

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
December 19, 2024  
6:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrator 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: 12/11/2024

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.

II. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

II.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.

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

III.A. Consider the Bid for the Condensing Unit Replacement Project

Motion to accept the bid for the Condensing Unit Replacement Project to Johnson Controls, Inc. at the cost of \$689,867. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Proski noted that Johnson Controls will install 2 new condensing units/AC units at the Jr./Sr. High School and 1 new condensing unit/AC unit at the Elementary School. This project will commence once school is out, and it will conclude on August 15, 2025, or before school starts on August 21, 2025. Dr. Proski noted that Southern has a very healthy cash reserve, and the district will not need to take out a loan to complete this project, which will save taxpayers money. He said that this is not the case in many districts, and he noted that one area district completed a similar project in cost, and they had to take out a 7-year loan to complete the

project. Since 85% of school's budgets are made up of personnel, it is vital for school districts to maintain healthy cash reserves, or they may be forced to cut staff. Dr. Prosocki noted that the district's tax request is up by \$410,182 from the previous school year, and the district's state aid is up by \$451,892 from the previous school year. This will still allow Southern to still be ahead by \$172,207 after this project is paid for.

Dr. Prosocki noted that there is an error in the state aid formula, and he has been working with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to get this error rectified. The error stems from Southern participating in the free breakfast and free lunch program, which in turn counts all students at Southern as poverty students and allows Southern to get more state aid money than other school districts across Nebraska. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said that he is working with Engineering Technologies Inc to get 8 rooftop units at the Jr./Sr. High School, that are past their shelf life, out to bid in the coming months. Dr. Prosocki said once everything is installed, it will save the district around \$10,000-\$20,000 a year because the new HVAC equipment will be so much more energy efficient.

#### IV. Adjournment

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

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. January 13, 2025, 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