

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 19, 2023
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: Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, 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: 9/13/2023

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

Motion to Excuse Betsy Frerichs from the Special September 19, 2023, School Board Meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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. Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and the September 11, 2023, Budget Hearing

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023, regular board meeting and the September 11, 2023, budget hearing. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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

III.A. The 2023-2024 Southern Public Schools Budget

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Southern Public Schools budget. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The 2023-2024 budget continues to invest in meeting the needs of our district with growing student needs. 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 that we don't have to amend them 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 2023-2024 school year, the district gained \$369,375 in valuation revenue and the district lost \$148,545 state aid 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 \$309,403. 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 \$239,855 this upcoming school year.

Dr. Prosocki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$433,936,240 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,456,165. The district's overall valuation was \$435,392,405 and Southern saw an increase 8.52% or \$34,201,611 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)
2019	\$382,188,694	(4.41%)	\$1,376,110	(.001%)	\$383,564,804	(4.39%)	(\$16,874,224)
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

III.B. The 2023-2024 Property Tax Resolution

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 property tax resolution. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 property tax request and tax rate. Dr. Prosocki recommended the General Fund levy be set at \$0.975, 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 \$1.08. Based on these recommended mill levies,

the General Fund tax request will generate \$4,245,076, the Special Building Fund tax request will generate \$326,543, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund tax request will generate \$130,617. The overall proposed tax request will generate \$4,702,236. Based on these proposed figures, the overall mill levy will stay the same from the previous school year and tax request will go up by \$369,375 from the previous school year. Dr. Prosocki said that with the record high inflation, it will make all school district's budget tight this school year. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki gave the board a breakdown of the tax request over the past seven years and a Pioneer Conference cost per pupil comparison for the 2021-2022 school year by Average Daily Membership.

Year	Building Fund	QCPUF	Bond Fund	General Fund	Total
2017-2018		\$ 20,202	\$ 161,616	\$ 4,188,625	\$ 4,370,443
2018-2019		\$ 120,131		\$ 4,204,610	\$ 4,324,741
2019-2020	\$ 38,356	\$ 115,069		\$ 3,989,074	\$ 4,142,499
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

**Cost Per Pupil (2021-2022)
Average Daily Membership (ADM)
Pioneer Conference Comparison**

District	Rank (244 Districts Total)	Per Pupil Spending (ADM)
Johnson-Brock	44	\$14,855
Sterling	93	\$18,296
Southern	102	\$18,760
Tri County	104	\$18,810
Pawnee City	117	\$19,475
Friend	158	\$21,421
Diller-Odell	181	\$23,048
Lewiston	189	\$23,313
HTRS	231	\$30,500
FCSH	N/A	N/A
NCL	N/A	N/A

Lastly, Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the new safe and secure entrance at the Jr./Sr. High School. He noted that retrofitting a building that is almost 100 years old presents many challenges. Dr. Prosocki said there have been some unanticipated costs with the floor, the windows, and a load-bearing wall. Dr. Prosocki noted that there are 2 schools of thought. Either you build new or you retrofit what you currently have to match the required code and ADA requirements as per state law.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., October 9, 2023, 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