

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 11, 2024
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.

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: 3/6/2024

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. Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the Special Board Meetings on February 27, 2024, & March 6, 2024

Motion to approve minutes from February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the Special Board Meetings on February 27, 2024, & March 6, 2024. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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: 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 needing to ship the electric bus to Kearney to calibrate the bus to work with the Level 3 V2G technology (Southern is the first entity in the state to implement this advanced technology), fertilization contract, building maintenance, installing shot clocks, and getting ready for mowing season.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.B.1. Resignation

V.B.2. Cathy Hayden - 1.0 FTE - 7-9 Science Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Cathy Hayden at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The school board accepted the resignation of Cathy Hayden at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year with regrets, and the school board thanked Cathy for her years of service at Southern Public Schools.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki went over the preliminary technology budget for the 2024-2025 school year. He noted that all of the hardware purchases are based on the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology to improve student learning. This strategic plan was created by the technology committee a number of years ago. The hardware budget will be \$60,000, the software budget will be \$35,000, and the infrastructure will be \$45,000, or \$140,000 total for the 2024-2025 school year.

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: current enrollment figures, a spring parent teacher conference attendance rate of 67%, ESU 5 principal meeting, WORDS literacy

grant update, 6th and 7th grade robotics competition at ESU 5, and Reading Rally completion for grades 3-6 at ESU 5.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, the alternative school at ESSU 5 being full, all juniors taking the ACT on March 26, upcoming college field trips for students, FFA & FBLA weeks, having a 37% turn out rate for parent-teacher conferences, and scheduling classes for next school year.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki went over the finalized Budget Authority and State Aid numbers for the 2024-2025 school year. He noted that the numbers did not change from January. Next, he went over the district's 86-page Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) federal improvement plan that is required by the United States Department of Education. Dr. Prososki informed the school board that the federal ESSER CARES, CRRSA, and ARP programmatic monitoring self-review will take place this spring. Dr. Prososki said that Diller-Odell, Freeman, and Southern will be piloting an ESU 5 transition program at SCC for students with disabilities, aged 18-21, which is required by federal law. Dr. Prososki said that he would be leading David City's accreditation visit in the fall and Friend's accreditation visit in the winter, and he went over the exit PowerPoint presentation that Southern recently had. Dr. Prososki then went over the Governor's plan to reduce property taxes, and he noted that if a hard cap is imposed on school districts, it will force school districts to make drastic cuts to staff members in the future because of lost revenue. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the Multicultural Education Report that is required under Rule 10, he went over the opening days schedule, and he went over his vacation and sick days for the first quarter. Dr. Prososki went over the Property Tax Authority under LB 243, and the district will lose \$225,014 in taxable revenue next school year. Dr. Prososki noted that the new revenue cap will make school's budgets extremely tight in the future. Dr. Prososki said he submitted a \$500,000 safety and security competitive grant, and if approved, these funds will help offset the costs of the safe and secure building entrances at both buildings. Lastly, Dr. Prososki went over the staff costs for the upcoming school year, and they will increase by 5.14% or by \$266,890. In the fall, staff salaries will be around \$5.5 million dollars.

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

VII.A. Police Officer for Prom on April 6, 2024

Motion to approve a police officer for prom on April 6, 2024. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.B. Consider the Approval of an Out-of-State Travel Request (6th Grade Field Trip)

Motion to approve the 6th grade field trip to Worlds of Fun on May 10, 2024. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Based on Policy 6027: Field Trips, all out-of-state and overnight field trips require pre-approval of the school board. The 6th grade is planning to take their yearly trip to Worlds of Fun on May 10, 2024.

VII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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., April 8, 2024, 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