

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 14, 2022
7:30 PM

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members in attendance:

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, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & 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. Posted Location:

- Wymore Arbor State Newspaper

Posted Date: 2/3/2022

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 Betsy Frerichs from the February board meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the February board meeting. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the January 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, 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: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

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 Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, 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 HVAC summer projects, new HVAC control platform, and summer maintenance.

Dr. Prosocki informed the school board that the Jr./Sr. High School boiler project was completed in October of 2021 and the Elementary School boilers will be updated in the summer of 2022. The district used the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to pay for this project. Once the Elementary School boilers are installed, the district will save around \$8,000-\$10,000 a year by using more energy efficient boilers. Dr. Prosocki commended the school board for optimizing organizational effectiveness and efficiency over the years by installing new windows at the Jr./Sr. High School, switching to LED lighting, updating our phone system, updating our copiers, and installing new boilers. All the items completed has saved the distinct thousands of dollars over the years.

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki informed the school board that Beatrice Community Hospital's Home Care Department was recently bought out, and they will not be able to provide nurse services to Southern from here on out. Dr. Prosocki said that Dyan Allington will serve as the district's nurse for the 2022-2023 school year.

V.B.1. Hiring Recommendation

V.B.1.1. Josie Hulse - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Art Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve Josie Hulse as the K-12 art teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

V.B.2. Resignation

V.B.2.1. Morgan Nerverve - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Art Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Morgan Nerverve at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board accepted the resignation of Morgan Nerverve at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year with regrets.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki told the school board that he and Cody Sabey completed the required Future Ready District Technology Plan through the Nebraska Department of Education.

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: current enrollment figures (3-Year-Old Preschool - 10, 4-Year-Old Preschool - 19, K - 18, 1st - 31, 2nd - 24, 3rd - 27, 4th - 23, 5th - 26, 6th - 23), parent teacher conferences on February 11 (Had a 70% turnout), kindergarten parent orientation on February 16, boys & girls basketball sub-districts, wrestling districts, state wrestling, state cheer competition, Austen Forney making state wrestling, and information about the Diller-Odell and Southern junior high football co-op for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Prosocki noted that it has become increasingly difficult to secure referees in Nebraska. He said that this fall the district may have to play football games on Thursday nights and game times may have to move up to 4:00 p.m. on either Thursday or Friday nights because the lack of available referees. Dr. Prosocki said that poor fan sportsmanship directed towards referees over the years is one of the major contributing factors in individuals not pursuing referee positions.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 32, 8th - 30, 9th - 34, 10th - 28, 11th - 34, 12th - 25), alternative education update (3 of our 4 spots are filled), went over some possible graduation requirement changes (Requiring an additional 10 credit hours in Vocational Education [Requiring either 10 credits in business or 10 credits in agriculture]), parent teacher conferences, Honor Roll, and Pioneer Conference Art Show (Kyen Troxel, Jentry Schell, & Autumn Lane).

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Proski reminded the school board about the March Foundation meeting, the upcoming NRCSA conference in Kearney in March, and the American Civics meeting in March. Next, Dr. Proski went over the school board committees for the 2022, and he went over the preliminary State Aid and Budget Authority numbers. Dr. Proski noted that Budget Authority does not play a factor in Southern's budget and the district State Aid is projected to increase by \$136,213 or by 8.99% (Projected \$1,649,835 total in State Aid for 2022-2023). Lastly, Dr. Proski said that he wrote a grant to the Thomas Foundation to update the old and obsolete thermostats in each classroom, but the district did not receive the grant. Since the thermostats are not working, the district plans to move forward with this project in the summer of 2022.

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

VII.A. Rescind Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes

Motion to rescind Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board voted to rescind Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes. The district will look at hiring a second 4th grade teacher for the 2022-2023 school year and through attrition, the district will look at not filling 2 Elementary School Para positions in the future (If an Elementary School Para retires or takes another position) because the district has the smallest student to teacher ratio. The district is also not borrowing \$300,00-\$500,000 during multiple months to cover payroll costs like it was during the past 10-20 years.

VII.B. Consider the Approval of an Out-of-State Travel Request (Band Trip)

Motion to approve the out-of-state band trip in May. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 6027: Field Trips, all out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval from the board of education.

VII.C. Substitute Compensation for the Remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to increase the substitute rate to \$150 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Due to substitute teacher shortages in the area, Southern Board of Education increased the substitute teaching rate to \$150 to be in line with what the other districts in our area.

VII.D. Principals' Contract & Salaries

Using the same array that the Southern Education Association (SEA) used for their negotiations, Jerry's current base salary ranks 7th out of 11 district and his total compensation ranks 7th out of 11 districts. Jerry's base salary is \$371.77 above the midpoint and his total compensation is

\$1,712.64 below the midpoint. In addition, Jerry does not receive any additional compensation for being the athletic director.

Jeff's current base salary ranks 7th out of 11 districts and his total compensation ranks 4th out of 11 districts. Jeff's base salary is \$586.95 below the midpoint and his total compensation is \$5,491.14 above the midpoint.

VII.D.1. Principals' Contract Extensions

Motion to approve the principals' contract extensions. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.D.2. Principals' Salaries for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve a 3.5% raise for Jeff Murphy and 3.5% for Jerry Rempe for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.E. Classified Salaries for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve a 6.2% raise for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that classified staff are the backbone of the district, and it has been increasing hard to hire classified staff over the past 2 years. All classified staff members will receive a \$1.00 raise for the 2022-2023 school year.

VII.F. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 14, 2022, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room in Wymore. The March 14, 2022, Regular Board meeting will be preceded by a Southern Foundation meeting at 6:00 p.m. 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