

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 8, 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, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, and Christopher Prososki. The following visitor was present: Heather McKinney.

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 on the wall in the gym.

I.C. Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the June board meeting.

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the June board meeting. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the May 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the May 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, 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.

Heather McKinney brought up concerns about an updated policy (Policy 3046: Animals at School). Heather said under the new policy, the therapy dog would only be allowed on school grounds when students were present. Heather stated that she wanted the therapy dog to accompany her on school grounds during in-service days, on the weekend, and over the summer months when she is in the school district facilities for training purposes.

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: 0.55%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.34%

Dr. Proski said that the district is 9 months into its fiscal year and the district has received 94% of its revenue and has expended 72% of its budget. In addition, the district is going to receive around \$80,000 through the CARES Act funding and 70% will be allotted to technology purchases and 30% will be allotted to cleaning/COVID-19 items for the coming school year. Lastly, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln is going to donate 75 gallons of hand sanitizer for the district to use this coming school year.

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 Carol Pralle and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over summer projects being ahead of schedule, Fairbury Glass starting on the window project at the Jr./Sr. High School, Goes Construction making progress on the press box, the completion of room upgrades, half of the lighting retrofit being complete, the Elementary School is about cleaned for the summer and work will start on the Jr./Sr. High School, and cleaning of the weight room after students use it.

V.B. Personnel Items

Bonnie Creek was hired as both an Elementary School para and a daily route bus driver.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Proski went over the Safe Schools online trainings, using cell phones to unlock the doors in the district now, and new copiers were recently installed in both buildings. He also noted the new printers will save the district around \$15,000 a year and Beatrice Public Schools and Fairbury Public Schools are also switching over to Capital printers and copiers.

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: estimated kindergarten enrollment for the fall, summer school packets, special education training in August, working on calendars, summer weight room use, preparing the coming school year, and math and reading interventions.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: two students enrolled at the alternative school in Beatrice, holding class elections for class officers and student council in the fall, Kambree Singleton being selected as an alternate for the Southeast Nebraska all-star basketball game (this all-star game has been canceled), and he went over a draft of the graduation ceremony on August 1 at 5:00 p.m.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prososki went over a draft of the district's re-opening plan for the fall titled COVID-19: A Path Forward and he noted the Nebraska Department of Education has given schools in Nebraska very little guidance on how to start school in the fall. He noted that he used the recently released CDC guidelines and Maryland State Department of Education's plan to create a starting point for Southern. He stated that he hoped to finalize the plan by late July and the public health officials will need to sign off on this plan before it is official. Dr. Prososki said a lot will still be up in the air until we know more later this summer about where we stand with the pandemic. Dr. Prososki said these are not fun changes for anyone to make, but the district will be striving to save lives over memories this school year and his hope is that the second semester will look more like a traditional school year with a lot less restrictions. Next, he went over his contracted days for the year, he talked about a required retirement audit, and the new training requirements for all staff members based on the new Title IX regulations for this school year. Dr. Prososki went over a preliminary budget presentation with the school board and noted the following items: (1) the district's valuation has dropped 3 out of the last 5 years, (2) the district's mill levy has dropped by 25 cents since the 2011-2012 school year, (3) the district's mill levy has not increased in 3 years (\$1.08), (4) the district's property tax request has dropped 4 years in a row and it has decreased by \$402,942, (5) during the 2018-2019 school year, Southern's cost per pupil ranked 3rd lowest in the Pioneer Conference and Southern's cost per pupil is lower than half of the schools in Nebraska, (6) Dr. Prososki noted that he only has been able to grow Southern's budget by \$56,586 or by 1.04% each year over a 4 year period and the previous superintendent was able to grow Southern's budget by \$167,803 or by 3.54% each year over a 5 year period, and (7) based on the loss of revenue [Property tax request] and the inability to grow the district's budget, this is why Southern has less faculty members as it once did [85% of a school's budget is in personnel]. Lastly, Dr. Prososki predicted the district valuation will drop by around \$6.5 million dollars and the district will lose \$70,000-\$75,000 of taxable revenue this fall when official valuation numbers are released on August 20.

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

VII.A. Set Breakfast & Lunch Prices for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to raise the breakfast & lunch prices by \$0.05 for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

For the 2020-2021 school year, the breakfast prices in grades PK-12 will be \$2.10, lunch prices in grades PK-6 will be \$3.00, lunch prices in grades 7-12 will be \$3.10, adult breakfast prices will be \$2.30, and adult lunch prices will be \$3.75.

VII.B. Approval of Milk Bids for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the escalating and de-escalating milk bids from Hiland for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C. Approval of Policy 5045: Student Fees

Motion to approve Policy 5045: Student Fees. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.D. Approval of Policy 5018 & 5057: Parent and Guardian Involvement in Education Practices & District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Motion to approve Policy 5018 & 5057: Parent and Guardian Involvement in Education Practices & District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.E. 2020 Annual Board Policy Updates

Motion to approve the updated forms and policies: 2002, 3039, 3056, 4003, 4062, 5016, 5035, 5054, 6020, 6021, 6033. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.F. Policy Review - Policy 5001: Compulsory Attendance and Excess Absenteeism & Policy 5054: Student Bullying

Dr. Prososki noted that the school board must annually review its bullying and attendance policy and no hearings are required. In addition, each year the building principals must work with the county attorney to review this policy as well.

VII.G. Contingency Calendars for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motion to approve the contingency calendars for the 2020-2021 school year. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prososki said the district's plan is to start school using our original calendar and operating as normal as possible. He mentioned that if the district is unable to start school on August 19, we would look at using the alternative calendar and start school on September 10.

VII.H. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54p.m. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., July 13, 2020, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Gym 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