

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 11, 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, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, 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: 12/6/2023

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. 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.

II. Approval of Minutes from the November 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the November 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

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

Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report over: Nuvve commissioning the new Level 3 charger, having to demolish an old bus as part of the Clean School Bus grant, installing kick plates, the phone system that connects to the bus radios went out and it needs to be replaced.

Dr. Prososki noted that, based on code requirements, we will need to install door closers on all of the elementary school doors. In addition, Dr. Prososki said that we plan to add 2 more thermostats/VAV boxes to the Jr./Sr. High School remodel project. After 2 are added, this will bring the total to 4 thermostats/VAV boxes, and we currently have 5 thermostats/VAV boxes in the current office area. Lastly, the phone system that we use with our bus radio system went out and the system that we currently use is so old, that we cannot find a replacement system for that model. The district had to purchase a new system that costs around \$9,000.

V.B. Personnel Items

Jessica Vater was just hired as the part-time food service provider, Bryce Kruse was just hired as a full-time bus driver, and Marriah Proctor was just hired as a full-time paraprofessional.

V.C. Technology Update

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, winter DIBELS testing, winter NSCAS testing, attending the state principal conference in Lincoln, elementary concerts, upcoming STAR testing, and last day of the semester celebration.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, end of the semester plans, having all alternative education spots filled at ESU 5, raising \$1,200 at the annual winter concert and cake auction, student recognitions, FBLA food drive, and Winter NSCAS testing.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki said that all ESU 5 superintendents and some school board members met with Senator Tom Brandt of District 32 and Senator Myron Dorn of District 30 in an effort to advocate for public schools in our area. Dr. Prososki presented the 2022-2023 Annual Report, he went over the recent insurance (ALICAP) visit, he gave the board an update on the certificated staff salaries for the 2024-2025 school year, and he went over the January in-service agenda. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the winter DIBLES (Grades K-6) results and, he said the district saw some regression on the winter assessment period. Dr. Prososki said that one student subgroup was underperforming on the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) and, based on federal regulations, the Junior High School was identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school. Based on this designation, the district will have to create a plan for improvement by building and complete a resource allocation review. Dr. Prososki noted that last year the district had 4 subgroups that were underperforming, and this school year, the district only had 1 subgroup that was underperforming. Next, Dr. Prososki went over a legislative preview, and he went over the training requirements for the administration regarding implementing a School Resource Officer after the first of the year. Dr. Prososki went over Policy 2016: Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members, and he said that Dave Zimmerman is the only board member participating in the school's employees' health and dental insurance programs. Dave Zimmerman has to pay both the employee and employer portions of the premiums or \$26,787 a year. Dr. Prososki then went over a property tax request comparison for Gage County, and Southern is the only district in the area that has not increased their tax request dating back to the 2016-2017 school year. Lastly, Dr. Prososki and some board members gave an update on the State Education Conference that they recently attended, and he said that the Nebraska State Board of Education recently appointed him to serve on the state committee for the reorganization of school districts.

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

VII.A. Approve the 2024-2025 Negotiated Agreement with Southern Education Association

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 negotiated agreement with southern education association. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

For the 2024-2025 school year, teachers will receive a \$1,100 raise to the base salary and this will represent a 3.98% increase. This increase will put their total compensation around the 102% threshold in the array. Based on LB 397, teachers' total compensation has to fall between 98%-102% threshold. In addition, there were a handful of items that were updated on the Extra Duty Schedule.

VII.B. District Calendar 2024-2025

Motion to approve the district calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

VII.C. Preschool Calendar 2024-2025

Motion to approve the preschool calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.D. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Gage County Sheriff's Office & Southern Public Schools

Dr. Proski noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Gage County Sheriff's Office & Southern Public Schools has not yet been completed by the county.

VII.E. Policy 3055: School Resource Officer

Motion to approve Policy 3055: School Resource Officer. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.F. Superintendent's Contract

Dr. Proski's current base salary ranks 7th out of 11 schools in the array. He noted that his mentee, a first-year superintendent, base salary is higher on the array than his currently is.

VII.F.1. Superintendent's Contract's Contract Extension

Motion to approve the superintendent's contract extension. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Proski's contract was extended through the 2025-2026 school year

VII.F.2. Superintendent Salary and Benefits

Motion to approve a base salary increase of 8% for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Proski noted that this salary increase should put him at the midpoint on the array or at 100% of the 98%-102% threshold.

VII.G. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., January 15, 2024, 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