

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 11, 2023  
7:15 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators was present: 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: 9/6/2023

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. Motion to Excuse Dana Dorn from the September Budget Hearing

Motion to excuse Dana Dorn from the September budget hearing. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Dana Dorn: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

I.C. 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.D. Hear Support, Opposition, Criticism, Suggestions, or Observations Related to the Proposed Southern Public Schools Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year

Dr. Proski gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The 2023-2024 budget continues to invest in meeting the needs of our district with growing student needs. The General Fund budget of expenditures shown on the Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is greatly inflated to allow the district to expend "unused budget authority" for future years, and does not accurately reflect actual anticipated expenditures. The district over-estimates the budget of expenditures of all active funds so the district does not have to amend them later in the year due to unanticipated costs (Activities Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, General Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Special Building Fund, & Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund). The Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is very deceiving to the public and the only actual figures are Actual Disbursements &

Transfers (Column 1) and Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (Column 7).

For the 2023-2024 school year, the district gained \$369,375 in valuation revenue and the district lost \$148,545 state aid revenue. These numbers do not account for the increased costs to run a school district over the years (e.g., Utility increases, salary and benefit increases, insurance increases, inflation, etc.). The overall personnel cost will be up by \$309,403. He noted that this figure does not include purchased services through ESU 5 for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law and these services will cost \$239,855 this upcoming school year.

Dr. Prosocki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$433,936,240 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,456,165. The district's overall valuation was \$435,392,405 and Southern saw an increase 8.52% or \$34,201,611 increase between Gage and Pawnee Counties from the prior year. Dr. Prosocki noted that 85% of the district expenditures are in personnel costs and the other 15% of expenditures are fixed costs that cannot change.

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Gage County Valuation</b>	<b>% Change (Prior Year)</b>	<b>Pawnee County Valuation</b>	<b>% Change (Prior Year)</b>	<b>Overall Valuation</b>	<b>% Change (Prior Year)</b>	<b>\$ Change (Prior Year)</b>
<b>2019</b>	\$382,188,694	(4.41%)	\$1,376,110	(.001%)	\$383,564,804	(4.39%)	(\$16,874,224)
<b>2020</b>	\$378,656,597	(0.93%)	\$1,374,630	(0.10%)	\$380,031,227	(0.92%)	(\$3,533,577)
<b>2021</b>	\$387,897,024	2.44%	\$1,391,515	1.23%	\$389,288,539	2.43%	\$9,257,312
<b>2022</b>	\$399,748,194	3.05%	\$1,442,600	3.67%	\$401,190,794	3.05%	\$11,902,255
<b>2023</b>	\$433,936,240	8.55%	\$1,456,165	0.94%	\$435,392,405	8.52%	\$34,201,611

## II. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., September 11, 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