

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 13, 2020
7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Angela Meyer, Betsy Frerichs, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrator was present: Christopher Prososki.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the gym wall.

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 2020, Special Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the March 19, 2020, Special Board Meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

Dave Zimmerman read a public comment statement that was emailed to him from Ginger Riggs. She recommended that the school board pay 9/10-month staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

III.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

IV. Financial Statement: Item for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

C.D. Bids for the month were as follows:

Security First Bank, Blue Springs Special Funds: 1.80%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.27%

Dr. Prososki noted that we are seven months into the fiscal year and the district has received 66% of its revenue and the district has spent 57% of its overall budget. Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provides \$2.2 trillion dollars in aid from the federal government. Part of this bill covers the stimulus checks that will go out to Americans based on their income levels. Another component

of the CARES Act provides \$30.75 billion in emergency aid to help early learning, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions address the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedicated funding will be distributed by the U.S. Department of Education through three independent programs: (1) the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$3 billion); (2) the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (\$13.5 billion); and (3) the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$14.25 billion). Based on preliminary numbers, Nebraska schools will receive around 60 million dollars under Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Southern is set to receive around \$80,000 and Dr. Prosocki noted, pending what these funds can be used on, he wants to put half of the proceeds in the district's unemployment account and the other half in the district's cash reserve because of the financial uncertainty the district faces related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV.A. Approval of Bills

IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

Motion to approve the general fund, special building fund, depreciation fund, and qualified capitol purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over summer maintenance projects, carpet projects in both buildings, parking lot project, working on the cost and the payback of lighting upgrades in both buildings, window project, and press box project.

Dr. Prosocki went over the major projects that will be occurring this spring and over the summer months, which includes the following items: press box at the football field, windows at the Jr./Sr. High School on the west and north side of the building, 5 small roofs at the Jr./Sr. High School, and new doors at Jr./Sr. High School. All of these projects will be funded by the QCPUF bond proceeds and the Thomas Foundation grant proceeds. Legally, the QCPUF bond proceeds cannot be used to cover payroll costs. The Jr./St. High School parking lot, on the east and the south side of the building, was recently completed. This project was funded by the Thomas Foundation grant proceeds and the district's cash reserve. The district will also be putting new carpet in four rooms over the summer.

Dr. Prosocki noted that John Linder has been working on an Energy Wise incentive program with Norris Public Power and Johnson Controls. By moving forward and replacing all of the fluorescent bulbs and fixtures with LED lighting in both buildings, it will be the quickest payback at the lowest cost. Each of the bulbs and fixtures is incented based on the wattage of the LED. There will be some cost upfront, but by making these upgrades, it will pay for itself in about a year and the district will still incur cost savings every year after the initial cost is recovered. The district would look to earmark these savings to upgrade the HVAC equipment so

it would be more efficient. The district is planning on replacing the light fixtures at the Elementary School first and completing the Jr./Sr. High School next. Overall, the district will save around \$50,000 over five years once the entire project is complete.

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted that Fracia Workman is going to retire at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Based on the financial situation the district faces, we have less revenue this year than we did during the 2015-2016 school year, Dr. Prosocki said he will not be replacing her position. The district will be in search of a new route driver for next year.

V.B.1. Hiring Recommendation

V.B.1.1. Shannon Mick - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Mathematics Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year
Motion to approve Shannon Mick, 1.0 FTE, as a 7-12 mathematics teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki noted that Shannon will serve as a junior class sponsor with Melissa Omar and we are also planning on her teaching dual credit courses through Peru State College for any interested high school students.

V.C. Technology Update

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

There was not a student board member report.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: the cancelation of state testing this spring, supervising lunch to ensure social distancing is occurring, different meetings, working on the athletic schedule for 2020-2021 school year, expecting around 25 kindergartners next year, and all athletics and activities have been canceled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

Dr. Prosocki noted that he will be covering secondary principal report on the Continuity of Learning Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over the extra duty assignments for the 2020-2021 school year, he gave the board an update on their Continuity of Learning Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and he thanked all of the staff that helped create this plan. Next, he went over COVID-19 website from Public Health Solutions, he gave the board an update on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, he stated that the district is still planning on having graduation depending on when we get more guidance from the local health officials. Dr. Prosocki said that the state legislature is at a standstill and there is uncertainty if they will reconvene this year or not and Dr. Prosocki has been working on the Individual with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Part B Maintenance of Effort compliance standards for the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 school years. Southern special education teachers at the Elementary School have around 9 students on their caseload and the special education teachers at the Jr./Sr. High School have around 14 students on

their caseload. The ESU 5 average special education caseload is around 15-16 students and the district special education numbers have gone down immensely over the past few years. Dr. Prosocki said that prom has been canceled for the 2019-2020 school year, the NRCSA conference is currently still going to take place as of now, he noted that the governor directed schools statewide to operate without students in their buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and Dr. Prosocki noted he has been working on a sub-recipient monitoring audit that is required by the federal government. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki gave the board an update on the summer food service program and that the district added a site in Barneston, but the district could not add another lunch site in Holmesville because there was not a high enough poverty rate to create a new site drop off.

VII. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

VII.A. Special Education Services Contracted with ESU 5 for the 2020-2021 School Year
Motion to approve the special education services contracted with ESU 5 for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki said that there are both state and federal mandates that require public schools in America to serve all special needs students. He stated that he feels that schools have a moral obligation to serve special needs students. Dr. Prosocki said that it is cheaper to contract out these services and we do not have the need or resources to hire a fulltime occupational therapist or physical therapist. These services will cost the district around \$200,000 next year.

VII.B. Approve a Resolution Declaring the COVID-19 Pandemic as an Emergency under the Nebraska Emergency Management Act
Motion to approve a resolution declaring the COVID-19 pandemic as an emergency under the Nebraska Emergency Management Act. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki noted that by taking this step, it will allow Southern the ability to claim FEMA funds in the future.

VII.C. Safety and Security Building Upgrades
Motion to approve the safety and security building upgrades. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki said that faculty members and law enforcement brought up different concerns when the district completed two active shooter trainings. The items that will be updated are as follows: new access control at both of the buildings that will allow local law enforcement to have fobs for our buildings, additional telephones, panic buttons in both buildings, and updating paging inside and outside of the building at the Elementary School.

VII.D. 9 Month & 10 Month Employee Pay During the Closure

Motion to approve 9/10 month staff for their usual working hours for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year with no overtime benefits, pending they sign a return to work agreement. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Carol Pralle: no, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, Emily Shockley: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 1

Dr. Prosocki wanted to make sure everyone in the public understands why the school board has to approve this measure because Nebraska state statute states that it is illegal to use taxpayer money to pay for services not rendered. If this occurs, the violation 49-14,100 is a Class III misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine, or three months imprisonment, or both.

Dr. Prosocki recommendation is to pay both 9-month classified staff until May 21, 2020, and 10-month classified staff until June 15, 2020, for their usual working hours with no overtime benefits, pending they sign a return to work agreement.

VII.E. Declare the Old High School Basketball Hoops as Surplus for Immediate Sale or Disposal
Motion to declare the old high school basketball hoops as surplus for immediate sale or disposal. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki said the district will look at selling the two hoops for \$250 each.

VII.F. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., May 11, 2020, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Gym in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY
President of the Board of Education
Of this School District

ATTEST
Secretary of the Board of Education
of this School District