

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 10, 2021
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: Aaron Whitwer, Angela Meyer, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & 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:

- Wymore Arbor State Newspaper

Posted Date: 4/29/2021

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgement 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 is posted in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium.

I.C. Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the May board meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the May board meeting. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 12, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the April 12, 2021, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, 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. Financial Statement: Item for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

C.D. Bids for the month were as follows:

Security First Bank, Blue Springs Special Funds: 0.21%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 0.20%

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 Dana Dorn and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over getting through the challenging year, mowing, John Eisenhower recently being hired, HVAC equipment upgrades, and the football field concrete and drainage project that will start during the first week of June.

V.B. Personnel Items

John Eisenhower was recently hired as the assistant head maintenance position and Kelsey Forney has accepted another position, so the district will be looking for another food service provider for the fall.

V.B.1. Hiring Recommendations

V.B.1.1. Jeremy Doose - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve Jeremy Doose as the 7-12 social studies teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

V.B.1.2. Valerie Barnhart - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 English Language Arts Teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve Valerie Barnhart as the 7-12 English Language teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

V.B.2. Resignations

V.B.2.1. Elizabeth Ogg - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 English Language Arts Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Elizabeth Ogg as the 7-12 English Language Arts teacher at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 School Year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Ogg at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year with regrets. The school board thanked Elizabeth for her years of service to Southern Public Schools.

V.B.2.2. Jessica Tjaden - 1.0 FTE - Kindergarten Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the the resignation of Jessica Tjaden as the kindergarten teacher at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board accepted the resignation of Jessica Tjaden at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year with regrets. The school board thanked Jessica for her years of service to Southern Public Schools.

Dr. Proski noted that Stacy Fossler expressed interest in the position and she was the only applicant that applied for it. The district will move Stacy Fossler to the kindergarten position in the fall. Since Southern has the lowest Elementary School special education caseload in ESU 5 at 11, the district will not fill this position in the fall. This will move the special education caseload to the ESU 5 average and in addition, the district will only be able to grow the budget by \$25,095 next year and this amount does not offset staff salary raises and health insurance increase for the 2021-2022 school year. The board and the administration talked about the potential need for another special education paraprofessional at the Elementary School and the administration will look to hire another paraprofessional over the summer months to work specifically with special needs students this fall.

V.C. Technology Update

There was not a technology update for the May board meeting.

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: summer school on June 1 - June 24, working on the activity schedule, testing, and upcoming activities.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: the last day of school on May 21, having 2 of the 4 alternative education spots filled at ESU 5, holding class officers elections, seniors being awarded over \$1 million dollars in scholarships, 4 students were awarded the Susan Thompson Buffett scholarships, honors night on May 4, graduation on May 15, happenings in agriculture classes/FFA, and Connor Bradly breaking the 100-meter and the 200-meter school records that were in place for over 40 years.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over the recent preschool advisory committee meeting, he gave the board an update on a draft of the potential accreditation changes for districts in Nebraska, and he went over the assessment calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Next, Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the upcoming September 14, 2021, special bond election. Preliminary numbers for the project have put the overall cost at around \$2.5-3 million dollars. Dr. Prosocki said that there has never been a better time to run a special bond election because the interest rates are at an all-time low (Around 1.81% for this project) and commodity prices are nearing all-time highs. Dr. Prosocki noted that the tax request will be around \$169,500 over a twenty-year period if the bond passes. Once the board finalizes the overall cost of the project at the June board meeting, Dr. Prosocki will share informational brochures about the project and hold public informational meetings. Dr. Prosocki also noted that if the September 14, 2021, special bond election passes, it will not take funds away from staff salaries, supplies, etc. A successful bond election will result in additional taxable revenue outside of the general fund operating budget to pay for the general obligation bond. An analogy that Dr. Prosocki tells his staff is that if a person got a house loan, they could not use the house loan proceeds to purchase a new boat or a new car with the loan. Dr. Prosocki went over the DIBELS results in grades K-6 (In the fall there was 46% at benchmark, in the winter there was 52% at benchmark, and in the spring, there was 61% at benchmark), the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results, and he noted how the governor and the state legislature has cut funding to schools in Nebraska by \$19 million dollars over the past two years. Dr. Prosocki thanked all the staff members, students, and school board members for all of their dedicated work this school year to get students back in the classroom during a global pandemic. Dr. Prosocki appreciated everyone's flexibility and patience during the 2020-2021 school year. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki gave the board a legislative update and noted that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) just announced that they will extend the free school breakfast and school lunch program through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

VII.A. Set Activity Prices for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to keep the activity prices the same as the previous year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The admission prices for the 2020-2021 school year will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for students. The prices for passes for the 2021-2022 school year will be \$50 for adults, \$30 for students, and \$90 for families. These are also the same prices that the other Pioneer Conference schools charge.

VII.B. Approval of Milk Bids for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve the escalating and de-escalating milk bid from Hiland Dairy for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Southern Public Schools just joined the Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative in an effort to achieve lower milk prices in an effort to save the district money. The Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative consists of the following districts: Diller-Odell, Fairbury, Meridian, Milford, Southern, Tri County, & Wilber-Clatonia.

VII.C. Set the Annual Student Fees Policy Hearing for June 14, 2021, at 7:10 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium in Wymore, Nebraska

Motion to set the annual student fees policy hearing for June 14, 2021, at 7:10 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium in Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Nebraska statute, the school board must hold a public hearing on this policy annually to seek input from local stakeholders.

VII.D. Set the Annual Parental Involvement Policy Review Hearing and to Set the Annual Title I Parental Involvement Policy Review Hearing for June 14, 2021, at 7:20 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium in Wymore, Nebraska

Motion to set the annual parental involvement policy review hearing and to set the annual Title I parental involvement policy review hearing for June 14, 2021, at 7:20 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium in Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Nebraska statute, the school board must hold a public hearing on these two policies annually to seek input from local stakeholders.

VII.E. Review, Consider, and Award the Bid for the Jr./Sr. High School Boiler Project

Motion to approve the bid from Johnson Controls for the Jr./Sr. High School boiler project in the amount of \$344,581. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 3003.1: Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects, the school board has to award the bid to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

The district will use the second and third round of stimulus funds or the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds to pay for the Jr./Sr. High School boiler project (Replace a 1965 & 1983 boiler). Next summer, the district will look to replace the Elementary School boiler, fix the HVAC system in the Jr./Sr. High School commons, update the obsolete HVAC control in the classrooms, and complete some other smaller projects in both buildings.

VII.F. Review, Consider, and Award the Bid for the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium Rooftop HVAC Unit

Motion to approve the bid from Johnson Controls for the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium rooftop HVAC unit in the amount of \$86,572. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 3003.1: Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects, the school board has to award the bid to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

The district will use the second and third round of stimulus funds or the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds to pay for the Jr./Sr. High School rooftop HVAC unit project (Replace the current 1960s units in the auditorium).

VII.G. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., June 14, 2021, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium 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