

**Minutes of the Board of Education  
Unified School District No. 435  
Dickinson County**

**Abilene, Kansas**

**October 3 , 2016**

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for a special meeting retreat at Camp Mary Dell's Rogers Hall, 1983 Indy Road at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2016. Dinner was provided by the high school catering class and eaten prior to the start of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by President Barb Brittan with the following members in attendance:

Mark Wilson  
Jeff Bathurst

Gregg Noel  
Debby Barbur

Randy Gassman  
Dr. Kari Porter-Murray

Others attending all or part of the meeting were: Superintendent - Dr. Denise Guy, Assistant Superintendent - Chris Cooper, Board Clerk - Angie Schneider, district administrators - Ben Smith, Ron Wilson, Ethan Gruen, Tom Schwartz and Dr. Twyla Sprouse and Gary Sechrist from the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB).

**Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Gregg Noel to approve the agenda. Mark Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Work/Study Session**

**Board Training**

Gary introduced himself and thanked the district for inviting him to conduct some training. The topic of this training is how we communicate with our patrons/staff and our relationships with them.

It was stressed, that it's not what we say, but how we say it. According to Gary's pie chart, 55% of communication happens non-verbally, through body movements, facial expressions, etc. Thirty eight percent is through voice tone, modulation, pauses, etc. Only 7% is actually with the words.

Relationships were compared to an iceberg...very little is visible above the water, but there's much more under the water. Gary visited with board members on how to lower the water level in our relationships so that they are based on things such as values rather than visual differences. Lowering the water level builds trust, respect, etc.

Throughout the evening, board members and district staff were split into small groups to discuss and learn ways to accomplish better communication and relationship skills. An exercise was also conducted to determine what type of communication style they fall into and learned the strengths/challenges of each.

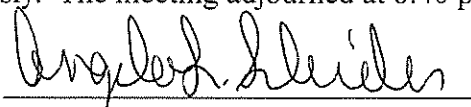
Gary challenged meeting attendees to use this evening's training to improve their communication and relationship building skills.

Board members thanked Gary for his time and expertise.

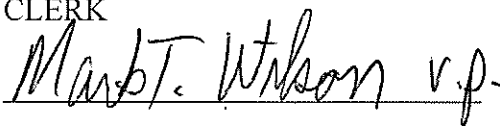
**Adjournment**

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Debby Barbur to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Bathurst seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



CLERK



PRESIDENT