

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2019 7:00 PM Central

Administration Building- Board Room
320 N 5th St
Beatrice, NE 68310

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to attendance of the public.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Absent: Lisa Pieper, **Present:** Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Eric Trusty, Steve Winter, Jon Zimmerman.
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Mr. Zimmerman, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building Board Room. At the beginning of the meeting, the chairperson announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the west wall of the meeting room.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

Martin presented the following items on the consent agenda:

3.1. Approval of the agenda as submitted

3.2. Approval of minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on March 11, 2019

3.3. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for March 2019

3.4. Approval of minutes of the Board of Education retreat- March 19, 2019

3.5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes- March 28, 2019

3.6. Approval of Option Students: To Southern- Austin Beck- Gr. 12; To Diller-Odell (19-20)- Ava Lovitt- Gr. 11, Zachary Newby- Gr. 8 (19-20), Lanie Newby- Gr. 2 (19-20), Adrian Newby- Gr. 11 (19-20); To Johnson Brock-Kaden Glynn- Gr. 10; To Norris- Hudson Sandstrom- Gr. K (19-20), Ceighley Behrends- Gr. 8 (19-20), Codey Behrends- Gr. 9 (19-20); To Tri County- Wesley Johnson- Gr. 4 (19-20), Kolby Kreikemeier- Gr. K (19-20), Eyan Loseman- Gr. 6 (19-20), Ryker Rasmussen- Gr. K (19-20), Ethan Rosenthal- Gr. 6 (19-20), Graham Schardt- Gr. K (19-20), Samantha Street- Gr. K (19-20), Arionna McCardle- Gr. 4 (19-20)

3.7. Approval of resignations/retirements of Mariah Reicks- High School English, Darren Lojo- Middle School Band, Carolyn Hovendick- Middle School Physical Education, Dr. Joan Christen- High School Science
Appreciation for service was expressed by Board Member Trusty.

3.8. Approval of Policy: 3rd Reading of 3410 Fundraising, 4235 Grievance Procedure for Classified Personnel, 4625 Grievance Procedures (Certified), 9115 Officers

3.8.1. AR-4625 Professional and Educational Support Personnel- Concern Procedure, AR-4625.1 Grievance Forms

3.9. Adoption of AR-5225 Graduation Dress Code

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the consent agenda as presented passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 excuse the absence of Lisa Pieper passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the payment of bills as presented passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Trusty.

Doris Martin: Abstain (With Conflict), Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

5. Outstanding Recognition

5.1. Employee of the Month

Dr. Nielsen recognized Cheryl Rabstajnek, technology assistant, as the April Employee of the Month. Those nominating Cheryl stated that she has served the district for more than twenty years in a number of different capacities. She currently works behind the scenes serving as a data assistant/tech assistant and is always up for whatever the task may be. She welcomes the challenge of a new project and staff members can attest to her after hours availability (weekends, evening, or even holidays).

5.2. Paddock Lane 5th Grade Reading Classics- 2nd Place

Mrs. Replogle introduced the Paddock Lane reading classics coach Mrs. Amy Breeden along with the 5th grade team who placed 2nd at the state competition. The team consisted of Madyson McAtee, Grayson Cline, Brynn Morrissey, and Natalie Parde.

6. Information

6.1. Student Update

Hannah Rinne informed the Board that auditions for cheer, dance and choir have all been held. She stated that the Hope Squad was instigated at the high school and recently participated in Hope Week which included a presentation by the Ralston superintendent that was very emotional. Last week, students competed at the state FBLA convention with Evan Witulski, Chase Barber, and Whitney Schwisow qualifying for Nationals. Lastly, students have prepared and are ready for the district music competition on Friday at Norris.

6.2. Board Reports

6.2.1. Committee of the Whole

Martin reported that the Committee of the Whole met on March 28, 2019 with Pieper and Zimmerman absent. The following topics were discussed: English/Language Arts curriculum review (Dr. Nielsen), Monsanto grant (Dr. Christen), e-rate option (Dave Koch), and AR-5225 graduation dress code (Mr. Sutter). Laney Baumfalk addressed the Board during public forum on the graduation dress code topic. The meeting adjourned at 7: 07 PM.

6.2.2. School Community & Staff Relations Committee

Byars reported that the committee met on March 22nd at Stoddard Elementary. Board members Chadwick and Byars were present. Behavioral problems and class sizes in lower elementary, kindergarten class sizes, 3rd grade reading proficiency requirements, the desire for an administrator in each elementary building, community clean up day, and the benefits of grade level buildings.

6.2.3. National School Board Convention

Zimmerman reported on his recent experience at the national convention in Philadelphia. He noted that he attended sessions on boardmanship, board assessment, superintendent evaluation, and dealing with negative people and staying happy.

7. Public Forum/Citizen's Requests/Comments Related to Agenda Items

No one spoke at this time.

8. Discussion

8.1. 2nd Reading of Policy 4630 Reduction in Force (RIF)

Mr. Alexander noted that there have not been any changes since the first reading last month.

9. Action

9.1. Approval of updated 2019-2020 school calendar

Mr. Alexander shared that on the version the Board previously approved, it indicated that preschool would start on a Wednesday which was incorrect. The revised calendar was amended to reflect that preschool will begin on

Thursday, August 15th.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the updated calendar for the 2019-2020 school year passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9.2. Acceptance of e-rate funding

Mr. Alexander summarized the category 2 e-rate funds that Beatrice has access to which would be reimbursable at 80% (approximately \$142,000). A breakout of the costs prior to installation was provided and it was stated that installation of such would need to be hired out. Discussion on the following ensued: possibility of installation by the district, effect on other summer projects, budget, not knowing if the grant will continue or for how long. Technology director, Dave Koch, informed the Board that the switches have to be outsourced, but access points could be done in house; however, summer school would make it difficult from a time standpoint. Mr. Alexander added that the Board could do a portion of the proposal rather than all of it. Dave added that the equipment would have to be ordered, paid for, installed and paperwork completed by June 30, 2020 (based on RFP) so could wait until next budget year.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 call to question passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Doris Martin.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 accept category 2 e-rate funds for technology upgrades consisting of: WiFi access points, switches, and rack & stand by power passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9.3. Approval of cash rent farm lease

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the agreement has been revised as a rent per acre rather than per bale for all of the alfalfa ground north and west of the House of Orange stadium.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the cash rent farm lease with Ethan Wright from April 1, 2019 to November 30, 2021 for \$9,600 annually passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9.4. Approval of hiring of an assistant principal at the Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year

Mr. Alexander stated that there were 35 applicants for the middle school's assistant principal position. The interview teams conducted interviews with 8 quality finalists. He added that the administration team is excited to have Mr. Andrew Haake join the team.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the hiring of Andrew Haake for the 2019-2020 school year passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9.5. Approval of budget/staffing recommendation

Mr. Alexander provided an overview of the budget tracking and discussions that have occurred since he started in the district. Budget tracking began right away in July as tools were developed for monthly tracking purposes. Tracking and analyzing budget trends is constantly reviewed in the district office. Over the course of the first few months of this calendar year, meetings/discussions with administration and the Board occurred in regards to the status of the budget and forecasting for next year's budget. In February, a spending freeze was

communicated to all staff which helped minimize the district's spending; he thanked teachers and administrators for their diligence with such. An update was provided to all teachers at a meeting on April 4th.

Next, Mr. Alexander presented a list of proposed budget and staffing reductions for the 2019-20 school year. He noted that the intent was to keep reductions as far away from classrooms as possible, but some certified positions are included as student numbers justify a natural reduction. The proposal included:

- Leave Compass at ESU 5
- A. Eliminate Orchestra or B. Revise Orchestra Contract and Salary
- Not fill Special Education (.5) teacher at the High School
- Not fill/reduce 2 certified positions
- Reduce energy management position

Based on numbers and parameters of policy 5109, can reduce 2 elementary sections for the 19-20 school year so one teacher would move up to the middle school for 19-20 school year and then that would be re-evaluated in January 2020. This is also able to be accomplished through attrition.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 table this topic Failed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Erin Chadwick: Nay, Eric Trusty: Nay, Steve Winter: Nay, Jon Zimmerman: Nay, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea

Yea: 2, Nay: 4

Board member discussion followed. Questions were asked about which elementary sections/grades would be reduced as well as kindergarten registration numbers/projections. The possibility of utilizing paras in kindergarten classrooms was discussed. The guidelines as established in policy 5109 were referenced and discussed.

Elementary administrators shared that from their standpoint, they cannot wait another month for a decision as scheduling is occurring and plans are being made for kindergarten round-up as parents expect additional communication soon. Board members Trusty and Winter agreed. Additional discussion followed.

I move that the Board of Education of district #15 call to question passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the short term budget/staffing recommendation eliminating item 2A from the proposal passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Doris Martin: Nay, Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 1

10. Administrators' Report

10.1. Walk the Track

Mrs. Replogle shared about the recent community clean up day experience where students assisted. Approximately 350 elementary students helped city workers clean the Scott Street ball fields. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to stake their claim in the community. Next, she informed the Board of the upcoming Walk the Track event on May 13th at the House of Orange. This year, Paddock Lane will be focusing their efforts on Special Olympics. Donations are acquired from local businesses, jean days, and working at Sunrise Bakery. The goal is to raise at least \$2,000.

10.2. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander provided a quick recap on the national school board convention and sessions he attended. He informed the Board that on a staff meeting on April 4th, he reflected on the budget history, current budget status, and the recommendations for reducing staffing costs. Next, he updated the Board on the status of some current legislative proposals: LB399, LB31, LB34, LB217, LB269, and LB619. Finally, he expressed appreciation to staff and students for their work to make a difference in the community through the recent clean up day and stuff the trailer project.

11. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be May 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be April 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building. An agenda for the meeting, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours.

12. Adjournment

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon

Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date