

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:00 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.

Mrs. Martin, Vice-President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building Board Room. At the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Martin 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. Approval of the Agenda

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented and 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

3. Curriculum Review- 2nd Grade Swimming Lessons

Dr. Nielsen introduced Coach J and Kim Seggerman from the Beatrice YMCA. Mrs. Seggerman shared some basic information regarding drowning statistics and her innovative idea to provide swimming lessons for the kids in the Beatrice community. She approached the YMCA with the idea and had a way to provide funding for the program. Mrs. Seggerman informed the Board that they decided to experiment the first year with 2nd grade students. Four instructors were utilized to teach 6 classes to the students. On the first lesson date (February 11th), students completed 3 tests to gather baseline data on their abilities. Coach J shared that the students loved this experience and the opportunity to visit the YMCA. He added that swimming is a full body workout that is good for the joints and students are gaining confidence in the water from this experience. Mrs. Seggerman added that the improvement in the students' attitudes has been tremendous. She noted that one day they had to cancel the lesson due to weather (lightening) so they actually went to the schools to talk to the kids about water/swim safety that day. Many parents have reached out to Mrs. Seggerman asking what they can do to help build this life skill and where they can sign up for lessons. Mrs. Seggerman stated that she believes this program works and she wants to continue it and see it grow. Board member Chadwick, parent of a 2nd grader, stated that she is very pleased with her daughter's progress and that this is a great example of collaboration with the community.

4. Summer Work Update

Terry Brethouwer provided the Board with a condensed list of projects for this summer. He stated that there is a possibility that some of this might not get done, but the goal is to complete as many as possible. He added that items with an asterisk next to them are high priority and final arrangements are in the works. He is still working to get prices on some of the projects. Mr. Alexander added that a considerable amount of time was spent with the administrative team to compile and prioritize this list of summer projects.

5. Conference Affiliation

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the district was invited to attend a conversation on conference affiliation and the formulation of a new conference for the 2020-21 school year. He added that four schools have committed and there are three more that are involved in the conversation and a few others have been contacted as well. The hope is that the conference will be representative of schools with common themes in the following areas: geographic, demographics, enrollment status, and the educational delivery of programs. The vision for the new conference is to collaborate in the following areas: fine arts, academics, junior high/middle school activities, high school activities, as well as administrative collaboration. Martin asked if there are any activities that we currently have that the other schools do not offer. Mr. Randel responded that most do not have swimming, tennis or soccer. Martin asked what that would mean for those programs in Beatrice. Mr. Randel responded that those programs would continue, but it may mean no conference tournament in those sports and it may make scheduling events a little more difficult. Trusty and Winter stated that they are in favor of pursuing a conference change. Byars added that she likes the idea of competing

against public schools only and those that are more similar in demographics and would possibly be a little bit less travel. Trusty asked about a timeline for this. Mr. Alexander responded that they would like solid commitments from the first four by the end of May if possible and that they are hopeful to have information from next three shortly thereafter. He added that he told the group that he was hopeful that a firm decision would be made by Beatrice after the May board meeting. Some discussion on the effect at the middle school level ensued. Mr. Alexander noted that there is additional information that he would like to have to continue this conversation at the May meeting. Mr. Randel added that he would like them to consider looking at more schools that are south and in closer proximity to Beatrice. Martin asked if this topic will be discussed with sponsors and coaches. Mr. Randel and Mr. Alexander stated that it is their intention to share information with those individuals and ask for their thoughts before the May meeting. Middle school AD Jeff Junker will also be included.

6. Classified Staff & Administrator Salaries

Mr. Alexander stated that he met with the Board negotiations group to discuss salaries for the remaining three groups for the 2019-20 school year. Based on that meeting and to remain consistent he recommended similar raises for those groups which equate to the following total package increases: administrative 3.29%, classified staff 3.31%, and other contracted staff 3.29%. The estimated total budget affect for all staff for the 2019-20 budget is \$630,673.07. He added that the Board will be asked to formally approve these at the May meeting.

7. Public Comments - This is the proper time for public questions and comments on any topic. Please make sure a request form is given to the Board Vice-President before the meeting begins. No one spoke at this time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date