

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
February 13, 2023  
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, Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Proski.

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:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 2/8/2023

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment 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 was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

I.C. Motion to excuse Debra Schlake from the February 13, 2023, Regular School Board Meeting

Motion to excuse Debra Schlake from the February 13, 2023, regular school board meeting. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 16, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the January 16, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, 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

Dr. Prosocki noted that Southern is 5 months into the fiscal year and the district has expended 38.30% of the budget and received 51.81% in revenue. Dr. Prosocki said that the district wants to spend less than 8.3% of the budget each month. Lastly, he noted that the district expenditures are down by \$446,624 when compared to this time last year and he commended the school board for being such good stewards of taxpayers' money.

#### 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 capital purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Debra Schlake: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, David Zimmerman: 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 Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on keeping buildings clean, maintenance on vehicles, challenges of finding drivers for activities, and keeping up with general maintenance.

Dr. Prosocki said that the district did not have enough time to submit the Renew America's Schools grant by the January 26, 2023, deadline. The Renew America's Schools grant provides up to \$500 million dollars to make energy improvements, especially in the highest-needed districts across the country. Dr. Prosocki noted that they are currently working on getting everything ready for the next submission window in the fall for this grant.

##### V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted that Kathy Burke was just hired as a part-time food service provider to replace Sandy Huenink.

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

##### V.B.1.1. Shelby Decker - 1.0 FTE - K-6 Special Education Teacher for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to hire Shelby Decker as the K-6 Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki said that there will be some internal movement based on teacher requests. Malinda Hock will be moving to 6th grade (She will be replacing Greg Iverson who is moving to the Jr./Sr. High School next school year), Joanna Adams will be moving to 4th grade (She will be replacing Kane Hookstra who is moving to the Elementary School principal position next school year), and the district is still looking to fill the open 2nd grade position. Dr. Prosocki also noted that the district has still not received any applications for the open K-12 vocal music position.

#### V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki noted that Southern just got approved for the cyber security coverage through Beazley. He also noted that all school districts that used ALICAP cyber security coverage were dropped in August. Dr. Prosocki also noted that he completed the Future Ready District Technology Plan with Cody Sabey, which is a requirement from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Lastly, the district submitted two Request for Proposals (RFPs) for cabling and network switches. Dr. Prosocki noted that the federal e-rate funding will be used to cover the cost of these two projects.

### 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 - 18, K- 26, 1st - 18, 2nd - 32, 3rd - 26, 4th - 28, 5th - 21, 6th - 27), parent teacher conferences on February 10, 2023, kindergarten parent orientation on February 15, 2023, girls and boys sub-districts, state wrestling, and state cheerleading.

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

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 22, 8th - 30, 9th - 29, 10th - 33, 11th - 28, & 12th - 29), alternative school update (The district's 4 spots are currently filled), 9-12 registration, parent teacher conference, Honor Roll, Pioneer Conference Art Show (Olive Sabey placed 2nd and 1st in two different categories), Natalie Trauernicht had a feature story done regarding her taking SENCAP classes, and spelling bee results (1st - Lukas Dayhuff, 2nd - Arionna McCardle, & 3rd - Shane Puckett).

#### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over a 2022 teacher shortage report and the number of unfilled positions, positions that were either left vacant or filled by someone other than a fully qualified teacher, was up significantly from 482 in 2021 to 768 positions in 2022. Dr. Prosocki noted that the radicalization of the current Nebraska state legislature is exacerbating this problem in Nebraska. Next, Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the switch to an online accounting system (Southern is one of the last districts in the state to make the switch), and he gave the school board an update on the potential of a 10-15% drop in traditional incoming college students projected to

occur starting in 2025 and it is known as the Enrollment Cliff 2025. The 2008 economic recession caused a decline in U.S. birth rates because people either put off starting a family or had fewer kids. Dr. Prososki noted that this will also impact the current teacher shortages we are facing across the United States. Dr. Prososki then reminded the school board of an upcoming foundation meeting at 6:00 p.m. before the regular school board meeting and an American Civics committee meeting at 7:15 p.m. before the regular school board meeting. Dr. Prososki gave the school board a legislative update, he reminded them of the upcoming NRCSA spring conference in Kearney, and he gave the school board an update on the district's strategic plan. Lastly, he outlined the transition plan for the new elementary school principal, and he went over a grant the district received to implement the WORDS project, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, over the next 4 years to strengthen our PK-3 reading program.

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

### VII.A. Policy Review - Policy 5052: School Wellness

Under the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, Southern is required to assess and review its wellness policy to determine compliance, compare it with NDE model wellness policies, and measure how much progress has been made towards the goals of the policy every 3 years (Required triennial policy review). Dr. Prososki also went over the triennial assessment policy public report and he noted that it will also appear on the district website as well.

### VII.B. 7-12 Principal Contract & Salary

Using the same array that the Southern Education Association (SEA) used for their negotiations, Jeff's current base salary ranks 7th out of 11 school districts and his total compensation ranks 5th out of 11 school districts. Jeff's base salary is \$219.55 below the midpoint and his total compensation is \$6,151.73 above the midpoint. Dr. Prososki noted that Freeman has an interim 7-12 principal that is not taking retirement, so that is why the numbers are off on the total compensation side.

#### VII.B.1. 7-12 Principal Contract Extension

Motion to approve the 7-12 principal contract extension. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.B.2. 7-12 Principal Salary for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve a 4.5% raise to his principal base salary for the 2023-2024 school year and a 17% raise to the teacher base salary for the athletic director duties for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

### VII.C. Classified Salaries for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve a \$1.50 raise for classified staff for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Debra Schlake: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, David Zimmerman: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, 1Abstain (With Conflict)

Dr. Prosocki noted that classified staff are the backbone of the district and it is important to keep their wages competitive with area employers because we are currently in an employee's market. All classified staff members will receive a \$1.50 raise for the 2023-2024 school year and this represents a 9.3% increase from the previous school year.

#### VII.D. Approve the Nova Fitness Weight Room Upgrade

Motion to approve the Nova Fitness proposal for new weight room equipment. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that he is going to write grants to help cover a portion of the costs associated with this project. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said the district had to pay out a lawsuit of over \$400,000 in the past because of faulty weight room equipment and the new weight room equipment will make sure the district does not face any future litigations.

#### VII.E. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 13, 2023, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom 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