

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 12, 2025
7:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, 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: 5/7/2025

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 Debra Schlake from the May 12, 2025, school board meeting

Motion to excuse Betsy Frerichs and Debra Schlake from the May 12, 2025, school board meeting. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed. Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Debra Schlake: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the April 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed. Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Debra Schlake: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 4, no: 0, Absent: 2

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 Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Debra Schlake: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
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 a new fan motor for the oven, bus issues, working on the remodeling of the old offices, and working on summer projects.

Dr. Prosocki noted that due to the issues at the federal level and the tariff war, the air conditioning project will not start until the middle or the end of June now. He is hopeful that the project will still be complete before school starts, but everything is a disaster at the federal level. In addition, the architect decided to make an addendum, and add Dens-Deck to the roof project over the Jr./Sr. High School gym.

V.B. Personnel Items

At the elementary school, especially in the primary grades, we are seeing an increased number of students that are struggling to regulate themselves and their emotions. Dr. Prosocki noted that in his person opinion, this has been caused by (1) lost socialization during the pandemic, (2) busier parents/parents that struggle with basic parenting skills, and (3) stimulation from screen time. As Albert Einstein said... Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. With that being said, Southern is planning on adding another day for the ESU 5 mental health counselor in our district. Next school year, they will spend 1.5 days at the Elementary School and 0.5 days at the Jr./Sr. High School.

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, presented a capstone project to the NAESP leadership team, 14 students attended kindergarten step up day, school resource deputy presenting to 5th and 6th graders on social media safety, band concert, NSCAS incentive day, upcoming field trips, and kindergarten graduation.

Kane did not that Jenilee Wright may not be able to get out of her contract with Beatrice Public Schools, pending they cannot find a suitable replacement for the fall. If this is indeed the case, Southern may have to look at having one section of kindergarten next school year.

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment figures, last day of school, alternative school update, senior scholarship interview day, Honors Night, JAG, and graduation.

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over the annual preschool advisory meeting minutes, and he went over a draft of the assessment calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Prosocki said that Dr. Moon stated that she couldn't complete the budget with all of the changes that have been made in the past years, and he said he would be willing to complete the budget for Southern for a fee. He noted that the Hastings board said he could spend up to 2 days to complete this task. The district could also go with someone else, and they would charge a lot higher fee. Dr. Prosocki noted that if LB 682/AM 566 passes, it prohibits superintendents from receiving any other income besides their school salary, hence he could not complete the budget for Southern. Dr. Prosocki noted that he does not know how it is legal to dictate what someone does in their free time, and why should a superintendent go to jail or be fined for mowing their neighbor's yard for a measly \$20? Dr. Prosocki noted that Perry Law firm said that superintendents are the most hated profession in the state of Nebraska, and LB 682/AM 566 validates this. Next, Dr. Prosocki gave the school board an update on LB 645, in which the state plans to raid the teacher retirement account to help fund the self-inflicted budget crisis at the state level that was caused by the income and corporate tax cuts. Dr. Prosocki said that he was selected to pilot a Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network course put out by NCSA, NDE, and higher education institutes. From here, Dr. Prosocki went over the presenters for next school year, and he gave the school board an update on the QCPUF bond. Lastly, Dr. Prosocki noted that the district is in an outstanding financial spot, and the district has the ability to construct a practice gym at the elementary school within our current budget through a seven-year lease purchase agreement. The school board will ultimately need to decide if they want to go this route. The district cash reserves have increase by \$4.5 million dollars over the last 7-years, and the school board said they would also like to add a preschool classroom, and build a track. Dr. Prosocki said he would have preliminary numbers for the June school board meeting regarding some future facility projects.

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

VII.A. Approval of the Jr./Sr. High School Gym Roof Bid

Motion to approve Dynasty for the Jr./Sr. High School roof bid. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.B. Set Activity Prices for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to keep the activity prices the same for the 2025-2026 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The admission prices for the 2025-2026 school year will be \$6 for adults, \$4 for students. The prices for passes for the 2025-2026 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.C. Approval of Milk Bids for the Southeastern Nebraska Milk Cooperative for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the escalating and de-escalating milk bid from Hiland Dairy for the 2025-2026 school year. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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, Fairbury, Meridian, Milford, Southern, Tri County, & Wilber-Clatonia.

VII.D. Set the Annual Student Fees Hearing for June 9, 2025, at 6:40 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska

Motion to set the annual student fees hearing for June 9, 2025, at 6:40 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School boardroom in Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

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.E. Set the Annual Parental Involvement Hearing and the Annual Title I Parental Involvement Hearing for June 9, 2025, at 6:50 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 9, 2025, at 6:50 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School boardroom in

Wymore, Nebraska. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

VII.F. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., June 9, 2025, 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