

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 14, 2022
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, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe & 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: 3/3/2022

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 Aaron Whitwer f and Angela Meyer rom the March School Board Meeting

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

Angela Meyer: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

II. Approval of Minutes from the February 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the February 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

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 Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

Dr. Prosocki talked about the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) that is part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic that the district has been working on for students and families. Any student that qualifies for free or reduced-priced meals and experienced a COVID related absence during the 2021-2022 school year, will receive the P-EBT benefit in the mail (Students that experienced a COVID related absence for 0.1-5.99 days will receive \$21 for that month, students that experienced a COVID related absence for 6-15.99 days will receive \$71 for that month, and students that experienced a COVID related absence for 16+ days will receive \$121 for that month). Dr. Prosocki said that a COVID related absence can be either school-directed or parent directed. Dr. Prosocki noted that this is one of the many ways the district is going above and beyond what is required during the pandemic to benefit the students and families in our community. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said the district is working on providing free lunches to all students over the next 4 years. If the federal grant is received, it would save a family with 2 students around \$4,000 if their students ate both breakfast and lunch every day.

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over being short on staff due to sickness, 3-year asbestos inspection, and working on summer plans.

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki said that Rae Oblinger recently resigned and Audrey Whitwer was hired to take her place as the data steward and Elementary School secretary. In addition, John Linder recently resigned and John Eisenhauer was hired to take his place as the Head of Maintenance position. The district is starting to advertise for an Assistant Head of Maintenance position. Jennifer Dunekacke-Hamm and Melissa Omar submitted their resignation on March 14 and the district has started to advertise for a new 7-12 Science teacher and a new 7-9 English Language Arts teacher.

V.B.1. Hiring Recommendation

V.B.1.1. Jarod Remmers - 1.0 FTE - 6th Grade Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve Jarod Remmers as the 6th grade teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

Dr. Prosocki noted that Jarod will serve as the Head Junior High Boys Basketball coach next school year and Jeremy Doose will be his assistant.

V.B.2. Resignations

V.B.2.1. Carly Vitosh - 1.0 FTE - 5th Grade Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Carly Vitosh at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

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

V.B.2.2. Lorren Rahn - 1.0 FTE - Vocal Music Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to accept the resignation of Lorren Rahn at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

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

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki went over the preliminary technology budget for the 2022-2023 school year, and he noted that he budgeted \$130,000 to be used for technology hardware, software, and infrastructure. In addition, all of the hardware purchased will be based on the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology to improve student learning (The technology committee crafted this strategic plan). Based on the American Rescue Plan, 20% of the third round of ESSER funds must be appropriated to address learning loss. The district plans to use a portion of the ESSER III funds to cover the cost of the 90 new laptops for students during the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Prosocki said that he has been working with Cody Sabey and the technology department at ESU 5 to implement a multi-factor authentication for both emails and back-up files in an effort to increase our ransomware coverage through ALICAP. The district just found out on March 8, 2022, that Southern now qualifies for an additional \$250,000 of ransomware coverage and the district's deductible went from \$75,000 to \$1,000.

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 - 25, 3rd - 28, 4th - 23, 5th - 26, 6th - 23), upcoming state and federal required assessments (DIBELS, NSCAS, MAP), spring sports starting on February 28, field trips, and 2022 & 2023 high school football schedule.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 32, 8th - 30, 9th - 33, 10th - 28, 11th - 33, 12th - 25), Southern hosting Pioneer Conference Quiz Bowl on March 16, having all 4 alternative school spots filled at ESU 5, Pioneer Conference Academic Team (Bronze - Carly Saathoff & Sadee Ullman, Silver - Ryan Pralle, and Gold - Shelby March), upcoming state testing (ACT & NSCAS), college visits for Southern students, FFA week, parent teacher conferences, and scheduling classes for 2022-2023 school year.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, and he said the Elementary School boiler project and the Jr./Sr. High School HVAC commons project will start once school is out in May. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over a new credit recovery program at Southern that will take place over the month of June for all students going into grades 10-12 in an effort to increase graduation rates in the district. Dr. Prosocki went over the required Multicultural Education Report for the 2021-2022 school year, he went over the opening days schedule for 2022-2023, he presented the school board with his work days and sick days for the third quarter. Dr. Prosocki went over a \$100,000 reVISION grant that was recently written for the Career & Technical Education (CTE) areas at Southern, and he stated that he just completed the Small, Rural School Achievement grant and the district should receive \$23,348 through this grant. Dr. Prosocki said the district is having preliminary conversations about starting an eSports team at Southern during the 2022-2023 school year. Currently, three out of the ten ESU 5 districts offer eSports to their students (Beatrice, Fairbury, & Thayer Central) and Thayer Central had 6 students get college scholarships to participate in eSports at the college level. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki went over the state aid certification and budget authority for the 2022-2023 school year. Southern state aid will go up by 9.4% and this represents a \$142,107 increase from the previous year.

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

VII.A. Policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation

Motion to require 10 credit hours in vocational education (either agriculture or business classes) in Policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

VII.B. Police Officer for Prom on April 9, 2022

Motion to approve a police officer for prom on April 9, 2022. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

VII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., April 11, 2022, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room 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