

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 9, 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: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Proski. The following student board member was present: Cole Thompson.

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: 10/5/2023

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 September 19, 2023, Special Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the September 19, 2023, special board meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jared McKeever, 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.

yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on the installation of a Level 3 charging station, addressing drainage issues at the Jr./Sr. High School, working on the new welding program, field trips and drivers, and servicing the basketball hoops.

Dr. Proski noted that he is working with Johnson Controls on a Renew America's Schools grant. The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) last year announced a first-of-its-kind investments to make clean energy improvements in K-12 public schools. Funds will position school districts to make upgrades that will lower facilities' energy costs and foster healthier learning environments for students. Lastly, Dr. Proski gave the school board an update on the Jr./Sr. High School safe and secure entrance project.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Proski went over the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology to improve student learning. Based on the district's strategic plan, the district will be purchasing 70 iPads, 35 MacBook Airs, and 3 MacBook Pros during the 2023-2024 school year.

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: fall activities update, land judging, DeMoine Adams presentation, eSports, play production, art club, & homecoming activities.

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (PK-6 = 198 students), fall Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS or state test) testing, 2nd grade field trip to Arbor Day Farms, an evacuation drill completed in conjunction with Gage County Sheriff's Department and Wymore Police Department, 4th grade field trip to Homestead National Monument & Pioneer Day Celebration, 3rd & 4th graders attending Rural Safety Day, Red Ribbon Week (Is an alcohol, tobacco, smoking, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October), 1st grade field trip to Roca Berry Farm, the continuation of the WORDS project for PK-3 teachers with University of Nebraska at Lincoln

(UNL & Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and a 77% turn out rate for the fall parent-teacher conferences.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures (7-12 = 175 students), Homecoming King & Queen (Rylee Swearingen & Bladen Weiner), bringing in college representatives and attending career opportunities (Visiting SCC, Manufacturing Day, Careers Ag Day, Construction Day, Careers in Auto Expo, & Apply to College Day), all sophomores will take the Pre-ACT, all juniors will take the ASVAB, celebrating Constitution Day on September 17, 8th & 12th graders taking the civics portion of the naturalization test, Mrs. Baumgartner working to prepare for the upcoming Washington D.C. trip in June of 2024, Mrs. Baumgartner & Mr. Doose taking their students to County Government day, and a 41% turn out rate for the fall parent-teacher conferences.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over his contracted days for the third quarter and he gave the school board an update on the Department of Labor's (DOL) new proposed overtime rules. Since all of Southern's classified staff are paid hourly, this will not be an issue for the district. In addition, these new proposed regulations do continue to treat teachers and community member coaches as exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), even if their salary does not meet the new proposed threshold. He noted this has been a longstanding tradition because it would complicate things like collective bargaining if it were to be changed. Next, Dr. Prosocki went over the DIBELS testing results in grades K-6, and he went over the draft calendars for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Prosocki also went over a 3-year state aid history for Nebraska school districts and how Southern did not come out as a winner under the new funding formula. From here, Dr. Prosocki covered the changes to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), where it lowered the minimum Identified Student Percentage (ISP) from 40 percent to 25 percent. This will allow schools greater flexibility to offer meals to all enrolled students at no cost when financially viable. Dr. Prosocki said that it is important to note that the Free and Reduced Priced Lunch data does not determine Title I allocations. Those allocations are based on Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) data, which is pulled from the census. Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update regarding the upcoming NASB State Education Conference, about an upcoming Nebraska Schoolmasters meeting, and he went over a copy of the safety audit. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki reminded the school board that they would need to complete his evaluation during the November school board meeting.

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

VII.A. Resolution on School District Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications

Motion to approve the resolution on school district standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

VII.B. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 6, no: 0

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