

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 10, 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: 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: 7/5/2023

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.

I.C. Motion to Excuse Betsy Frerichs from the July School Board Meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the July school board meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the June 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, Student Fees Hearing, & Parental Involvement Hearing

Motion to approve minutes from the June 12, 2023, regular board meeting, student fees hearing, & parental involvement hearing. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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 Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on getting the entrance projects ready, Sentey Electric installing a Level 2 Charger at the Jr./Sr. High School, installing a sink in the art room at the elementary school, cleaning rooms for the fall, and filling in cracks in the asphalt.

Dr. Prosocki said that work is progressing on the new elementary entrance and on the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) ramp at the Jr./Sr. High School, but now the ramp will need to go through the media center because of a load-bearing wall and some electric panels that we did not discover until the demolition started. Next, Dr. Prosocki said that the Jr./Sr. High School entrance project has been put out to bid and Dr. Prosocki noted that the new transformer was installed at the Jr./Sr. High School, which is just north of the gym. A new scoreboard was installed this past week and the district will need to work with the city to get power to the new scoreboard.

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted that Brenden Salts was just hired as the 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. custodian at the Jr./Sr. High School.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki said work has started on upgrading the cabling and network switches over the past month in both buildings. Federal e-rate funding was used to fund this project. Dr. Prosocki noted that services that are eligible for e-rate support include the internal connections needed for broadband connectivity within schools. Support is limited to the internal connections necessary to bring broadband, and provide it throughout schools. School devices do not qualify for the federal e-rate funding.

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki noted that the administration will be attending Administrators' Days in Kearney at the end of July. He gave the school board an update on the annual safety and security meeting in August, and he presented the school board with a certificate of accreditation from the Nebraska Department of Education. Next, Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on the 2023-2024 budget. He noted that after talking to the Gage County Assessor, he foresees Southern's valuation increasing by around 7% when compared to the previous year. Dr. Prososki said that Southern will lose \$148,545 in state aid next school year and staffing costs will increase by \$325,905 from the previous school year. Southern will also receive additional SPED reimbursement of \$271,176, and the district tax request will increase by around \$311,139 to offset the increase in staffing costs and the loss of state aid. Based on these numbers, Southern will need to attend the Joint Public Hearing again in September. Open Sky, a non-partisan think tank, recently did an analysis of how two neighboring school districts fared under Governor Pillen's new state aid formula. District 1 was a winner and District 2 was a loser. In order for District 2 to remain whole due to the loss of funding, this district would need to increase its tax request. Unfortunately, District 2 in the analysis was Southern and it highlights the budget challenge Southern will face this upcoming school year. Next, Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on the district strategic planning team, he went over the final legislative report for the 2023 session, he went over the start of the school schedule for staff, and he said the school board will need to hold a special board meeting on July 24, to consider approving the bid for the Jr./Sr. High School entrance upgrade. Lastly, Dr. Prososki said that the district committed a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) violation in June at the Jr./Sr. High School, which was related to the student privacy laws. Based on the violation, Dr. Prososki had to self-report the matter to the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO), which is a sub-section of the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). Dr. Prososki said that he required all office staff, the school nurse, and the building principals to complete a FERPA training last school year. Dr. Prososki said the outcome of the violation could be as simple as creating a corrective action plan or the USDOE could take federal funding away from the district. Dr. Prososki said he already has more training lined up for the office staff, the school nurse, and the building principals in the fall. Dr. Prososki said that he will work with the building principals to create procedure safeguards so this type of infraction does not occur again in their buildings.

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

VII.A. Set Substitute Compensation for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to set substitute compensation for the 2023-2024 school year at \$155. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prososki said that by moving substitute pay up to \$155 from \$150, it will put Southern with the same substitute compensation as Beatrice and Diller-Odell for the upcoming school year.

VII.B. Approval of the District Handbooks for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve the district handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Proski noted that besides all of the new federal and state laws that changed and were included in the handbooks, the only other substantial change was that now elementary students are not allowed to wear shorts from November 1 until the last day in February. Before the end date was March 15.

VII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., August 14, 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