

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 13, 2020  
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: Angela Meyer, Betsy Frerichs, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrator was present: Christopher Proski. The following student board member was present: Aryel Lane. The following visitors were present: Joanna Adams, Becky Weyer, Lynn Sabey, Malinda Hock.

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

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 2019, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Emily Shockley, 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.

Joanna Adams brought up concerns about setting Elementary class sizes and wondered why the policy was brought forth in the first place. Becky Weyer said we have high poverty and high SPED numbers and this policy would limit the district and not do what is best for the students. Lynn Sabey talked about how the new required curriculum is harder for students and we need smaller class sizes to accomplish this. Malinda Hock was concerned that some students will be overlooked and our students experience trauma at home on a regular basis. Malinda noted that larger class sizes will make everything harder. Becky Weyer also provided some written comments from 9 other teachers about concerns about larger class sizes.

Dr. Proski thank the staff for providing their input on this delicate matter and he noted that he sent this proposed policy to all teachers in December so they could provide feedback on it.

#### 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: 1.80%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.85%

#### IV.A. Approval of Bills

Motion to approve the bills. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prososki noted that we are four months into the fiscal year and the district has received 35% of its revenue and the district has spent 33% of its overall budget. Dr. Prososki noted the district had to borrow \$300,000 the past two months to cover payroll costs.

#### IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

#### IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

#### V. Support Service

#### V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over a company installing the new main basketball hoops over winter break, working on the summer maintenance list, and looking to fill the full-time maintenance position.

#### V.B. Personnel Items

Amanda Moniz was recently hired as a part time maintenance staff member and we are still looking to fill a full-time maintenance staff member.

#### V.C. Technology Update

Based on the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology to support student learning, the district will make the following purchases in January: 30 laptops for the Elementary School, a cart for the Elementary School, 10 laptops for the Jr./Sr. High School, 3 iMacs for the office staff, and a laptop for the media center.

#### VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

#### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: adjusting to winter weather, gave an update on winter activities, the first speech meet of the year, and cheerleaders getting second place at a recent competition.

#### VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal provided a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures (3-Year-Old Preschool = 9, 4-Year-Old Preschool = 20, K = 26, 1st = 23, 2nd = 23, 3rd = 25, 4th = 19, 5th = 33, 6th = 27), report cards being sent home, Pioneer Instrumental Music Clinic will take place on January 27, we will be hosting Pioneer Conference Basketball on February 3, 4, & 7, Elementary Spelling Bee will take place on February 12, and Kindergarten Parent Orientation will take place on February 19.

#### VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th = 32, 8th = 27, 9th = 32, 10th = 24, 11th = 26, 12th = 39), having 3 out of 4 alternative education spots filled, registering students for classes, Southern's fall Academic All State winners and All State Football winner, offering agriculture classes this spring to students in grades 7-12 (Introduction to Ag., Animal Science, Career Exploitation, & Ag. Business), starting a Future Farmers of America (FFA) program next year at Southern, and one student graduating at midterm.

The school board also reviewed an FFA array and decided to pay the sponsor some extra duty pay next year even though it is not on the 2020-2021 negotiated agreement because it was approved after the staff member was hired. Dr. Prososki said he would decide on the number of extended days for the FFA sponsors (The state average is around 20 extended days).

#### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki went over the 2020 board election information (February 18, 2020, is the last day for incumbents [Any current office holder] to file for office on the primary ballot and March 2, 2020, is the last day for non-incumbents [New filers] to file for office on the primary election), he said the administration will take part in a book study over the summer months in an effort to grow as a team, he stated that all ESU 5 superintendents met with Senator Myron Dorn and Senator Tom Brandt in an effort to advocate for public schools. Next, Dr. Prososki went over the winter DIBELS test results, he noted that the administration met with the Nebraska Department of Education to talk about updating the districts Emergency Operation Plans (Local law enforcement will also help with this process). Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update of the 106th Legislature, 2nd Session and noted that Nebraska currently ranks 49th in the country in the percentage of K-12 public education funding that comes from the state. He also said there is a proposal to lower ag land value from 72% of actual value to 55% of actual value. Dr. Prososki noted that if this bill passes, Southern would lose over \$100,000 in revenue because we are at the legal mill levy limit of \$1.05 and we cannot raise our levy to make up the difference in lost revenue like the surrounding districts can. Under this proposal, 29 school districts would experience a \$4.6 million-dollar revenue shortfall because the increased state aid would not offset the loss in tax revenue from lowering ag land valuation. Next, Dr. Prososki said that he was elected as the MUDECAS president for the 2021-2022 school year, he reminded the school board about the spring NRCSA conference, he went over some highlights from NCSA ambassador presentation, he gave the board an update on transition of Perkins IV funds to Perkins V funds, and he presented the school board with his work and sick days for the second quarter. Lastly, Dr. Prososki and Dave Zimmerman went over an opposition letter they sent to Myron Dorn opposing LB 147, which allows teachers to use physical force against a student in almost any situation. Dr. Prososki noted that all teachers in Nebraska can use physical force as a last resort measure to break up a fight, to protect themselves from a student, and to stop a student from harming themselves. He noted that he went over these parameters with all staff members on the first day they reported in August and he is against allowing teachers more latitude to use force that does not keep the best interest of students in mind. It also opens the door to possible litigations against the district and creates a culture of violence and fear within the school buildings. From a parent's perspective, Dr. Prososki is afraid of copycat instances that could occur in the years ahead if this type of culture is instilled in student's minds at a young age. Dr. Prososki noted that school's goal should be to promote a positive school environment and he

would wholeheartedly advocate for a separate bill to fund training for school personnel to help address violent or potentially violent situations in schools across Nebraska.

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

### VII.A. Reorganization of the Southern School Board

#### VII.A.1. Election of Officers

Motion to retain the respective positions on Southern Board of Education. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dave Zimmerman will serve as the President, Carol Pralle will serve as the Vice-President, and Emily Shockley will serve as the Secretary.

##### VII.A.1.1. President

##### VII.A.1.2. Vice-President

##### VII.A.1.3. Secretary

### VII.B. Appointments

#### VII.B.1. Appoint the District's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the district's non-discrimination compliance coordinator. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

#### VII.B.2. Appoint the Treasurer

Motion to appoint Jane Mallam as the treasurer. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

#### VII.B.3. Authorized a Representative for State & Federal Programs

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the representative for state & federal programs. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

### VII.C. Designate the Fund Depository for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Security First Bank of Blue Springs and Main Street Bank of Wymore as the depository for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.D. Designate the Legal Newspaper for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Wymore Arbor State as the legal newspaper for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.E. Designate the Legal Counsel for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate KSB School Law as the legal counsel. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.F. Designate the Method for Publicizing Meetings of the Southern Board of Education

Motion to publicize meeting of the Southern board of education in accordance with Policy 2008: Meetings. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Based on Policy 2008: Meetings, the board shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be posted in three prominent places within the school district (The Elementary School, Jr./Sr. High School, & U.S. Post Office in Wymore). Such notice shall contain a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the administration office of the school during the normal business hours. In addition, the superintendent is authorized, but not required, to publish the notice of any meeting in a newspaper of general circulation within the district if, in the opinion of the superintendent, it is convenient and useful to do so.

VII.G. Appoint School Board Standing Committees

Motion to retain the respective school board standing committees. This motion, made by David Zimmerman and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.G.1. American Civics

Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, & Emily Shockley will serve on the American civics committee.

VII.G.2. Building & Grounds

Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, & Jim Zvolanek will serve on the building & grounds committee.

#### VII.G.3. Finance

Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, & Jim Zvolanek will serve on the finance committee.

#### VII.G.4. Negotiations

Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, & Jim Zvolanek will serve on the negotiations committee.

#### VII.G.5. Policy

Angela Meyer, Dave Zimmerman, & Emily Shockley will serve on the policy committee.

#### VII.G.6. Transportation

Angela Meyer, Carol Pralle, & Dave Zimmerman will serve on the transportation committee.

#### VII.H. Policy Review - Policy 2006: Complaint Procedure & Policy 2012: Code of Ethics

The school board reviewed Policy 2006: Complaint Procedure & Policy 2012: Code of Ethics.

#### VII.I. Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes

Motion to table Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes. This motion, made by David Zimmerman and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosofski noted that the district's revenue is going down and the district's expenditures (staff raises and staff benefits) are going up. Over 85% of the district's budget is personnel costs and the other 15% are fixed costs like utilities, bussing, etc. He wished the state of Nebraska would fulfill their legal obligation and provide adequate funding to public schools across Nebraska. He noted that Southern is in a different financial situation than the rest of the area district because we are at the legal mill levy and we do not have the ability to raise our levy when our revenue goes down. Dr. Prosofski noted that we had 503 students at Southern during the 2003-2004 school year and we have 390 students at Southern during the 2019-2020. Dr. Prosofski also noted our SPED numbers have decreased in recent years (26% SPED rate in 17-18 and 19% SPED rate in 19-20).

In Rule 10 (Accreditation requirements for public schools in Nebraska), it recommends one teacher per every twenty-five students in grades K-12. In Policy 5002.2: Elementary Class Sizes, it states that kindergarten will have a maximum of twenty students per class, first grade will have a maximum of twenty-two students per class, and second grade through sixth grade will have a maximum of twenty-five students per class.

In the policy it states that if the class and/or grade numbers drop, the district will endeavor to make all personnel changes through attrition. Under this policy, no one would be in jeopardy of losing their job. If a teacher moved to a different position in another district or retired, then we would look at student numbers (And other factors such as SPED numbers, behavioral factors, and poverty factors) and decide if we would fill the position or not. In the policy it also states that the administration has the power to adjust the maximum totals listed above based on special education numbers, social and emotional factors, and student socioeconomic factors. The board discussed the positives and the negatives of this policy and decided to table it until the February board meeting.

#### VII.J. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.  
yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., February 10, 2020, 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