

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 12, 2021  
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: Aaron Whitwer, Angela Meyer, Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Prosocki. The following visitor was present: Clint Kimbrough.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Wymore Arbor State Newspaper

Posted Date: 4/1/2021

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 Jr./Sr. High School auditorium.

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the March 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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: 0.23%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 0.20%

#### 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 Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes  
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 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 working with Johnson Controls on air quality control projects, filling open maintenance positions, and summer projects pending on help that is available.

##### V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted he just received a letter of resignation from Elizabeth Ogg (7-12 English Language Arts teacher) and the district is currently advertising for this open position.

##### V.B.1. Hiring Recommendation

##### V.B.1.1. Pam Trauernicht - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 School Counselor for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve Pam Trauernicht as the 7-12 school counselor for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

##### V.B.2. Resignation

##### V.B.2.1. Mike Ringen - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Social Studies Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Mike Ringen as the 7-12 social studies teacher at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

The school board accepted the resignation of Mike Ringen at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year with regrets. The school board thanked Mike for his years of service to Southern Public Schools.

## V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Proski gave the board an update on the district's progress towards implementing eduCLIMBER this spring and fall. ESU 5 got a grant to purchase this data dashboard for teachers and administration to use in the ESU 5 area.

## VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

There was not a student board member report at the April board meeting.

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

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (3-Year-Old Preschool - 11, 4-Year-Old Preschool - 12, K - 29, 1st - 26, 2nd - 22, 3rd - 22, 4th - 22, 5th - 21, & 6th - 32), spring testing, summer school during the month of June, working on athletic and Elementary School scheduling for 2021-2022 school year, kindergarten roundup, and fun and field day, and the start of golf and track.

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

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 27, 8th - 32, 9th - 28, 10th - 33, 11th - 26, & 12th - 26), the recent Scholastic & National Honor Society event, having 2 of our 4 alternative school spots filled, Shelby March and Autumn Lane making state speech competition, state testing (ACT and NSCAS), upcoming Honors and Fine Arts Night on May 4, submitting our graduation plan for approval to the local health officials (Which is required under the current Directed Health Measure), Honor Roll Percentages, and having the therapy dog back this fall.

### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Proski went over the American Rescue Plan that was passed on March 11, 2021, and the district is still waiting to see the amount of stimulus funds the district will receive from the third round of stimulus funding. Dr. Proski noted that 20% of this third round of funding has to be used for learning loss and he plans to use the remaining funds to address some deferred maintenance HVAC projects that are around 40-50 years old in an effort to improve the indoor air quality of our school facilities. The plan is to replace the 1965 & 1983 boilers and the HVAC system in the auditorium at the Jr./Sr. High School over the summer pending these projects are approved by the federal government. Next summer, the district will look to replace the Elementary School boiler, fix the HVAC system in the Jr./Sr. High School commons, update the obsolete HVAC controls in all of the classrooms, and complete some other smaller projects in both buildings. Next, Dr. Proski said the district will still implement the grab and go breakfast during the 2021-2022 school year and many ESU 5 schools already use this program to increase breakfast participation rates before the pandemic (Fairbury & Tri County). Dr. Proski said that the district COVID-19 safety procedures will remain in place for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the CDC, UNMC, NDE, the Governor, and the local health officials, but during summer school at the Elementary, face coverings will move

to optional for students and staff because of the low participation rate in the program. Dr. Proski said that the majority of ESU 5 districts are going to keep their safety procedures in place for the next 5 to 6 weeks so students are not forced to quarantine for 10 days and miss out on some important end of the year milestones (Graduation, fun and field day, track and golf meets, etc.). He then went over a recent federal audit (Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA) he has been working on with Stephanie Ware, he informed the school board that he will be leading Bruning-Davenport accreditation visit in October, and he went over the extra duty assignments for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Proski presented the school board with the fiscal impact would have been if LB 408 was passed the last 6 fiscal years (Fiscal Year 2014-2019). Dr. Proski noted the problem with 408 is that it will be a double whammy to school districts because the bill does not work with the current state aid formula or TEEOSA (When valuations go up, state aid goes down [This bill does not have hold harmless provisions in it and schools would lose both taxable valuation revenue because under LB 408 schools cannot pull more than 3% of valuation growth]). Under this broken and poorly craft bill, Southern Public Schools would have lost \$2,764,813 in revenue over a 6-year period or \$460,802 a year. If this bill is passed this legislative session, schools across Nebraska will have to make drastic cuts to our current operations. He also gave the board an update on LB644 and if it passes, it will require the county, cities, school districts, and community colleges to participate in a joint public hearing if any political subdivision is requesting more property tax dollars than the prior year. Dr. Proski noted that all districts in Nebraska already have tax request and budget hearings and the requirements under LB 644 will create extra administrative burden on political subdivisions. Next, Dr. Proski gave the school board an NCSA mid-session legislative report update, he and some board members gave an update from the recent NRCSA spring conference, and he gave the board an update on his progress towards the September 14, 2021, special bond election to erect a new practice gym, two new preschool classrooms, and some new playground equipment at the Elementary School. Lastly, he gave the board an update on the steering committee progress towards the district's first comprehensive strategic plan, he noted that summer weight room sponsors will be compensated this summer in an effort to align our practices with area school districts, and he talked to the school board if they would like weekly email updates from him on Fridays (Dr. Proski currently sends out weekly updates to all Southern staff members to keep them in the loop on a variety of district happenings and upcoming events).

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

### VII.A. Special Education Services Contracted with ESU 5 for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve the special education services contracted with ESU 5 for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

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

VII.B. Review, consider, and take all necessary action to adopt a resolution (1) selecting and hiring a Performance Criteria Developer (PCD); (2) authorizing the PCD and superintendent or his designee to prepare a request for letters of interest and publish notice of the same and (3) authorizing the publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the District of a request for proposals for a design-builder

Motion to adopt a resolution (1) selecting and hiring Duval & Associates as the Performance Criteria Developer (PCD); (2) authorizing the PCD and superintendent or his designee to prepare a request for letters of interest and publish notice of the same and (3) authorizing the publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the District of a request for proposals for a design-builder. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

The school board decided at the February board meeting to go with the design-build contract delivery system because it is a cheaper alternative to the construction management at risk method of construction because the district will not have all of the architect fees upfront if the September 14, 2021, special bond election does not pass. Under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Constitution Alternative Act, schools are required by law to hire a Performance Criteria Developer (PCD). Dr. Prosocki also noted that if the September 14, 2021, special bond election passes, it will not take funds away from staff salaries, supplies, etc. A successful bond election will result in additional taxable revenue outside of the general fund operating budget to pay for the general obligation bond. An analogy that Dr. Prosocki tells his staff all the time is that if a person got a house loan, they could not use the house loan proceeds to purchase a new boat or a new car with the loan.

#### VII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., May 10, 2021, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School auditorium 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