

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**February 16, 2021**

Present: Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Valerie Richards, Alan Samber, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Rob Quint, Shila Adolf Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Pelton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Work Session as written. Chairman Pelton seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review and approve the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated February 16, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – The Board was asked to approve referral of several Logan County Ambulance accounts to collections. Brian Kailey had to cancel his appointment to meet with the Board today.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner Bauder moved to approve assignment of Logan County Ambulance debt collections accounts to Wakefield and Associates, account number ending in 0001, in the amount of \$1,554.00; account number ending in 3001, in the amount of \$1,062.60 and account number ending in 7001 in the amount of \$1,127.70 and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA** - No discussion.

**SHILA ADOLF RE-1 VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT** – RE-1 Valley School District Superintendent Shila Adolf met with the Board. Mrs. Adolf is meeting with the Board and other community organizations in the interest of building the district’s relationships in the community. Mrs. Adolf suggested that the Board eventually meet with all of the county school superintendents to discuss difficulties as well as celebrate achievements in the different districts.

She noted that as an outsider coming in, the number of students that have left the district is concerning. The district has lost almost 800 kids in the last four-five years, not counting kids that never chose to come to the district. This is due in part to a large homeschool network in the community. Part of the rebranding is the Home Pathways option which was built to challenge some of the other options such as Goal Academy. They need to focus on why that is and how to be a “magnet” school for staff and students.

Covid-19 has taught the district to think outside the box. They are seeing big city problems with small town resources. Drug abuse is a big problem and the aftermath of kids being taken from

homes. The district works with DHS to be a positive force for those kids. Commissioner Pelton noted that the Board see lots of the same issues working with DHS.

Keeping lines of communication open with the public is important. When met with negativity, respond with positivity and get people involved. Be persistent and keep a good attitude. Keep listening to people and welcoming people into the office. Commissioner Bauder noted that Merino schools have very small classes with teachers who took a one on one approach with kids. Sterling was not the same with her older kids. Teachers seemed to be there for the job, noting that she was not notified when her child's grades were bad. She was very involved in her child's education and still was not notified.

It does not seem as though there are as many jobs for students. Kids work less and there are more adults in those jobs. This has been a discussion with school district classified staff. Right now, McDonalds employees make more than school district jobs.

Student achievement, and equitable resources are important and graduation rate is important to all of the community as up to 75% of rural kids don't move away. A healthy school is a healthy community. They want them to leave with diplomas and get the best jobs possible for whatever their credentialing is. Having the Junior College here is an asset for the community. Concurrent enrollment increased with Covid, the negative aspect is that it is all remote. It is thriving in the district, they just need to expand it to all demographics. Commissioner Pelton is working with the college to start a Certified Addiction Specialist program. He will be meeting with Colorado State University next week.

Commissioner McBride suggested that the area superintendents meet with the mayors of the towns in the county. Superintendents have been meeting with the health department weekly. Area superintendents also meet regularly once a month. Mrs. Adolf would like to see a coalition of school districts in this part of the state.

Sports seasons and masking regulations were discussed. The Covid situation is so fluid and things keep changing with the dial. Adolf said the school district has 2,100 kids and hasn't had to close any of their buildings due to Covid. Testing got a lot of negative pushback from parents and quarantine requirements were difficult. CARES act funds allowed the district to get each student their own devices and smart TV's were placed in each classroom.

Mrs. Adolf agreed to check in with the Board on a monthly basis.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.