



**USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES -- SPECIAL MEETING**

*Administrative Office (35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, KS)*

*May 7, 2018*

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Rachele Zade. A quorum of the Board was present. Board members and administrators present were as follows:

**Board Members:** Bill Fletcher  
John Gagnat  
Kevin Makalous  
Mitch Powers  
Rachele Zade

**Absent:** Angela Handy  
Danielle Heikes

**Administrators:** Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Educational Services  
Steve Deghand, Director of Facilities  
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk  
Carrie Handy, Director of Human Resources/Elementary  
Lee Hanson, Director of Special Services  
Frank Harwood, Superintendent  
Michelle Hite, Director of School Improvement  
Joe Kelly, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Josh Kindler, Principal, Mill Creek Middle School  
Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations  
Jolyn Mortenson, Director of Student Nutrition  
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology  
Sam Ruff, Associate Principal, De Soto High School  
Brian Schwanz, Director of Human Resources/Secondary  
Susan Slater, P.E. Teacher/Associate Principal, Lexington Trails Middle School

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Zade then explained that this special meeting is intended to give board members the opportunity to hear input from USD 232 students and staff on the topic of school safety and security. She noted that it will begin with prepared presentations from students and staff and then the floor will be opened for additional comments.

Student Ben Bogart from Monticello Trails Middle School presented information on Intruder Drill Procedures and shared his opinion on how they are perceived among his peers. Students Taylor Roberts and Isabell Wiltfong from Mill Creek Middle School talked about what makes them feel unsafe and offered suggestions for improvement. Zach Yarbrough, a Senior at De Soto High School, presented information on recent trends of violent crimes in schools across America, spoke about advantages of being a student in USD 232, highlighted areas of concern with regard to security and offered possible solutions. Board members talked with the

students about how often the thought of a school incident happening in their school crossed their minds. The middle School students noted it was kind of always in the back of their minds. Zach Yarbrough shared that he generally feels safe at De Soto High School. Board members also asked the students if they were comfortable in speaking with an adult in the school about a threatening social media post and all of the students noted they wouldn't hesitate to speak with a teacher, counselor, social worker, administrator or SRO.

Dandra Arter, Library Media Specialist at Clear Creek Elementary, Carolyn Moore, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at River-view Elementary, Kris Leonard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Clear Creek Elementary and Nichole Gurwell, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Clear Creek Elementary, spoke about how intruder drills are conducted at the elementary level and student reaction to the drills. Susan Slater, Physical Education Teacher/Associate Principal, Lexington Trails Middle School, Jennifer Wackerla, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, Lexington Trails Middle School, and Travis Webb, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher, Monticello Trails Middle School, explained how intruder drills are conducted in secondary schools and highlighted the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert/Lockdown/Inform/Counter/Evacuate) training all staff have received. Rusty Rhodes, Lead Custodian at Clear Creek Elementary shared some ideas and suggestions on ways to make improvements in security.

President Zade opened the floor for comments.

Hailey Bunselmeyer, substitute teacher in the district, noted that as a substitute teacher the visitor pass she has been given won't allow her to re-enter the building following recess duty and asked if there could possibly be another way to give that access to substitute teachers. She also noted that the walkie talkies don't work well.

Jennifer Wackerla suggested the district implement a system where visitors are buzzed into the building and have to show ID to gain access.

*President Zade adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.*

May 14, 2018  
Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham  
Clerk, Board of Education

Richard Zade  
President, Board of Education