

MINUTES
BUDGET HEARING
September 14, 2020
7:00 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 administrator was present: Christopher Prosocki.

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. Hear Support, Opposition, Criticism, or Observations Related to the Proposed Southern Public Schools 2020-2021 Budget

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2020-2021 budget. Based on LB 148, which will go into effect next year, school districts will need to share the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) budget documents with the public. Dr. Prosocki noted that this is a worksheet and there are not actually numbers on it (This form is very deceiving to the public).

The 2020-2021 budget continues to invest in meeting the needs of our district with growing student needs. The General Fund budget of expenditures shown on the Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is greatly inflated to allow the district to expend "unused budget authority" for future years, and does not accurately reflect actual anticipated expenditures. The district over-estimates the budgets of expenditures of all active funds so that we don't have to amend them later in the year due to unanticipated costs (Activities Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, General Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Special Building Fund, & Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund). The Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is very deceiving to the public and the only actual figures are Actual Disbursements & Transfers (Column 1) and Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (Column 7).

For the 2020-2021 school year, the district lost \$38,163 in valuation revenue and the district gained \$170,029 state aid revenue. These numbers do not account for the increased costs to run a school district over the years (Utility increases, salary and benefit increases, insurance increases, etc). The overall personnel cost will be up by 2.32% or by \$110,242. He noted that

this figure does not include purchased services through ESU 5 for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law.

Dr. Prosocki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$378,656,597 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,374,630. The district's overall valuation was \$380,031,227 and Southern saw a 0.92% decrease or \$3,533,577 decrease between Gage and Pawnee Counties from the prior year. Dr. Prosocki noted that 85% of the district expenditures are in personnel and the other 15% of expenditures are fixed costs that cannot change. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki noted that he wanted to continue to build the district cash reserve and an HVAC project will need to occur at the Jr./Sr. High School in the coming years and it will cost around \$300,00-\$500,000.

Tax Year	Gage County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Pawnee County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Overall Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
2016	\$407,602,041	6.70%	\$1,368,420	0.32%	\$408,970,461	6.68%	\$25,617,217
2017	\$397,650,142	(2.50%)	\$1,443,105	5.45%	\$399,093,247	(2.42%)	(\$9,877,214)
2018	\$399,062,663	0.003%	\$1,376,365	(4.84%)	\$400,439,028	0.003%	\$1,345,781
2019	\$382,188,694	(4.41%)	\$1,376,110	(.0018%)	\$383,564,804	(4.39%)	(\$16,874,224)
2020	\$378,656,597	(0.93%)	\$1,374,630	(0.10%)	\$380,031,227	(0.92%)	(\$3,533,577)

I.D. Motion to Close the Budget Hearing

Motion to close the budget hearing. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. This motion, made by Emily Shockley and seconded by Carol Pralle, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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