

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 14, 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, Dave Zimmerman, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were present: Jeff Murphy, & 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: 11/2/2022

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

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2022, Special School Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the October 28, 2022, Special School Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jim Zvolanek and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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 Angela Meyer and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Angela Meyer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jim Zvolanek: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report over: getting ready for snow removal, installing a larger diameter gas line for the new Elementary School boilers, and getting activity drivers setup for winter activities.

Dr. Prosocki said that the district just received a \$395,000 grant from the EPA for a new electric bus and a charging station. Southern was 1 of only 6 school districts in Nebraska that received the Clean School Bus grant. Based on the October publication of the School Bus Fleet, it was reported that districts save between \$4,000-\$11,000 a year on bus maintenance after shifting to an electric bus. In addition, it is estimated that battery-electric buses cost around 60 cents per mile to operate, saving about \$1.38 per mile when compared to a diesel-operated bus. Lastly, an electric bus can travel up to 120 miles when it is fully charged and there is also a 10-year warranty on the battery.

Dr. Prosocki said the district's lock-sets in both buildings are from the 1980s and we can no longer find parts to replace our outdated system. In the next 2 months, the district plans to replace all of the lock-sets in both buildings. Based on the new safety standards, only a handful of outside keys will be available for staff members. The district will be using the current online Open Path system and this will allow us to terminate online access to our buildings. In addition, we will not need to re-key all of the outside doors when a key is lost. Lastly, all of the inside teachers' doors will be one standard key and there will be another standard key that can only be used for the offices and maintenance area.

Dr. Prosocki mentioned that Nova Fitness came out on October 20, 2022, to complete an objective review of our current weight room equipment in an effort to see if any weight room equipment is currently not working or if it is unsafe to operate. As part of their study, Nova Fitness is also going to give the district a cost proposal for some new weight room equipment. Dr. Prosocki said that if the district decides to move forward with the new weight room equipment, he will pursue grants to help offset the costs. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said that our weight room is used by students, faculty members, and community members.

Lastly, Dr. Prosocki covered the new service agreement with Johnson Controls. Since the district added new high efficiency HVAC equipment and high efficiency new boilers, the service agreement increased because the new equipment had to be added to service (The ESSER stimulus funds were used to purchase the new equipment).

V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Prosocki noted that Roger Dorn is going to retire at the end of the school year and Mariah Canfield is going to resign before January so she can start taking college classes.

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 on the following items: current enrollment figures, Red Ribbon week activities, fall sports coming to an end, winter sports starting on November 14, K-3 concert on November 8, and NSCAS & DIBELS testing.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, Veterans Day Program on November 11, all 4 spots at the ESU 5 alternative school are full, grow towers around the Jr./Sr. High School building, upcoming Play Production competitions, and 3 students requesting to graduate at mid-term (This practice is currently allowed under Policy 5066: Early Graduation).

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki distributed the yearly required audit to the school board members and he went over the 2022-2023 state aid recalculation and he noted the district will lose \$24,728. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over the 2022 Certified School Adjustment Valuation report from the Nebraska Department of Revenue and he presented the school board with a draft of both the 2022-2023 district calendar and the 2022-2023 preschool calendar. He noted that Southern has to follow the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) calendar so the district does not have a track meet on graduation. Dr. Prosocki went over the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) medical and dental rates for the 2023-2024 school year and he said they will increase by 6.87% and this increase will cost the district just under \$57,000. Dr. Prosocki gave the school board negotiations update and said the district will have a federal Office of Civil Rights compliance review of our facilities and Career and Technical Education classes (Dr. Prosocki went over an OCR checklist he has been working on). Next, he said the administration team will be reading Qualities of Effective Principals, 2nd Edition in an effort to improve their craft. Then, Dr. Prosocki went over the annual safety audit that was conducted by the former Chief of Police or Beatrice, Bruce Lang, and he said the safety and security committee will review his recommendations. From here, Dr. Prosocki went over a recent proposal by Jim Pillen to move to a per-student (pupil) funding system in Nebraska. Dr. Prosocki noted that if this occurs, Southern would lose \$444,723 and the district would need to raise the mill levy by 11-12 cents to make up the difference. Since Southern is at the legal mill levy limit of \$1.05, we would not have the ability to raise our general fund mill levy to \$1.17. The district would either have to make cuts to staff or pursue a levy override. Dr. Prosocki noted that a per-student (pupil) funding system has not

worked in other states and it has no business being implemented in Nebraska. Dr. Prosocki went over the official enrollment numbers (379 students), poverty trends, option enrollment trends, and special education trends. Dr. Prosocki reminded the school board that 7 days after the regular December board meeting that his contract will automatically renew for 1 year pending the school board decides not to renew his contract. Dr. Prosocki noted that superintendents cannot acquire tenure like teachers and principals in Nebraska. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said that he wrote and received a \$18,056 grant through the Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) program for our school lunch program.

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

VII.A. Option Enrollment Applications

VII.B. Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation - As Needed to Protect the Interest of the District & to Prevent the Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:33 p.m. to complete the annual superintendent evaluation as needed to protect the interest of the district & to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.B.1. Convene Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation

VII.B.2. Reconvene Meeting from Executive Session

Motion to reconvene the meeting from executive session at 9:18 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Angela Meyer, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20p.m. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jim Zvolanek, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., December 12, 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