

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 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: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe & 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: 3/8/2023

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 Aaron Whitwer from the March 13, 2023, School Board Meeting

Motion to excuse Aaron Whitwer from the March 13, 2023, school board meeting. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the February 13, 2023, Regular School Board Meeting & Special School Board Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023, regular school board meeting & special school board meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake 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: 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 Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report over the following items: activity drivers, getting track items setup, taking the old scoreboard down, ordering new rubber mulch for the elementary school, the purchase of 2 new cafeteria tables to replace the broken ones, creating a list of summer maintenance projects, Johnson Controls training for Southern staff, and working on a water shut off at the Jr./Sr. High School.

The school board discussed their priorities and goals regarding a number of future facility projects that will make the district facilities safer and more secure. The school board decided to move forward and update the entrances at both the Elementary School and the Jr./Sr. High School. This has been a safety recommendation for years. In addition, the district will also need to update an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) project at the Jr./Sr. High School, which is based on a recent United States Department of Education (USDOA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) federal review that occurred this past fall.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.B.1. Hiring Recommendations

V.B.1.1. Ashley McConnell - 1.0 FTE - Second Grade Teacher for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve Ashley McConnell as the second grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Ashley McConnell will also serve as one of the assistant high school track coaches.

V.B.1.2. Jake Voorhis - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Vocal Music Teacher for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve Jake Voorhis as the K-12 vocal music teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Jake Voorhis will also serve as the vocal music sponsor.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki went over the preliminary technology budget for the 2023-2024 school year. He noted that all of the hardware purchases are based on the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology to improve student learning. This strategic plan was created by the technology committee a number of years ago.

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, spring testing (DIBELS, NSCAS, & STAR), the start of spring sports, and 6th grade field trip to Worlds of Fun.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report on the following items: an art mural the students are working on at the Jr./Sr. High School, all spots are filled in the alternative program at ESU 5, all juniors will take the ACT on March 21, 2023, taking students to different colleges, FFA week, a 29% turnout rate for the 7-12 spring parent teacher conferences, registering students for classes for the 2023-2024 school year, and current enrollment figures.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over the appropriations committee's preliminary biennial budget for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 fiscal years. Based on these preliminary numbers, Dr. Prosocki noted that state aid will decrease by \$25 million in FY23-24 and state aid will decrease by \$90 million in FY24-25. If these numbers hold true, it will make equalized school districts' budgets tight in the years ahead (Southern is currently 1 of the 86 equalized school districts in Nebraska). Dr. Prosocki went over the extra duty assignments for the 2023-2024 school year and he said that it has become increasingly hard to find coaches and extra duty sponsors across the state of Nebraska. He noted the same is true for finding referees. Dr. Prosocki said that the public has become increasingly inappropriate at games and on social media towards coaches and referees. Dr. Prosocki did note that since Aaron Whitwer will be on payroll at Southern as the new head boys basketball coach, he will have to resign from the school board before he starts his official basketball duties in June or at the May school board meeting. Dr. Prosocki said that is because of an inherent conflict of interest that is created when a member of the board of education serves as a certified or non-certified employee of the district. In addition, the district's policy does not allow a person to serve in both capacities. Dr. Prosocki said that after the May school board meeting, the district will solicit for applications from the public to serve out the remainder of Aaron Whitwers school board term. The school board will appoint a new school board member at the June school board meeting. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over the required multicultural education status report, he went over the opening days schedule for the fall, and he

went over his work days for the third quarter. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the state aid numbers and budget authority numbers for the upcoming school year. He noted that the district's state aid will increase by 29.63% or by \$488,891 from the previous school year. Next, Dr. Prososki said the district is working on a \$100,000 federal grant for our agriculture program and to start a welding program at Southern. Dr. Prososki said that he recently completed a Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) grant and the district will receive around \$23,000 from this grant. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the preliminary staff salaries for the 2023-2024 school year. He noted that all staff salaries will increase by 4.74% or by \$235,136.23 from the previous school year. He did note that since the 2017-2018 school year, the district staff costs have only increased by 0.75% or by \$43,151.47 a year. He noted that the school board has been a great steward of taxpayer money over the past 6 years. Lastly, Dr. Prososki said the district will be participating in the Math Acceleration program next school year in an effort to increase math achievement scores in grades K-8 and he went over a recent Attorney General's Office update regarding board members using their cell phones during school board meetings.

VI.D.1. Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) Update - Jack Moles, Executive Director

Jack Moles, the Executive Director of Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) was in attendance and gave the school board an update on their NRCSA membership and Jack went over a legislative update.

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

VII.A. Policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation (Revision) as per LB 1112

Motion to approve the revised Policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation (Revision) as per LB 1112. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on LB 1112, all schools in Nebraska will need to add a Computer Science & Technology class to their course requirements for the 2023-2024 school year because it will be required for the 2026-2027 graduating class. By doing this, it will allow next year's freshman a 4-year opportunity to fulfill this new state requirement. Moving forward, Southern will have to cut an elective class in the business department to meet this new state law.

VII.B. Police Officer for Prom on March 25, 2023

Motion to approve a police officer for prom on March 25, 2023. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C. Consider the Approval of an Out-of-State Travel Request (6th Grade Field Trip)

Motion to approve the out-of-state travel request for the 6th grade field trip. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.D. Approve the Updated Language in the Principal Contracts as per KSB School Law's Legal Advice

Motion to approve the updated language in the principal contracts as per KSB School Law's legal advice. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.E. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., April 10, 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