

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 11, 2022  
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, Angela Meyer, Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, and Dave Zimmerman. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & 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. Posted Location:

- Wymore Arbor State Newspaper

Posted Date: 3/31/22

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.

I.C. Motion to Excuse Jim Zvokanek from the April Regular Board of Education Meeting

Motion to excuse Jim Zvokanek from the April regular board of education meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the March 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, 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: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

#### 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 Dana Dorn, passed.

Jim Zvolanek: Absent, David Zimmerman: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 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: spring activities, being short on drivers, street work at the Jr./Sr. High School, Johnson Controls have started on the boiler replacement project at the Elementary School, and the Jr./Sr. High School commons HVAC will start once school is out.

Dr. Prosocki noted that all paraprofessionals will be trained to start covering daily SPED routes in the coming months in an effort to provide the district with more flexibility in the years ahead.

##### V.B. Personnel Items

The district is starting to interview for the assistant head of maintenance position and a K-12 media specialist position for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, the distirct still needs to fill a vocal music position and a 6th grade position.

##### V.B.1. Hiring Recommendations

Motion to approve the teacher contracts for Cody Cahill, Debra Bachmann-Clasen, and Shannon Burgess for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

##### V.B.1.1. Cody Cahill - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Physical Education & Health Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Cody Cahill will also serve as the head high school basketball coach.

##### V.B.1.2. Debra Bachmann-Clasen - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 English Language Arts Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Debra Bachmann-Clasen will also serve as the play production sponsor.

V.B.1.3. Shannon Burgess - 1.0 FTE - 4th Grade Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Shannon Burgess was hired as a 4th grade teacher, and she will also serve as the head high school volleyball coach.

V.B.2. Resignations

Motion to accept the resignations of Becky Weyer, Jennifer Dunekacke-Hamm, Melissa Omar, and Zack Emerson at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The school board accepted the resignation of Becky Weyer, Jennifer Dunekacke-Hamm, Melissa Omar, and Zack Emerson at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year with regrets and thanked all of them for their years of service at Southern Public Schools.

V.B.2.1. Becky Weyer - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Media Specialist at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

V.B.2.2. Jennifer Dunekacke-Hamm - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Science Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

V.B.2.3. Melissa Omar - 1.0 FTE - 7-9 English Language Arts Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

V.B.2.4. Zack Emerson - 1.0 FTE - 7-12 Physical Education Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year

V.C. Technology Update

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: current enrollment figures (3-Year-Old Preschool - 10, 4-Year-Old Preschool - 19, K - 18, 1st - 31, 2nd, 25, 3rd - 28, 4th - 22, 5th - 27, 6th - 22), spring testing, summer school during the month of June, scheduling, Kindergarten Roundup on May 2, and spring sports.

Dr. Prosocki noted that the NSAA recently added Class C spring baseball and Freeman approach Southern about the possibility of creating a co-op for baseball in the years ahead. Dr. Prosocki noted that there are only a total of 9 student athletes out for boys track, girls track, and boys golf, and it has become increasing hard to find coaches. The board decided to table the idea and see if any new Class C baseball teams emerge in the years ahead.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (7th - 33, 8th - 30, 9th - 33, 10th - 28, 11th - 31, 12th - 25). the Scholastic banquet (22 students honored and Dr. Haley Trauernicht was the guest speaker), National Honor Society new members (Jaidyn Allington, Rylee Swearingen, Candence See, & Bladen Weiner), alternative school update, Nebraska State FFA Convention on April 7, spring testing update, Honors Night will be held on May 3, and district music contest will take place on April 21 & 22.

#### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosofski went over John Hattie's research on what increases student achievement in the classroom. He noted that there are a lot of misconceptions among the public and some educators about what research has shown does not have an impact on increasing student achievement (e.g., reducing class sizes or student retention) and what research has shown has an impact on increasing student achievement (e.g., collective teacher efficacy and mnemonic strategies). In the fall, teachers will spend in-service time reviewing John Hattie's Visible Learning database in an effort to increase student achievement at Southern in the years ahead. Dr. Prosofski talked about starting a 403(b) and a 457(b) tax-sheltered annuity program for Southern all staff to participate in during the 2022-2023 school year if employees decided to participate in this option (There will be no extra cost to the district to offer this program). Next, Dr. Prosofski went over the Appropriations Committee mid-biennium budget proposal. In accordance with the state's school funding formula, K-12 funding to schools decreased in the 2021-2022 fiscal year as compared to the prior year. The budget proposal also shows that K-12 funding growth is projected to grow slowly in the next two fiscal years (2.3% in FY 2022-2023 and 1.3% in FY 2023-2024). The low funding growth is caused in part by rising property valuations. This level of growth will not keep up with inflation and schools could be faced with having to cut services or raise property taxes to keep up with the cost of rising prices. Next, Dr. Prosofski went over the extra duty assignments for 2022-2023, and he gave the board an update from NRCSA conference over LB 644. Under LB 644, it creates the Property Tax Act and if a school district's tax request increases by 2% plus real growth, a school district must hold a third hearing with all taxing entities in the county. Currently, in Nebraska school districts can grow their budget by up to 2.5% and this bill is another example of an unfunded mandate where school districts are forced to foot the bill of all the costs associated with creating and sending out postcards to all taxpayers within their district boundaries if their tax request increases by 2% plus real growth. Lastly, Dr. Prosofski went over the post-graduate survey results, gave the school board an update on summer school, and he went over the summer weight room program.

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

##### VII.A. The 2021-2022 Southern Public Schools Amended Budget

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Southern Public Schools amended budget. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

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

Since more students are participating in the free breakfast and lunch program this school year, the district is anticipating additional spending, which is more than what was originally adopted for the 2021-2022 budget.

#### VII.B. Special Education Services with ESU 5 for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve the special education services with ESU 5 for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Proski said that there are both state and federal mandates that require public schools in the United States to serve all special needs students. Dr. Proski noted that he feels that schools have a moral obligation to serve students with special needs. Dr. Proski said that it is cheaper to contract out these services because the district does not have the resources to hire a full-time occupational therapist or physical therapist. These contracted services will cost the district around \$240,000 for the 2022-2023 school year.

#### VII.C. Consider the Approval of an Out-of-State Travel Request (Senior Skip Day)

Motion to approve the out-of-state senior skip day in May. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 6027: Field Trips, all out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval from the board of education.

#### VII.D. Consider the Approval of an Out-of-State Travel Request (6th Grade Field Trip)

Motion to approve the out-of-state 6th grade field trip in May. This motion, made by Angela Meyer and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 6027: Field Trips, all out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval from the board of education.

#### VII.E. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., May 9, 2022, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room 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