

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 14, 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: Betsy Frerichs, Carol Pralle, Dave Zimmerman, Emily Shockley, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were present: Jeff Murphy and Christopher Prosocki. The following student board member was present: Katie Rabstojnek.

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 auditorium.

I.C. Motion to excuse Angela Meyer

Motion to excuse Angela Meyer due to illness. This motion, made by David Zimmerman and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the August 10, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the August 10, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Emily Shockley 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.

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: 0.60%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 0.51%

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 Carol Pralle and seconded by Emily Shockley, 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 the challenge of losing a bus driver two days before school started and not being able to fill an open bus driver position and an open custodial position, and gave an update on the press box project.

Dr. Prosocki noted the press box project is 3 months behind schedule and we hope it is finally up and functional by the next home game.

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted that Jodi Meints was hired to replace Kathy Mittan. In addition, the district is still looking to fill an open bus driver position and an open custodial position. Dr. Prosocki said the current sub bus driver will need to take a two-month break from driving the second city bus route and if someone does not apply and fill this position, the district will have to move all bus routes from 50% rated occupancy to 75% rated occupancy. If this occurs, all students that ride the bus will be required to wear face coverings at all times regardless of age. If a parent does not want their son or daughter to wear a face covering on a bus, they will be required transport their son or daughter to and from school.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki thanked Cody Sabey and the technology committee for all of their hard work in getting everything up in running during the first few weeks of school. Dr. Prosocki said that all students in grades preschool through twelfth grade now have their own technology device. Dr. Prosocki noted that very few schools in Nebraska have a technology device for all of their students. Dr. Prosocki noted that he has been working with ESU 5 on a grant from Microsoft to provide free Internet to 3 locations around town (Arbor State Park, McCandless Park, and the softball fields in Blue Springs). Dr. Prosocki called this new endeavor a game changer for the communities in Wymore and Blue Springs because the lack of reliable broadband Internet in our communities. He also said this will help if the district is forced to shut down and complete learning remotely, students without reliable Internet will have places to go to overcome the digital divide. Dr. Prosocki said he hopes to have this up in running in a month or two.

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: fall activities, students adapting to the safety changes around the district, the recent cheerleading fundraiser, and preliminary plans for homecoming.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (3-year-old PK = 7, 4-year-old PK = 11, K = 31, 1 = 25, 2 = 22, 3 = 23, 4 = 22, 5 = 19, 6 = 34), safety drills, DIBELS and MAP testing, fall sports participants (Football = 24, Volleyball = 11, Softball = 13), and posting away athletic protocols for the public on social media pages.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: MAP testing, alternative school update (3 out of 4 spots are filled), moving homecoming to October 2 and exploring dance options for students, parent teacher conferences, Katie Rabstojek will be the student board member for 2020-2021, and current enrollment figures (7 = 26, 8 = 33, 9 = 28, 10 = 33, 11 = 24, 12 = 31).

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki presented the board with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) annual report and he noted that there was a class action lawsuit filed against all schools in the United States on behalf of students with disabilities and their parents. Dr. Prosocki noted the district is taking the needed steps to ensure we do not succumb to any unwanted legal action against the district. Next, Dr. Prosocki presented the school board with the final legislative report regarding the bills that were signed into law during the 106th Legislative, Second Session. Dr. Prosocki gave the board an update on teacher negotiations for the 2021-2022 school year, he said the district did receive a \$42,000 Volkswagen grant and he just submitted another grant for an activity bus last week. Dr. Prosocki said that since the district went from 3 bus routes to 4 bus routes to provide for more social distancing on buses, the district currently does not have an activity bus because it was moved to a daily route. Next, he went over the October 12 in-service schedule, he talked to the board about the required committee on American Civics meeting, he went over the recent safety and security meeting, he gave the board an update on the current enrollment figures and special enrollment numbers. Dr. Prosocki went over the current staffing cost for the 2020-2021 school year (With purchased services through ESU 5, it will cost the district a little over \$5.2 million dollars) and he gave the board an update on the completion of the district's first comprehensive strategic plan for 2020-2024. Dr. Prosocki said that the district has just moved the 3-year-old preschool to full day and there are a couple of spots left for students to fill. Next, Dr. Prosocki said the district will be able to provide free breakfast and free lunches again to all Southern students until the end of the first semester based on the expansion of the Summer Food Service Program. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki noted that the district reopening plan is working to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the district and there have only been two positive COVID-19 cases to date in the district and all were related to staff members. Dr. Prosocki noted that he tested positive a couple of weeks ago and his symptoms were very mild.

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

VII.A. The 2020-2021 Southern Public Schools Budget

Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Southern Public Schools Budget. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.B. The 2020-2021 Property Tax Resolution

Motion to approve the 2020-2021 property tax resolution. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The General Fund levy will be set at 1.04, the Special Building Fund will be set at 0.01, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund will be set at 0.03. The overall mill levy will be set at 1.08. The General Fund tax request will generate \$3,952,324, the Special Building Fund tax request will generate \$38,003, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund tax request will generate \$114,009. The overall tax request will generate \$4,104,336 and the overall mill levy will stay the same from the previous year, but the tax request will go down by \$38,163 from the previous year.

VII.C. Executive Session: To Receive and Consider Legal Advice From the School District's Attorney Relating to Contract Negotiations of Material Terms of Staff Contracts, Which is Necessary to Allow the Board to Form Negotiation Strategy and to Protect the Attorney-Client Privilege, Which is in the Public Interest. The Board will Limit Itself to Discussion of These Issues

Motion to enter executive session at 8:24 p.m. to receive and consider legal advice from the school district's attorney relating to contract negotiations of material terms of staff contracts, which is necessary to allow the board to form negotiation strategy and to protect the attorney-client privilege, which is in the public interest and the board will limit itself to discussion of these issues.

This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C.1. Convene in Executive Session: 9 Month & 10 Month Classified Employee Pay During a Possible Short-Term or Long-Term Closure During the 2020-2021 School Year

VII.C.2. Reconvene Meeting From Executive Session

Motion to reconvene meeting from executive session at 9:20 p.m. This motion, made by Carol Pralle and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C.3. Approval of Any Action Deemed Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

The school board decided that if there was to be a school closure in the future because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school board would hold an emergency meeting to determine how to handle 9 month and 10 month classified employees pay during either a short-term closure or a long-term closure.

VII.D. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Emily Shockley, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. October 12, 2020, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium 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