

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 13, 2025
7:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra & Christopher Proski. The following student board member was present: Gracie Vermillion.

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: 1/8/2025

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 Betsy Frerichs from the January 13, 2025, school board meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the January 13, 2025, school board meeting. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

I.D. Reorganization of the Southern School Board

I.D.1. Election of Officers

I.D.1.1. President

Motion to approve Dave Zimmerman as the President. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, David Zimmerman: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

I.D.1.2. Vice-President

Motion to approve Dana Dorn as Vice-President. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Dana Dorn: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

I.D.1.3. Secretary

Motion to approve Debra Schlake as the Secretary. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting & the December 19, 2024, Special School Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the December 9, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting & the December 19, 2024, Special School Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, 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.

The school board received public comment from Beth Willet.

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 Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on replacing the flag pole at the Jr./Sr. High School, converting lights to LED lighting, getting buses serviced, working on the old

office area at the Jr./Sr. High School, and a water leak at the Jr./Sr. High School that NIFCO rectified.

Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on working with Engineering Technologies Inc. to get the 4 rooftop units and the 4 condensing units at the Jr./Sr. High School out to bid as required by state law. The current units range from 23-27 years in age, and typically these units last anywhere from 15 years to 30 years. Dr. Prosocki noted that it will cost around \$250,000 to \$300,000 to replace the 8 units.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.C. Technology Update

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: student council, junior high girls' basketball. MUDECAS basketball tournament, and FBLA 2nd grade Christmas party.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, the 4th-6th grade vocal music concert, NSCAS awards ceremony, Marzano growth goals, WORDS project instructional coaching, and an elementary quiz bowl on February 5.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures, 2025-2026 registration, academic all-state (Football: Carson Goes, Softball: Mya Frase, & Volleyball: Jazlyn Schell), success of the new JAG program, & 4 students enrolled in 5 college courses.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over the 2024 Teacher Shortage Report, and he reviewed the recent ALICAP insurance review. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over the 2023-2024 Civil Rights Data Collection that must be completed every 2 years based on the U.S. Department of Education requirements. From here, Dr. Prosocki went over several studies that show the lingering effect that the pandemic has had on student attendance, emotional regulation, and academic performance on younger students. Dr. Prosocki went over the Middle of the Year (MOY) DIBELS results, and noted that he would like the school board to set classified and principals' salaries for the 2025-2026 school year at the February school board meeting. Dr. Prosocki went over a legislative update, and he said the state faces a \$1.125 billion dollar shortfall over the next biennium budget because of the recently enacted income tax cuts. In addition, he explained the 2024 tax statement that recently came out that will be paid out in 2025. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over his behind-the-scenes work to rectify bad legislation before the start of the 109th Legislature session. He noted that he met with both Senator Myron Dorn and Senator Tom Brandt regarding concerns related LB 575 Sports &

Spaces. Both senators agreed with his concerns, and Senator Kathleen Kauth reached out over the phone to discuss Dr. Prosocki's concerns (e.g., not allowing a mother with an infant son to go to the same restroom together because they are of different genders). Senator Kauth said the new rendition will address Dr. Prosocki concerns. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki reminded the school board of the spring NRCSA conference, he went over a property tax comparison for Gage County, and he gave the school board an update on a recent PowerSchool data breach.

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

VII.A. Appointments

VII.A.1. Authorized Representative for State & Federal Programs

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the authorized representative for state & federal programs. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A.2. Bus Mechanic for Bus Inspections

Motion to appoint James Ullman as the bus mechanic for bus inspections. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A.3. District's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the district's non-discrimination compliance coordinator. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A.4. Title IX Coordinator

Motion to appoint Jeff Murphy as the Title IX coordinator. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A.5. Treasurer

Motion to appoint Taylor Schmidt as the treasurer. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.B. Designate the Fund Depository for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Security First Bank of Blue Springs, Western National Bank of Wymore, and Cornerstone Bank of York as the depository for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C. Designate the Legal Counsel for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate KSB School Law as the district's legal counsel. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.D. Designate the Legal Newspaper for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Fairbury Journal-News as the legal newspaper for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.E. Designate the Method for Publicizing Meetings for the Southern Board of Education

Motion to publicize meetings of the Southern Board of Education in accordance with Policy 2008: Meetings. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 2008: Meetings, the board will give reasonable advance-publicized notice of the time and the place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and the public. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district, if available, on the newspaper's website. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Fairbury-Journal News, Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald.

VII.F. Appoint School Board Standing Committees

Motion to approve the standing committees as appointed by the school board president. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.F.1. American Civics

Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Jared McKeever will serve on the American Civics committee.

VII.F.2. Building & Grounds

Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, & Jared McKeever will serve on the Buildings & Grounds committee.

VII.F.3. Finance

Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, & Jeff Argo will serve on the Finance committee.

VII.F.4. Negotiations

Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Debra Schlake will serve on the Negotiations committee.

VII.F.5. Policy

Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, & Jared McKeever will serve on the Policy committee.

VII.F.6. Transportation

Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Jeff Argo will serve on the Transportation committee.

VII.G. Policy Review - Policy 2005: Conflict of Interest, Policy 2006: Complaint Procedures, & Policy 2012: Code of Ethics

VII.H. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., February 12, 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