

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 11, 2024
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, & Jared McKeever. 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: 11/6/2024

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. 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 & Jeff Argo from the November School Board Meeting

Motion to excuse Debra Schlake & Jeff Argo from the November school board meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Jeff Argo: Absent, Debra Schlake: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

II. Approval of Minutes from the October 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting & Committee on American Civics Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024, regular school board meeting & the committee on American civics meeting. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

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 Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on installing new light fixtures outside the elementary school, working on HVAC equipment, backflow inspection, and replacing the broken post indicator valve at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Dr. Prosocki said that he has been working with Engineering Technologies Inc to get the 3 condensing units out to bid. The plan is to start this project once school is out. In addition, he also mentioned that there are 6 rooftop units that are nearing the end of their life cycle and need replaced at the Jr./Sr. High School, and he would like to complete this project during the summer as well.

Dr. Prosocki said that the district had to pay over \$50,000 to work on the 3 condensing units in September, and it makes no sense to waste taxpayer money and put an expense band aide on these items anymore. He noted that when he first started at Southern, the district was borrowing over \$500,000 to make payroll, had leaking roofs, and boilers from the 1960s at the Jr./Sr. High School that were leaking carbon monoxide. In addition, on his first day on the job, he was also informed that he had to pay off a \$200,000 loan for 3 buses. Dr. Prosocki said the district has health cash reserves, and can cover the costs of the replacements and still be in a very good financial position. Dr. Prosocki said that he does not want to put his successor in a bad position when it comes to the district facilities like he was put in on his first day on the job.

V.B. Personnel Items

Alexis Robinson was hired as a food service provider, and Shane Saathoff resigned as the head high school football coach.

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, Dee Bednar being honored with a longevity counseling award, Red Ribbon week activities, 6th graders attending the Sportsmanship Conference, November WORDS training, final day of tutoring program at the elementary school, upcoming K-3 vocal music conference, and upcoming winter testing.

Jeff Argo arrived at the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: the Veterans Day Program, all spots being filled in the alternative school, staff and students using the Epilog Laser Fusion Pro that was purchased with a federal grant, the start of winter sports, post-season awards, gate receipts and running in the red for both softball and volleyball gate receipts, and current enrollment figures.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki distributed the yearly required audit to the school board members, and he went over the 2024-2025 state aid recalculation, and he noted the district will lose \$11,283 in revenue next school year. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the 2024 Certified School Adjustment Valuation report from the Nebraska Department of Revenue. From here, he went over the Legislative Resolution 378 regarding the Boards of Educational Lands and Funds. If the state legislature decides to sell off the 1.25 million acres, the district will lose \$63,000 in funding each year thereafter, and the district across Nebraska would need to raise their levy to make up for the lost revenue. Dr. Prososki went over the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) medical and dental rates for the 2025-2026 school year, and he said the rates will increase by 5.49% and this increase will cost the district around \$40,000. From here, Dr. Prososki presented the school board with a possible new superintendent evaluation system put together by KSB School Law.

This evaluation system is a lot shorter than the current evaluation system, and looks at items from bird's-eye view, and it does not dive into the day-to-day operations that the school board is not privy to the tasks that a superintendent has to complete on a daily basis. He then went over the 2024-2025 safety audit, which is required under Rule 10 (the accreditation requirements for K-12 public school districts in Nebraska). Dr. Prososki went over the official enrollment numbers (364 students), poverty trends, option enrollment trends, and special education trends. Dr. Prososki reminded the school board that 7 days after the regular December board meeting that his contract will automatically renew for 1 year pending the school board decides not to renew his contract. Dr. Prososki said he is working with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) on a technical clean-up bill for TEEOSA or the state aid formula. Lastly, Dr. Prososki noted that with the election of Donald Trump, there is going to be another push by his administration to give public money to private schools (called a school voucher program). During his last administration, and under the leadership of the Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, they pushed for the privatization of schools in the United States and expanded school choice options in to private schools. Dr. Prososki noted that these radical views may work in a

state like California, but giving public money to private schools does not match Nebraska's conservative educational values.

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

VII.A. Paying out Conditional Leave for All Employees Beyond the Maximum Accumulated Days for the 2024-2025 School Year and Beyond

Motion to paying out conditional leave for all employees beyond the maximum accumulated days for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that this is a retention and recruitment strategy that was outlined in our new strategic plan that our students, staff, parents, patrons, school board members, and community members wanted us to implement based on Strategy 1 & Indicator 1 and Strategy 3 & Indicator 6. Moving forward, conditional leave (e.g., sick leave) accumulated beyond 50 days shall now be reimbursed at the substitute rate of pay for all school employees, and these payments shall be made in the fall of each contract year. Before the school board approved this provision, this fringe benefit was only occurring for teachers and no other school employees. Unconditional leave (e.g., personal, vacation, or PTO) has to be paid out under the current labor laws.

VII.B. Option Enrollment Applications

VII.C. Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation - As Needed to Protect the Interest of the District & to Prevent the Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual

Motion to enter in executive session at 8:27 p.m. as needed to protect the interest of the district & to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C.1. Convene Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation

VII.C.2. Reconvene Meeting from Executive Session

Motion to reconvene the meeting from executive session at 9:02 p.m. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C.3. Approval of Any Action Deemed Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., December 9, 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