

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 8, 2021
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: Aaron Whitwer, Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrator was present: Christopher Proski. The following visitor was present: Dan Singleton.

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:

- Wymore Arbor State Newspaper

Posted Date: 1/28/2021

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. Motion to excuse Angela Meyer from the February board meeting

Motion to excuse Angela Meyer from the February board meeting. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Angela Meyer: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

I.C. 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 Jr./Sr. High School commons.

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the January 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs 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.

Dan Singleton talked to the board about his character and the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) mask mandate at all NSAA sponsored events. Dan was upset that he could not speak longer at the board meeting and Dave said that board policy only allows for 5 minutes of public comment per person because a board meeting is a private meeting that is open to the public and not an open meeting.

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: 0.40%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 0.41%

Dr. Prosocki said the district is 5 months into the fiscal year and the district has received 50% of its budget and the district has expended 37% of its budget. He noted that when comparing the past 6 years expenditures for the first 5 months, the district has spent less during the 2020-2021 than the previous 6 years. Dr. Prosocki commended the board on their continual efforts to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and the false narrative put out by the Nebraska State Legislature and the Governor is becoming a broken record.

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 Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

Dr. Prosocki gave the board an update on the auditorium project and said the overall cost of the project will be in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range. Dr. Prosocki also noted that he met with our insurance agent to see if some of the cost of the project could be covered through our ALICAP insurance program.

V.B. Personnel Items

Roger Dorn was recently hired to replace Tom Regan and Randy Roberts will be filling in part time while John Linder recovers from his injuries. Kelsey Forney was also recently hired as food service provider.

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Proski said that he and Cody Sabey recently completed the Future Ready District Technology Plan which is a yearly requirement from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal provided the school board with a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures (3-Year-Old Preschool - 10, 4-Year-Old Preschool - 11, K - 29, 1st - 25, 2nd - 22, 3rd - 22, 4th - 22, 5th - 20, 6th - 33), parent teacher conferences on February 11 over Zoom, no kindergarten parent orientation, upcoming activities, and NSAA protocols for events.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided the school board with a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 27, 8th - 34, 9th - 28, 10th - 32, 11th - 24, 12th - 27), 3 of the district's 4 alternative education spots are filled, working on registration with the new 8 period day in an effort to offer more class offerings to students, parent teacher conferences through Zoom, talking about moving from a quarter grading system to a semester grading system at the 9-12 level, he gave an update on the Pioneer Conference Art Show, working on FFA week, and an update on Honor Roll for the second quarter and the first semester.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Proski presented the board with some preliminary numbers if the board should elect to hold a special bond election in the fall, he gave the board an update on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and he noted the district will receive \$307,084 and it will be used to improve the indoor air quality (This was one item that was not addressed last summer or last fall because there was not enough funding to complete these items). Next, Dr. Proski gave the board an update about the ability that schools have now in Nebraska to have all 9-12 students and staff tested for COVID-19 if the students/parents sign off on it and if the staff sign off on it as well and all Sothern staff will have the opportunity to receive the COVID vaccine if they so choose during around the third week in March. Dr. Proski gave the board a legislative update and he noted that it feels like groundhog's day again when it comes to schools coming under attack from our elective officials regarding funding for public schools and school spending. Since 2011, the average growth in the State's budget has been at 3.17% and the growth of school spending across Nebraska has been 3.00%. He then gave the board an update on the NCRSA conference in March, he reminded the board about the upcoming Committee on American Civics before the March board meeting, he gave the board a copy of the updated school board committees for 2021, and he went over both the state aid projections and the budget authority projections. Dr. Proski noted that budget authority does not play a factor in Southern's budget and district state aid is projected to only increase by

\$25,095 or by 1.68%. Last year the district's state aid increased by \$176,965 or by 13%. He talked about the third wave of COVID that we will face over the next 15-18 months that the experts predict will result in a huge increase of mental health issues, addition issues, and learning loss issues. Dr. Prosocki noted that since the majority of Nebraska schools have been participating in learning in the classroom and not remotely this year, we will not see as big of an increase of learning loss issues like other states. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said the district received two grants through the Thomas Foundation for some new bikes and stair master equipment for the weight room and to pave the area west of the current football field bleachers on the home side in an effort to move all of the bleachers from the South side of the football field to the North side of the football field. In addition, the district will also remove the old concession stand and use the area underneath the press box to serve as the new concession stand. The district will also correct the drainage issues around the press box and underneath the new bleachers that we currently face and the district will look to bore a new drainage line to rectify these issues.

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

VII.A. Resolution to Select the Design-Build Contract Delivery System

Motion to approve the resolution to select the design-build contract delivery system. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The board approved the design-build contract delivery system which is a required step under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act. The school board decided to go with the design-build contract delivery system because it is a cheaper alternative to the construction management at risk method of construction because we will not have all of the architect fees. This will also allow the school board to put out drawings out to the public to review.

VII.B. Principals' Contract & Salaries

Using the same array that the Southern Education Association used for their negotiations, Jerry Rempe's current base salary ranks 5th out of 11 districts and his total compensation ranks 9th out of 11 districts. Jerry's base salary is \$1,087 above the midpoint and his total compensation is \$3,962.73 below the midpoint. In addition, Jerry does not receive any additional compensation for being the athletic director. The school board talked about possibly adding the athletic director duties to the negotiated agreement for the 2022-2023 school year.

Jeff Murphy's current base salary ranks 7th out of 11 districts and his total compensation ranks 2nd out of 11th districts. Jeff's base salary is \$212 above the midpoint and his total compensation is \$8,122 above the midpoint. In addition, Jeff receives extra duty pay because he is the head girls basketball coach and the concessions sponsor. This is also why his total compensation is higher on the array.

VII.B.1. Principals' Contract Extensions

Motion to approve the principals' contract extensions. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

Angela Meyer: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.B.2. Principals's Salaries for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve a 3% raise for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.C. Classified Salaries for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to approve a 3% raise for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.D. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Angela Meyer: Absent, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 8, 2021, at Southern 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