

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 11, 2019
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, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, Harlan Rickers, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Prosocki. The following student board member was present: Cheyenne Leach. The following visitor was present: Patty Goes.

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 January 14, 2019, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the January 14, 2019, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Carol Pralle, 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.

III.B. Policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation - Mrs. Patty Goes & Mr. Jeff Murphy
Jeff Murphy and Patty Goes presented the board with some possible graduation requirement changes for the 2019-2020 school year. Currently, Southern students must earn 230 credits to graduate and Southern only requires the Rule 10 required classes (40 credits in English and 30 credits in mathematics, science, and social studies) and 10 credits in business and 5 credits in P.E. The rest of the 85 credits must come from elective classes. They proposed making the following classes required for graduation: 10 credits in P.E., 5 credits in business, 5 credits in personal finance, and 5 credits in fine arts. They both noted that area schools require a lot more classes than Southern and the majority of the students are already taking the following classes.

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: 1.56%
Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.55%

Dr. Prosocki noted that we are six months into the fiscal year and the district expenditures are at the lowest levels since the 2015-2016 school year at this point.

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 capital purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Harlan Rickers and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over busing and fixing the side basketball hoop gears at the Jr./Sr. High School that were installed in 1977.

Dr. Prosocki presented the school board with the bleachers specifications that went out to bid on February 7 and he noted the bid opening will occur on February 19. The bleacher project is supposed to commence on March 15 and be finished by June 15. The construction of a new press box should start on June 16 and run until August 1. Dr. Prosocki also noted the district just received a \$150,000 grant from the Thomas Foundation to help pay for the increased cost of the bleachers, press box, and the concession stands. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki went over the hail damage money that the district cashed out on and he said this money will be used for future transportation costs. During the spring or summer, Dr. Prosocki wanted to create a long-range transportation plan for the next five to ten years.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.B.1. Resignation

V.B.1.1. Sheri Yockel - 1.0 FTE - Third Grade Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2018-2019 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Sheri Yockel at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The school board accepted the resignation of Sheri Yockel at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year with regrets. The school board wanted to thank Sheri for her years of service to Southern Public Schools.

The school board went over the different options the district has in terms of replacing this position for next year or not replacing this position for next year. Dr. Prosocki said that currently Southern has 8 paraprofessionals in preschool through sixth grade. The district also has two sections K-6 or 14 teachers and Southern has 188 students at the Elementary School. He said he wanted to keep two sections in grades K-3.

Dr. Prosocki contacted Tri County's Elementary Principal last week and they currently have 7 paraprofessionals in preschool through sixth grade (Tri county only has one preschool class and not two like Southern). Tri County also has two sections K-3 and one section in grades 4-6 or 11 teachers total. Tri County currently has 185 students at their Elementary School. Tri County's Elementary Principal also stated they will be adding a second teacher in fourth grade next year and they will have 12 teachers total in their Elementary School. The Southern school board decided to not fill the third-grade position for the 2019-2020 school year.

V.B.2. Hiring Recommendation

V.B.2.1. Tim Blecha - 1.0 FTE - K-6 Behavior Disorder Special Education Teacher for the 2019-2020 School Year

Motion to approve Tim Blecha (1.0 FTE - K-6 Behavior & Disorder Special Education Teacher) for the 2019-2020 School Year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

Harlan Rickers: Abstain (With Conflict), Emily Shockley: no, Angela Meyer: yes, Carol Pralle: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 4, no: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Dr. Prosocki said that since Mr. Tim Blecha does not currently have his special education degree, there are certain provisions in his contract that will require him to take so many classes a year to achieve this degree. Once Mr. Tim Blecha has half of his special education degree complete, the district will then be able to receive special education reimbursement for his salary and benefits.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki said that ESU 5 is in the process of updating outdated district firewalls and Southern will need to replace their firewall either this summer or over winter break. This will cost the district around \$9,600 and the firewall has a shelf life of five-years. Once the new firewall is installed, all of the maintenance costs are covered by the vendor over the five-year span.

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on all the different activities occurring in the district.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (188 students in K-6), parent teacher conferences, kindergarten orientation, the upcoming Reading Classic competition, and sub-district basketball.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: an alternative school update (Southern is currently using 3 of its 5 spots), student registration for the 2019-2020 school year, parent teacher conferences, an update on the benefits of incorporating a therapy dog at Southern, Pioneer Conference Art Show awards, honor roll (Superior Honor Roll and Regular Honor Roll), and current enrollment figures (173 students in grades 7-12).

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Proski gave an update on the implementation of an anonymous reporting system for the 2019-2020 school year and an update on the district's 5-year accreditation visit that will take place on February 20 and 21. Community members, parents, classified staff, certified staff, school board members, and students will all be involved with this process. Due to the lost instructional time and meeting required Rule 10 accreditation instructional hours, the district will be making up a day on Friday, March 8 and a day on Monday, April 22. The district currently has a training set up with two different out of state vendors on May 17 and he does not want to make students come back for one day on May 20. Next, he gave the school board a legislative update and he is currently following a number of proposed bills this session. Dr. Proski, Dave Zimmerman, and each building principal also wrote letters of opposition to LB 147, which allows teachers to use physical force against students in almost any situation. Dr. Proski noted that currently teachers can use physical force as a last resort measure to break up a fight, to protect themselves, and to stop a student from harming themselves, but to allow a teacher more latitude to use force 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. Currently the Nebraska Council of School Administrators and Nebraska Association of School Boards opposes this bill. Over the last two weeks, Dr. Proski has been working to update all of the district handbooks for 2019-2020. Next year the district will just have an Activity Handbook, a Staff Handbook, and a Student Handbook and the new handbooks will match the policies that were recently adopted. Next, Dr. Proski went over the upcoming NRCSA conference, gave the board an update on the new school board committees, and the district's intent to switch from 5 paid ESU 5 Alternative Education spots to just 4 paid spots (The district has never used the 5th paid spot). Dr. Proski went over both the state aid projections and the budget authority projects. Budget Authority does not play a factor in Southern's budget and the district state aid is projected to increase by \$172,517 or by 15%. If the district does indeed receive this amount, this increase will be used to offset salary and benefits increases. He noted that the February Forecasting board meeting will guide the Appropriations Committee in developing the next biennium state budget and there are a number of proposed bills that are intended to decrease state aid to schools next year. There is also a proposed bill that will delay state aid certification until June, so everything is up in the air at this point. Lastly, he went over the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act that was introduced by Senator Linehan and this bill is another prime example of an unfunded mandate that requires school to spend more money and require more of staff members.

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

VII.A. Review the 2019-2020 Activity Handbook

The school board reviewed the new Activity Handbook for the 2019-2020 school year.

VII.B. Accept the Grant from the Thomas Foundation for \$150,000 (Bleacher Project - Arbor State Park)

Motion to approve the grant from the Thomas Foundation for \$150,000. This motion, made by Harlan Rickers and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.C. Principals' Contracts & Salaries

Using the same array that the Southern Education Association uses for their negotiations, Jerry Remppe's current base salary ranks 5th out of 11 districts and his total compensation ranks 8th out of 11 districts. Jeff Murphy's current base salary ranks 6th out of 11 districts and his total compensation ranks 3rd out of 11 districts.

VII.C.1. Principals' Contract Extensions

Motion to approve the principals contract extension. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.C.2. Principals' Salaries for 2019-2020

Motion to approve a 3% raise for the 2019-2020 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Carol Pralle: no, Angela Meyer: yes, Harlan Rickers: yes, Emily Shockley: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes

yes: 5, no: 1

VII.D. Classified Salaries for 2019-2020

Motion to approve a 3% raise for the 2019-2020 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Carol Pralle: Abstain (With Conflict), Angela Meyer: yes, Harlan Rickers: yes, Emily Shockley: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes

yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

VII.E. Approve the Resolution to Adopt the First Half of a More Current and Revised Set of the 6000 Series Polices

Motion to approve the resolution to adopt the first half of a more current and revised set of the 6000 series polices. This motion, made by Harlan Rickers and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The school board added the following graduation requirements for Southern Public Schools: 10 credits in P.E., 5 credits in Business, 5 credits in Personal Finance, and 5 credits in Fine Arts.

VII.F. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

Angela Meyer: yes, Carol Pralle: yes, Harlan Rickers: yes, Emily Shockley: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 11, 2019, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room in Wymore. There will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School commons 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