

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
June 13, 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, Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrator was present: Christopher Prososki.

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:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 6/1/2022

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**

Motion to excuse Angela Meyer due to weather related items. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

**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.

**II. Approval of Minutes from the May 9, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve minutes from the May 9, 2022, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek 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 Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

Angela Meyer: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

#### IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

#### V. Support Service

#### V.A. Facility Update

Dr. Prososki noted that due to some watering upgrades made at the Arbor State Park, the district had to find an alternative method to water the practices fields. John Linder contacted Under Ground Specialist, and they are going to install new underground sprinklers and a new watering system. In addition, Johnson Controls have started on the thermostats upgrade project for each classroom, the new boilers and the new HVAC projects are underway, and starting in July, they plan to lay carpet at the Elementary School (First grade rooms, fourth grade rooms, and convert the old computer lab into the new K-6 art room because the district now has one technology device for every student).

#### V.B. Personnel Items

#### V.B.1. Hiring Recommendation

#### V.B.2. Samantha Rzekonski - 1.0 FTE - Kindergarten Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to approve Smantha Rzekonski as the kindergarten teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Smantha Rzekonski will serve as the kindergarten teacher for the 2022-2023 school year and Stacy Fossler will move back to be a K-6 special education teacher.

#### V.C. Technology Update

#### VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

#### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

#### VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal provided a written report over the following items: having around 25 students planning to attend kindergarten in the fall, having 25-30 students enrolled in summer school, upcoming teacher trainings, school calendars, and summer weights.

#### VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report over the following items: 4 students enrolled in alternative school in the fall, class officers and student council elections (Student Council President: Kale Maguire; Student Council Vice President: Natalie Trauernicht; and Student Board Representative: Iasiah Hoover), Southeast Nebraska All Star Basketball and Volleyball games (Brock Adams and Simon Kuol played in the basketball game and Maddie Wegner played in the volleyball game), and 5 students participated in summer school at the Jr./Sr. High School.

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

Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on his contracted days and went over the DIBELS results in grades K-6 (In the fall there were 53% of students at benchmark and in the spring, there were 63% of students at benchmark). This was the highest percentage of students meeting benchmark since the switch to the more rigorous DIBELS 8th Edition assessment. Next, Dr. Prososki informed the board of some early outs in the fall that will need to occur because of the lack of available referees and the district having to host or attend varsity sporting events. On August 25, 2022, the district will have a 2:50 p.m./3:00 p.m. early outs because the district will be hosting a volleyball triangular at 4:00 p.m. On September 9, 2022, the district will have a 1:20 p.m./1:30 p.m. early outs because the district will play an away varsity football game at 3:00 p.m. at HTRS. Dr. Prososki then went over a preliminary budget presentation with the school board and noted the following items: (1) the district's mill levy has dropped 3 out of the last 7 years, (2) the district's mill levy has dropped by 25 cents since the 2011-2021 school year, (3) the district mill levy has not increased in 5 years, (4) the district's property tax request has dropped 4 out of the last 6 years, and (5) the district cost per pupil ranked 3rd lowest in the Pioneer Conference and the district's cost per pupil was lower than half of the schools in Nebraska. Next, Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on teacher negotiations for the 2023-2024 school year, and he noted that the teachers are currently sitting at 99.4% or 0.6% off of the midpoint. Based on LB 397, the total compensation of teachers must fall between 98%-102% on the array. Dr. Prososki distributed the Real Property Value Percentage Change for 2021-2022, and he predicted the district valuation will increase by \$6 to \$8 million dollars from the previous year. Dr. Prososki noted that he submitted the Support Service Flex Funding School Age grant and the district will receive \$14,295 for this grant. Lastly, he said that he plans to submit a grant for some new Dell Desktops computers for our business classes, and they will also be used for the district's new 9-12 grade eSports program in the fall.

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

#### VII.A. Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Motion to approve the Community Eligibility Provision to provide free school breakfasts and school lunches for the next 4 years. This motion, made by David Zimmerman and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides an alternative approach for offering school meals to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools in low-income areas. The CEP allows schools that predominantly serve low-income children to offer free, nutritious school meals to all students through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The school board decided to provide free school breakfasts and school lunches over the next 4 school years (Until the end of the 2025-2026 school year). The district decided to subsidize the cost of lunches that do not meet the required threshold in each building. With the passage of the CEP, a parent that has 2 students attending Southern that eat regularly priced breakfast and lunches at school will save around \$2,000 a year or \$8,000 over the next 4 school years. Dr. Prososki noted that not all of the area school districts elected to participate in this program over the next 4 school year. This is another primary example of the school board going above and beyond to do what is best for students at Southern.

#### VII.B. Set Breakfast, Lunch, & Milk Prices for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion to raise the breakfast, lunch, and milk prices by \$0.10 for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Even though the school board approved the CEP grant, to provide free breakfast and lunches for the next 4 years, Dr. Prososki noted that he wants the school breakfast, school lunch, and school milk prices to keep up with inflation, and he wants to increase them gradually overtime to be in compliance with the required Paid Lunch Equity tool.

If the board did not approve the CEP program for the 2022-2023 school year, the breakfast prices in grades PK-12 would have been at \$2.25, lunch prices in grades PK-6 would have been at \$3.15, and lunch prices in grades 7-12 would have been at \$3.25. Adult breakfast prices will be \$2.45 and adult lunch prices will be \$4.10. All milk prices will be at \$0.45.

#### VII.C. Increase Adult Admission Prices from \$5 to \$6 for the 2022-2023 School Year to Reflect the Recent Changes Made by the Pioneer Conference

Motion to increase adult admission prices from \$5 to \$6 for the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.D. Approval of Policy 5045: Student Fees

Motion to approve Policy 5045: Student Fees. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prososki noted that no changes have been made to Policy 5045: Student Fees over the past couple of years. These are also the same fees that local ESU 5 school utilized in our area. Dr. Prososki said that Policy 5045: Student Fees serve as a placeholder for sponsors or coaches that may want to complete extra activities during the school year (e.g., Art Club students may need to

pay an extra fee for an Art Club t-shirt if they elect to purchase one). The majority of the fees in Policy 5045: Student Fees are not imposed on students, and in many cases, they can elect if they want to pay for example a \$30 fee to take their laptop home during the school year or not.

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

Motion to approve Policy 5018 & 5057: Parent Guardian Involvement in Education Practices & District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.F. Annual Board Policy Updates

Motion to approve the updated forms and policies: 2010, 3003.1, 3004.1, 3012, 3057, 4056, 4064, 5012, 6021, & 6037. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.G. Policy Review - Policy 5001: Compulsory Attendance and Excess Absenteeism & Policy 5045: Student Bullying

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

#### VII.H. A Safe Return Plan Review as Required by the United States Department of Education (USDOE)

Motion to just update the dates in the A Safe Return Plan to reflect the 2022-2023 school year. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on the American Rescue Plan (ARP), each school district in the United States has to implement (1) A Safe Return Plan, (2) solicit feedback from the public regarding this plan, and (3) review this plan every 6 months through September 30, 2023. The steering committee reviewed this plan in January and no changes were made to the plan (The steering committee consists of teachers, principals, the superintendent, ESU 5 staff, parents, and community members). The board elected to make no changes to this document, besides update the dates for the upcoming school year.

#### VII.I. Designate the Legal Newspaper for Southern Public Schools and Amend Policy 2008: Meetings to Reflect these Changes and the Changes Brought Forth by LB 83

Motion to designate Fairbury newspaper as the legal newspaper for Southern Public Schools and amend Policy 2008: Meetings to reflect these changes and the changes brought forth by LB 83. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Since the Wymore Arbor State Newspaper will no longer be in circulation, the school board had to select the legal newspaper for the district and amend Policy 2008: Meetings to reflect these changes and the changes made by LB 83.

VII.J. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., July 11, 2022, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom 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