

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
July 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: Betsy Frerichs, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrator was present: Christopher Proski. The following visitors were present: Heather McKinney and Kalynne Breunsbach.

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 in the back of the board of education meeting room.

I.C. Motion to excuse Angela Meyer from the July board meeting

Motion to excuse Angela Meyer from the July board meeting. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.

Angela Meyer: Absent, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Carol Pralle: yes, Emily Shockley: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the June 8, 2020, Regular Board Meeting, Student Fees Hearing, & Parental Involvement Hearing

Motion to approve minutes from the June 8, 2020, Regular Board Meeting, Student Fees Hearing, & Parental Involvement Hearing. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

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: 0.40%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.36%

#### 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 Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

##### IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

#### V. Support Service

##### V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over upgrading lights at both buildings, completion of the window project at the Jr./Sr. High School, the status of the 5 small roof projects at the Jr./Sr. High School, carpeting the 6th grade classrooms, and an update on the press box project.

Dr. Prosocki said the press box was supposed to be completed by June 15 and he was hoping more progress would have been made by now. He noted there is still time left this summer and the first football scrimmage is not until August 21. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said there are some additional windows on the westside of the Jr./Sr. High School building and around the commons area that will be replaced in late August or early September to complete window project.

##### V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted the district has started to advertise for the 5-12 instrumental music position and an interview has been setup for later in the week. Since it is so late in the year, the district might need to hire a long-term substitute for the first semester and look to hire someone new for the second semester.

##### V.B.1. Resignation

##### V.B.1.1. Shelly Gerdes - 1.0 FTE - 5-12 Instrumental Music Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2019-2020 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Shelly Gerdes at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board accepted the resignation of Shelly Gerdes at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year with regrets. The school board thanked Shelly for her years of service to Southern Public Schools.

##### V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki noted that some of the CARES Funding was used to purchase individual student devices (iPad or laptops) for all students in preschool through twelfth grade. In addition, Dr. Prosocki allotted an extra \$150 to all teachers to use for any needed COVID-19 related items before school starts. He said the district will be supplying hand sanitizer and other cleaning items for teachers to clean their classroom with throughout the school year. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki has been working with the ESU 5 technology director about the possibility of using a grant to setup 3

hot spot locations in Wymore for students to use if the district has to revert back to remote learning environment for this upcoming school year. Based on the grant guidelines, the grant can only be used in one town and not multiple towns.

## VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

### VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: PBIS training, ESU 5 workshops, and summer school packets.

### VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: reopening in the fall.

### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki talked about the upcoming annual Administrators' Days conference, he went over the annual safety and security meeting, and he gave the board an update over what items were purchased for the fall with the CARES Funding (Masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers, disinfectant items, gloves, iPads/laptops, and plexiglass for the offices). Next, Dr. Prosocki presented the board with the district certificate of accreditation for the upcoming school year, he went over his contracted days for the 2019-2020 school year, and he presented the school board with the most updated version of the district's reopening plan (COVID-19: The Path Ahead). Dr. Prosocki went over the 2020-2021 ESU 5 special education costs, he went over NRCSA's considerations for Nebraska schools reopening in the fall document, and he talked about a recent opposition letter that he wrote regarding LB 1106. He went over Southern's Opening Days Schedule and he said he recently sent out a return to work survey to all staff members to see if there were comfortable returning to work in the fall. Dr. Prosocki asked the board if he could possibly let a teacher out of their contract if they were diagnosed with a new underlying health condition or if a newborn baby, a child, or a spouse was diagnosed with a new underlying health condition. The release of a teacher out of their contract would be contingent on them not accepting another position during the 2020-2021 school year and the district would move forward with finding a permanent replacement. Dr. Prosocki noted that he has been working on some state and federal grants, which the district will receive around \$133,000. In addition to these grants, Dr. Prosocki recently wrote a \$42,000 Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund grant for a new activity bus and submitted two grants to the Thomas Foundation. One of the grants submitted to the Thomas Foundation would be for a new activity bus and the other grant would be used to finish some concrete on the north side of the building in an effort to meet the requirements under Americans with Disabilities Act Standards.

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

### VII.A. Set Substitute Compensation for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to set the substitute compensation at \$130 for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The substitute pay rate for the 2020-2021 school year will be \$130 and this will be the same substitute pay rate as Diller-Odell.

#### VII.B. Approval of the District Handbooks for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the district handbooks for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that with the uncertainty of the novel coronavirus and the Unicameral session scheduled to resume July 20 and adjourn sine die on August 13, all district handbooks will need to be updated throughout the school year. On the Receipt page of the handbook it will have a Recognition of Potential Amendments or Supplements statement on it that says the following information:

In light of the unique challenges and circumstances posed by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and the recent promulgation of expansive federal regulations, the rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

#### VII.C. Approval of the Emergency Operations Plan for the 2020-20201 School Year

Motion to approve the district's first Emergency Operations Plan for the 2020-20201 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that the district's safety team worked with local law enforcement, local EMS, and the local emergency manager to craft the district's first Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The outcome of creating an Emergency Operations Plan is to ensure that the district has a comprehensive, working, living document to guide the district and emergency responders before, during, and after an emergency incident or event.

Dr. Prosocki also commended the safety committee for making the safety of both the students and the staff a number one priority for the district through a number of new initiatives (Implementing the Standard Response Protocol, having multiple active shooter trainings, sending all secretaries to a safety training, having the drug dog out twice a year, training/establishing a threat assessment team, and having the safety committee meet annually to review safety standards and protocols).

#### VII.D. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., August 10, 2020, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board 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