

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 13, 2023
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, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Proski. The following student board member was present: Cole Thompson.

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: 11/8/2023

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

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 October 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, October 11, 2023, Special Board Meeting, & Committee on American Civics

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, regular board meeting, October 11, 2023, special board meeting, & committee on American civics. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

Jim Decker, Audrey Whitwer, and Jackie Swearingen gave public comment to the school board.

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 Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on the electric bus being delivered, installing some back rods at the elementary school to address some foundation issues caused by the poor drainage around the building, and a Jr./Sr. High School front entrance remodel.

V.B. Personnel Items

Bonnie, Creek, Desiree Blakemoire, & Lori Moniz-Trisler all submitted letter of resignations from their employment at Southern.

V.C. Technology Update

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: FFA events, Red Ribbon Week (drug and alcohol prevention week), freshman volleyball tournament, FBLA trip, and play production.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, preschool completing fall GOLD testing, 5-6 grade elementary school quiz bowl, Red Ribbon Week (drug and alcohol prevention week), WORDS tutoring at the elementary school, using data to inform instruction through the WORDS training, K-3 concert, middle school life skills sportsmanship Rally in Lincoln, and upcoming State Principals Conference in Lincoln on December 6-7, 2023.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, Veterans Day program, all 4 spots being filled in the alternative education program and using an additional spot from Diller-Odell, completing the wiring for the new welding program, play production

contests, winter sports numbers (wrestling = 13 participants, girls basketball = 9 participants, and boys basketball = 14 participants), post season awards, and fall gate receipts.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki distributed the yearly required audit to the school board members and he went over the 2023-2024 state aid recalculation and he noted the district will gain \$4,455 in revenue. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the 2023 Certified School Adjustment Valuation report from the Nebraska Department of Revenue and he presented the school board with a draft of both the 2023-2024 district calendar and the 2023-2024 preschool calendar. He noted that Southern has to follow the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) calendar so the district does not have a track meet on graduation. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the changes that were recently made to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Dr. Prososki went over the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) medical and dental rates for the 2024-2025 school year and he said they will increase by 1.99% and this increase will cost the district just under \$18,000. Dr. Prososki went over the 2024 election information and he gave the school board an update on the Elimination of Property, Income, and Corporate (EPIC) Tax petition drive. Dr. Prososki noted that if this petition drive is successful, no one will ever buy groceries, buy a vehicle, buy clothing, or buy a house in Nebraska if a consumption or excise tax is imposed on Nebraskans, because no one will want to pay a 20-30% consumption or excise tax rate. Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on federal school bus seat belt legislation and how the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved federal funding for Wi-Fi on school buses. Next, Dr. Prososki said the Nebraska Council of School Administrators are working with the Governor regarding lowering or eliminating some of the state training requirements. Dr. Prososki said that the Gage County Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of a new School Resource Officer (SRO) for Gage County Schools to utilize (Diller-Odell, Freeman, & Southern) after the first of the year. Dr. Prososki went over the official enrollment numbers (374 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 noted that superintendents cannot acquire tenure like teachers and principals in Nebraska. Lastly, Dr. Prososki went over how the radical members of the House of Representatives want to cut Title I funding to public schools by 80% and he noted that if this legislation is enacted, Southern would have to cut one teacher and one paraprofessional.

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

VII.A. Declare the old Electrical Wire as Surplus for Immediate Sale or Disposal

Motion to declare the old electrical wire as surplus for immediate sale or disposal. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Based on Policy 3019: Sale or Disposal of School Property, it sets forth the statutory requirement that the sale of school property be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board of education at a regular board meeting. The district has always sold items of monetary value to the general public and the district has never sold items that were not working or that were broken.

VII.B. Softball Cooperative Agreement with Diller-Odell Public Schools for the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 School Years

Motion to approve the softball cooperative agreement with Diller-Odell Public Schools for the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 school years. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.C. Junior High Football Cooperative Agreement with Diller-Odell Public Schools for the 2024-2025 School Year - Chaysen Bednar & Preston Jurgens

Motion to not approve the junior high football cooperative agreement with Diller-Odell Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Dana Dorn: Abstain (With Conflict), Debra Schlake: no, David Zimmerman: no, Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes
yes: 3, no: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

VII.D. Appoint Dana Dorn to Serve as the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) Delegate Assembly Representative

Motion to appoint Dana Dorn to serve as the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) delegate assembly representative. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Dana Dorn: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

VII.E. Option Enrollment Applications

VII.F. 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 9:02 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 Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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

VII.F.2. Reconvene Meeting from Executive Session

Motion to reconvene the meeting from executive session at 9:29 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., December 11, 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