

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
August 14, 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: Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, 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: 8/9/2023

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 Betsy Frerichs from the August 14, 2023, Regular School Board Meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs from the August 14, 2023, regular school board meeting. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

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

II. Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting & July 24, 2023, Special Board Meeting

Approval of minutes from the July 10, 2023, regular board meeting & July 24, 2023, special board meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, 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 capital purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 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: getting cabinets put back in the Elementary Principal's office, construction at both buildings, glass arriving at the Elementary School on August 22, new football scoreboard, getting the activity bus schedule lined up, working on cleaning out the shop for the new welding program, and keeping up with mowing.

Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on the required American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp at the Jr./Sr. High School. He noted that the glass for the new Elementary School entrance should arrive on August 22 and Fairbury glass plans to work in the evenings during that week to complete the project by August 25. The new electric bus is set to arrive at the end of September. Dr. Prosocki said that the district is looking to start charging individuals from the community to use the school weight room (\$75 for a single year membership & \$125 for a family yearly membership) after the first of the year. The majority of school districts in the area do not open up their weight room to the public and all of the school districts that do open their weight room up to the public charge a yearly usage fee to help maintain their weight room equipment. This minimal fee will still be way lower than a YMCA membership or an Anytime Fitness membership. No weight room fees will be charged to Southern staff members and their families. The same will hold true for school board members and their families as well.

##### V.B. Personnel Items

##### V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki noted that the upgraded wiring at the Jr./Sr. High School was complete and he said, because of the nature of this old building, it took longer than planned. The Elementary School upgraded wiring will take place over Christmas break. In addition, the federal e-rate funding was used to fund this project. Also, the district received \$1,725 worth of Tello drones for the students to use the upcoming school year through a grant.

#### 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: preliminary enrollment figures, Workshop on Reading Development Strategies (WORDS) training for all PK-3rd grade teachers, Title teacher, & SPED teachers in an effort to improve early literacy skills, and the Elementary School Open House will take place on August 16.

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

The secondary principal reported on the following items: preliminary enrollment figures, alternative school update (ESU 5), end of summer trainings, and participation numbers for fall sports (Football = 20, Softball = 15, & Volleyball = 15).

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

Dr. Prosocki went over the budgeted expenditures for the 2023-2024 school year, and he noted that the expenditures will be up by around 8.56% from the previous school year. Dr. Prosocki noted that the expenditures were up because of the increases in staff costs, the purchases of 2 new vans, the purchase of new mathematics textbooks, and inflation increasing the cost of everyday items. Dr. Prosocki also said that there are always unknowns that pop up in a school's budget, and he always tries to find room in the budget for the unexpected items. Next, Dr. Prosocki said that USDA is requiring adult breakfast and lunch prices to be set at \$2.75 and \$4.60 respectively, and the district will have to follow suit with their requirements. Dr. Prosocki informed the school board of some upcoming Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) member meetings and he went over the 2023-2024 special education costs. Dr. Prosocki said they will increase by 0.004% and it will bring the total cost to \$239,855 for the upcoming school year. Dr. Prosocki noted that special education services are mandated by state and federal law and it is still cheaper to contract these services than hire a full-time OT or PT to complete these services. From here, Dr. Prosocki said that he recently completed a federal ESSA Consolidated grant and the district will receive \$121,423 from this grant, and he also recently completed a High Ability Learner grant and the district will receive \$4,740 from this grant. Dr. Prosocki went over the beginning of the year faculty presentation, he gave the school board an update on an unfunded mandate bill called LB 644/727 or the pink postcard bill, and he gave the school board an update on the upcoming strategic plan. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki went over some new systems of support for preschools in Nebraska and he said that the Biden administration is looking to propose new FERPA regulations, propose amendments to Section 504 regulations, and release new Title IX regulations.

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

VII.A. A Co-op for High School Track with Diller-Odell for the 2023-2024 & 2024-205 School Years

VII.B. Set the Budget Hearing for September 11, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom in Wymore, NE

Motion to set the budget hearing for September 11, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. in the boardroom in Wymore, NE. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.  
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

#### VII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

#### VIII. Adjournment

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

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., September 11, 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