

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 16, 2023  
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, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Prososki. The following student board member representative was present: Iasiah Hoover.

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:1/11/2023

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment 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.

I.C. Motion to excuse Dana Dorn from the January 16, 2023, school board meeting

Motion to excuse Dana Dorn from the January 16, 2023, school board meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed.

Dana Dorn: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

I.D. Oath of Office

I.E. Reorganization of the Southern School Board

I.E.1. Election of Officers

I.E.1.1. President

Motion to nominate Dave Zimmerman as the school board president. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Dana Dorn: Absent, David Zimmerman: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

#### I.E.1.2. Vice-President

Motion to nominate Dana Dorn as the vice-president of the school board. This motion, made by David Zimmerman and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed. yes: 5, no: 0

#### I.E.1.3. Secretary

Motion to nominate Debra Schlake as the secretary of the school board. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Dana Dorn: Absent, Debra Schlake: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

### II. Approval of Minutes from the December 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from the December 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, 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 Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Dana Dorn: Absent, Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: 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 Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on general maintenance items, completing the required Office of Civil Rights (Title II) items as prescribed by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), and working on getting the buses inspected.

Dr. Proski gave the school board an update on the electric bus project. He noted that he is currently working with Blue Bird on an additional \$40,000 grant through the Inflation Reduction Act that went into effect on January 1, 2023. Dr. Proski said he is also working with Johnson Controls on a Renew America's Schools Grant through the U.S. Department of Energy. As part of this federal grant, schools can apply for the first round of the Renew America's Schools grant, up to \$80 million of the \$500 million program, to make energy improvements. Dr. Proski said the district is looking to write the grant for \$500,000 and there is also a 5% cost share associated with the grant (e.g., If the district receives the \$500,000 grant, the district would be responsible for \$25,000).

## V.B. Personnel Items

Dr. Proski noted that the district has started to advertise for the open 4th grade, 6th grade, and vocal music openings.

## V.C. Technology Update

## VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: basketball update, holiday tournament update, student groups working the concession stands, Pioneer Conference Instrumental Music at Southern on January 23, and an upcoming art trip to Lincoln.

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

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, report cards being sent home, junior high football co-op with Diller-Odell, elementary spelling bee (2/8/2023), preschool registration, kindergarten parent orientation meeting (2/15/2023), and a NSAA district meeting on January 12, 2023.

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

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, having all alternative spots filled at ESU 5, starting on registering for classes for 2023-2023, academic all-state (Football: Kale Maguire; Play Production: Autumn Lane; Volleyball: Callie Cooper & Alaina Kloverl; and Softball: Taylor Trauernicht & Kendrea Troxel), starting the Raider Closet where students can get clothes, toiletries, and non-perishable food items, and having 15 students enrolled in 16 college classes.

### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki informed the school board that we are currently completing a federal review of our schoolwide Title plan for the current school year and he gave the school board an update on the 108th Legislature, First Session bills. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over the Middle of the Year (MOY) DIBELS results and he noted the district did see some regression on this assessment (BOY had 53% of students meeting the benchmark and MOY had 48% of students meeting the benchmark). Dr. Prosocki noted that the East Central Nebraska Conference (ECNC) reached out to Southern again about joining their conference, but at this time, Southern wanted to stay in the Pioneer Conference. Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the recent Office of Civil Rights (OCR) federal compliance review of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that occurred on December 7 & 8, 2022. Based on the Letter of Findings (LOF), the district will have 60 days or by March 3, 2023, to submit a Voluntary Compliance Plan (VCP) over the 4 proposed corrective actions. Next, Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update about the upcoming NRCSA spring conference in Kearney that will take place in March. He noted that he would like to set the principal and classified staff salaries at the February board meeting and he informed the school board about a special board meeting prior to the February regular board meeting to continue with our facility study of all buildings. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki reminded the new school board members to complete the Title IX training over the 2020 Trump regulations and he presented his work days for the second quarter.

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

### VII.A. Appointments

#### VII.A.1. Authorized Representative for State & Federal Programs

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the authorized representative for state & federal programs. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.A.2. Bus Mechanic for Bus Inspections

Motion to appoint James Ullman as the bus mechanic for bus inspections. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.A.3. District's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator

Motion to appoint Christopher Prosocki as the district's non-discrimination compliance coordinator. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.A.4. Treasurer

Motion to appoint Taylor Schmidt as the treasurer. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

### VII.B. Designate the Fund Depository for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Security First Bank of Blue Springs and Western National Bank of Wymore as the depository for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.C. Designate the Legal Newspaper for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Fairbury-Journal New as the legal newspaper for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.D. Designate the Legal Counsel for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate KSB School Law as the district's legal counsel. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.E. Designate the Method for Publicizing Meetings of the Southern Board of Education

Motion to publicize meetings of the Southern board of education in accordance with Policy 2008: Meetings. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Aaron Whitwer, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Based on Policy 2008 Based on Policy 2008: Meetings, the board will give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and the place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and the public. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district, if available, on the newspaper's website. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Fairbury-Journal News, Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald.

#### VII.F. Appoint School Board Standing Committees

Motion to amend the previous motion and to approve the standing committee as appointed by the school board president. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

##### VII.F.1. American Civics

Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Jeff Argo will serve on the American Civics committee.

##### VII.F.2. Buildings & Grounds

Aaron Whitwer, Betsy Frerichs, & Dave Zimmerman will serve on the Buildings & Grounds committee.

##### VII.F.3. Finance

Betsy Frerichs, Dave Zimmerman, & Debra Schlake will serve on the Finance committee.

##### VII.F.4. Negotiations

Aaron Whitwer, Dana Dorn, & Dave Zimmerman will serve on the Negotiations committee.

#### VII.F.5. Policy

Aaron Whitwer, Dave Zimmerman, & Debra Schlake will serve on the Policy committee.

#### VII.F.6. Transportation

Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, & Jeff Argo will serve on the Transportation committee.

#### VII.G. Policy Review - Policy 2005: Conflict of Interest, Policy 2006: Complaint Procedures, Policy 2012: Code of Ethics

The school board reviewed policy 2005, 2006, & 2012, and based on state law, Aaron Whitwer filled out NADC Form C-2A Potential Conflict of Interest Statement & NADC Form C-4 Employment of Immediate Family Member. Dr. Proski filed both documents in the office of the superintendent.

#### VII.H. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed. yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., February 13, 2023, 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