Justin Henry reported the Advocacy Board will be meeting in Washington D.C. next month, and G.A. will be joining him to provide assistance. He discussed a monthly advocacy effort that other Superintendents can/should engage in. It is very simple and provides a detailed list of lines of communication to Senators and Representatives. He surmised the appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education could have been prevented if we had better relationship with Jerry Moran the last couple of years. G.A. mentioned that sometimes aides can be a good resource. Robert Young mentioned that those out west need to educate Marshall, while Corbin Witt agreed it is our job to help educate them. He mentioned the Voter Voice App, which allows you to submit a pre-crafted or personalized letter, and is available on the NAESP and NASSP websites. Cory said that when Estes came into town and met with Superintendents, he said the regional office is the best way to be in touch. The Board discussed the importance of being in contact with reps and senators and to use messages that pull at the heartstrings. It would be good to try to get them to meet with Superintendents when they are in town. Membership is more important now than ever, as well as in the national groups.

VII. New Superintendent Workshop

- Meeting Dates: June 20-21, 2017 & April 12, 2018
- Brian Spencer was not present, but all is set for June 20. G.A. reported we hope to take them to the Capitol and give them a tour if session has ended. Discovery Education will be bringing a speaker for 5:00 p.m. on the 20th, then we will host a steak dinner for new and current Superintendents. There will be a legislative update the morning of the 21st. There is a room block set up for those staying in town.
- G.A. speculated it will take about 3 weeks to get Supreme Court approval on school finance. It is important to start talking about what might need to be done in the case of a shutdown from an operational standpoint. We are still not sure whether the Governor will sign the bill.

VIII. Council of Superintendents

- Meeting Dates:
  - Sept. 13, 2017 - Topeka
Highlelghted dates are KSSA Meeting Dates

David Younger is chair, Richard Proffitt is chair-elect.

IX. Legislative Conversation/Direction

- President Suzan Patton said she finds it ironic that the gun bill is what they were discussing at the Statehouse last night, and that obviously education doesn’t come before guns. The direction we need to take is to stay in tune to Topeka, and continue to have conversations with legislators. As soon as we stop reaching out, it makes it easier for them to not worry about us. Calls and emails at least put the pressure on. Try to support them and encourage them to stay the course. They are getting negativity from every direction, otherwise. Hearing from teachers could help too. We will be behind them come election season for sticking their necks out for us. G.A. mention that Rob Gilligan, mayor of Emporia, shared a statistic with him that postcards have less than a 5% chance of changing votes. It’s more about personal connections, door to door. It is also fair to remind them we have an obligation to tell parents and students whether school will be starting on time or not. Every day after July 1 is a day behind, and according to Corbin Witt, it was figured that for each one day after July 1, it will take 3 days to get back on track prepping buildings, etc. We need to be proactive rather than reactive. Districts need to work together, start putting together hypothetical calendars in the event of a shutdown, showing where days would have to be made up by shorter breaks, etc. We could also talk to KSHSAA. Football is universal across the state, and if the lights are off in the buildings it will send mixed messages if the football team is still practicing. Wichita is already having weekly shutdown meetings to prepare.

X. Adjourn

- President Suzan Patton wanted to end the meeting/school year on a positive note. She asked the Board to take a mental tally of good things that happened in their district this past school year with sports, academics, teacher, etc. Maybe write something up and send it to your community newspaper. Next year try to make it better. People in town will always ask how things are going, and it’s easy to jump straight to school finance, but we don’t want to cloud the good things going on in the district, so we need to find a balance.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Next Meeting
September 13, 2017 – KASB, Topeka