

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 24, 2024
6:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrator was present: 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:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 9/18/2024

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 exclude Debra Schlake from the Special School Board Meeting

Motion to exclude Debra Schlake from the special school board meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

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.

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the September 9, 2024, Budget Hearing

Motion to approve minutes from from the September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the September 9, 2024, Budget Hearing. This motion, made by Jeff Argo 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. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

IV.A. Policy 6043: Sharing Mapping Data

Motion to approve Policy 6043: Sharing Mapping Data. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

With the passage of LB 1329, school districts may choose to apply for grant funding to create and share mapping data (defined as maps relating to the school buildings or school property with data for an efficient emergency response to such buildings or property) with public safety agencies. If a district wants to apply for a grant to create and share this information, a district must pass Policy 6043: Sharing Mapping Data, and ensure that the creation and distribution of the mapping data meets the requirements of the legislation.

IV.B. The 2024-2025 Southern Public Schools Budget

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Southern Public Schools Budget. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2024-2025 budget. The 2024-2025 budget continues to invest in meeting the needs of our district, which continues to have growing student needs dating back to the pandemic. 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 the budget 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 2024-2025 school year, the district gained \$410,182 in valuation revenue. These numbers do not account for the increased costs to run a school district over the years (utility increases, salary and benefit increases, insurance increases, inflation, etc.). The overall personnel cost will be up by \$247,486. 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 \$250,000 this upcoming school year. In addition, the district needs to replace a chiller at the Jr./Sr. High School, and 2 condensers at the elementary school, which will cost the district around \$350,000-\$450,000 this school year.

Dr. Prosocki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$489,589,626 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,550,940. The district's overall valuation was \$491,140,566, and Southern saw an increase 12.80% or a \$55,748,161 increase between Gage and Pawnee Counties from the prior year. Dr. Prosocki noted that 85% of the district expenditures are in personnel and the other 15% of expenditures are fixed costs that cannot change.

Tax Year	Gage County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Pawnee County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Overall Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
2020	\$378,656,597	(0.93%)	\$1,374,630	(0.10%)	\$380,031,227	(0.92%)	(\$3,533,577)
2021	\$387,897,024	2.44%	\$1,391,515	1.23%	\$389,288,539	2.43%	\$9,257,312
2022	\$399,748,194	3.05%	\$1,442,600	3.67%	\$401,190,794	3.05%	\$11,902,255
2023	\$433,936,240	8.55%	\$1,456,165	0.94%	\$435,392,405	8.52%	\$34,201,611
2024	\$489,589,626	12.82%	\$1,550,940	6.05%	\$491,140,566	12.80%	\$55,748,161

IV.C. The 2024-2025 Property Tax Resolution

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Property Tax Resolution. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Proski gave an overview of the proposed 2024-2025 property tax request and tax rate. Dr. Proski recommended the General Fund levy be set at \$0.9359, the Special Building Fund levy be set at \$0.075, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund be set at \$0.03. He recommended the overall levy be set at 1.0409. Based on these recommended mill levies, the General Fund tax request will generate \$4,596,723, the Special Building Fund tax request will generate \$368,354, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund tax request will generate \$147,341. The overall proposed tax request will generate \$5,112,418. Based on these proposed figures, the overall mill levy will decrease by around 0.039 cents from the previous year, and the tax request will go up by \$410,182 from the previous year. Lastly, Dr. Proski gave the board a breakdown of the tax request over the past five years, a breakdown of the mill levy request over the past five years, and Pioneer Conference cost per pupil comparison for the 2022-2023 school year by Average Daily Membership.

Year	Building Fund	QCPUF	Bond Fund	General Fund	Total
2020-2021	\$ 38,003	\$ 114,009		\$ 3,952,324	\$ 4,104,336
2021-2022	\$ 38,928	\$ 116,786		\$ 4,048,600	\$ 4,204,314
2022-2023	\$ 200,595	\$ 120,358		\$ 4,011,908	\$ 4,332,861
2023-2024	\$ 326,543	\$ 130,617		\$ 4,245,076	\$ 4,702,236
2024-2025	\$ 368,354	\$ 147,341		\$ 4,596,723	\$ 5,112,418

	Building Fund	QCPUF	Bond Fund	General Fund	Total
2020-2021	0.0100	0.0300		1.0400	1.0800
2021-2022	0.0100	0.0300		1.0400	1.0800
2022-2023	0.0500	0.0300		1.0000	1.0800
2023-2024	0.0750	0.0300		0.9750	1.0800

2024-2025	0.0750	0.0300		0.9359	1.0409
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**Cost Per Pupil (2022-2023)
Average Daily Membership (ADM)
Pioneer Conference Comparison**

District	Rank (244 Districts Total)	Per Pupil Spending (ADM)
Johnson-Brock	42	\$15,607
Sterling	86	\$18,749
Southern	102	\$19,788
Friend	163	\$23,026
Pawnee City	173	\$23,473
Diller-Odell	193	\$24,890
Lewiston	215	\$29,579
HTRS	234	\$32,438
Exeter-Milligan	236	\$34,509
FCSH	N/A	N/A
NCL	N/A	N/A

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., October 14, 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