

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 8, 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, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Jerry Rempe & Christopher Proski.

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: 5/3/2023

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.

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn 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 Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: 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: installing the new flooring in the weight room, the arrival of the new weight room equipment during the second week in May, installing the Level 2 charger in Blue Spring during the second week in May, struggling to find drivers for field trips and other activities, and keeping up with both mowing and janitorial work.

V.B. Personnel Items

Cody McKinney and Kathy Burke recently resigned and we are looking to hire a maintenance staff member and a part-time food service provider.

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, working on the activity schedule, finishing up testing, and end of the year events.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal provided a written report on the following items: current enrollment figures, last day for seniors, last day of school, having all 4 alternative spots being filled at ESU 5, holding class elections, 3 students were awarded the Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship, Honors Night, graduation on May 13, and the NSCAS incentive day where 17 junior high students attended a Lincoln Stars game.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosofski presented the school board with the annual preschool advisory meeting minutes and he also went over a draft of the assessment calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. He noted that there are required state and federal assessments that schools across the United States have to

administer every year. Dr. Prosocki said that he will be serving on Seward Public Schools accreditation visit in October, he will be leading O'Neill Public Schools accreditation visit in November, and Southern will have our external accreditation visit in February. Dr. Prosocki said that area superintendents recently met with Senator Myron Dorn and the group spoke to him about their concerns regarding LB 632: Prohibit Suspension of Students in Prekindergarten through Second Grade. Dr. Prosocki said that if LB 632 passes, the only way that a student in preschool through second grade could be suspended is if a student brought a deadly weapon to school. Dr. Prosocki said that students need to be held accountable for their actions and, based on the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, there are procedural safeguards already in place to protect juveniles from being suspended from school. He noted that there is an appeal process for any long-term suspension and expulsion and, in many other states, there is no appeal process for any suspension or expulsion. Next, Dr. Prosocki said he submitted a local food for schools funding grant and the district will receive \$3,479 through this USDA grant. Dr. Prosocki said that he was recently elected to the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) executive committee. In this newly appointed position, he said that he hopes to have a greater impact on education on behalf of the smaller school districts across Nebraska. Dr. Prosocki also noted that he was also elected as the President of the Nebraska Association of School administrators (NASA) or the superintendent association in Nebraska. In this newly elected role, Dr. Prosocki plans to have a greater impact on the education system in Nebraska at both the state and the national level. Dr. Prosocki then went over a proposal for a new strategic plan because the district is close to the end of our current strategic plan and if the board approves this, the district will start this process during the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act that was signed into law by President Biden on December 29, 2022, and how it relates to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Lastly, Dr. Prosocki said the district recently wrote a grant for a Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener. Dr. Prosocki noted that our current vision screening equipment is outdated and does not provide valid and reliable readings for the youngest students in our district because some of them do not fully understand both letter recognition and shape recognition, which is part of the screening. In addition, the district also serves some students that are non-verbal.

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

VII.A. Set Activity Prices for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to keep the activity prices the same as the previous school year. This motion, made by Aaron Whitwer and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

The admission prices for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$6 for adults, \$4 for students. The prices for passes for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$50 for adults, \$30 for students, and \$90 for families. These are also the same prices that the other Pioneer Conference schools charge.

VII.B. Approval of Milk Bids for the Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion to approve the escalating and de-escalating milk bid from Hiland Dairy for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Southern Public Schools is a member of the Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative and the purpose of the cooperative is to achieve lower milk prices in an effort to save the district money. The Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative consists of the following districts: Diller-Odell, Fairbry, Meridian, Southern, Tri County, & Wilber-Clatonia.

VII.C. Set the Annual Student Fees Hearing for June 12, 2023, at 7:10 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska

Motion to set the annual student fees hearing for June 12, 2023, at 7:10 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

Dr. Prosocki noted that school districts in Nebraska are required by law to have a Student Fees hearing. Dr. Prosocki said 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 schools utilize in our area. Dr. Prosocki said that Policy 5045: Student Fees serves as a placeholder for sponsors or coaches that may want to complete some extra activities during the school year. 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 with them during the school year or not.

VII.D. Set the Annual Parental Involvement Hearing and the Annual Title I Parental Involvement Hearing for June 12, 2023, at 7:20 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska

Motion to set the annual parental involvement hearing and the annual Title I parental involvement hearing for June 12, 2023, at 7:20 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
yes: 6, no: 0

VII.E. Consider Changes to Policy 4040: Employment Terms for Classified Staff

Motion to approve the proposed changes to Policy 4040: Employment Terms for Classified Staff. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Dr. Prosocki noted that classified staff are the unsung heroes of every school district. Over the past 2-3 years, the district has done a great deal for teachers when it comes to recruitment and retention efforts. Dr. Prosocki said that classified staff are often forgotten when it comes to

recruitment and retention efforts and Dr. Prososki noted the need to expand their paid holidays as a recruitment and retention initiative.

VII.F. Accept the Resignation of Aaron Whitwer as a School Board Member

Motion to accept the resignation of Aaron Whitwer as a school board member. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Aaron Whitwer: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Based on Policy 4015: Prohibition Against Employment of Board Members, a board member shall not be employed by the school district when serving on the school board. Aaron Whitwer accepted the position as the head boys basketball coach. After the May 8, 2023, school board meeting, the district will solicit applications to fill the open board position until June 5, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Applications can be picked up at the superintendent's office and the district will advertise the school board opening in the Fairbury Journal-News, on the district website, and on social media. The district will also inform the Gage County Clerk of the open school board position. Dr. Prososki and the school board thanked Aaron Whitwer for his service to Southern Public Schools over the years as a board member.

VII.G. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, Aaron Whitwer: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

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