

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 9, 2019
7:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

Vice-President Carol Pralle called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Angela Meyer, Betsy Frerichs, Carol Pralle, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators 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. 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

Vice-President Carol Pralle announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the back of the board of education meeting room.

I.C. Hear Support, Opposition, Criticism, or Observations Related to the Proposed Southern Public Schools 2019-2020 Budget

Dr. Prososki gave an overview of the proposed 2019-2020 budget. The district is forecasted to have less revenue during the 2019-2020 school year than it did during the 2015-2016 school year. This can be attributed to the decrease in the district valuation over the past four years and state aid not making up the difference in the lost revenue. For the 2019- 2020 school year, the district lost \$182,242 in valuation revenue and the district state aid only went up \$189,496. This number does not account for the increase costs to run a school district over the past four years (Utility increases, salary and benefit increases, insurance increases, etc).

Dr. Prososki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$382,188,694 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,376,110. The district's overall valuation was \$383,564,804 and Southern saw a 4.39% decrease or \$16,874,224 decrease between Gage and Pawnee Counties from the prior year. Dr. Prososki stated that because the district did not fill every position over the past few years, the overall expenditures for the 2019-2020 school year will be flat from the previous year (The district expenditures will not increase from the prior year). Dr. Prososki commended the board for making tough budget decisions over the past few years and not filling every position so the district did not have to go down the Reduction in Force process. Dr. Prososki noted that 85% of the district expenditures are in personnel and the other 15% of expenditures are fixed costs that cannot change. The board also had discussion about possibly setting elementary class sizes for each grade level through attrition during the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Rule 10, the accreditation requirements for public schools, advises schools to have one teacher per every 25 students in grades K-6 and currently, Southern has two teachers in some grades levels that have

25 students or less. Lastly, Dr. Prososki noted that he wanted to continue to build the district cash reserve and hoped to eventually have 3 months of operating expenses in their cash reserve or \$1.5 million. Currently, the district has just under 2 months of operating expenses in its cash reserve.

Dave Zimmerman arrived at the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

I.D. Motion to Close the Budget Hearing

Motion to close the budget hearing at 7:18 p.m. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Adjournment

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., September 9, 2019, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room 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