

Board of Education Committee of the  
Whole Meeting  
Wednesday, August 22, 2018 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

**Present:** Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Nancy Sedlacek, Steve Winter, Jon Zimmerman. Present: 6.  
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 passed with a motion by Jon Zimmerman and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Nancy Sedlacek: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. Grade Level Buildings

Mr. Janssen informed the Board that the transition to grade level buildings for Lincoln and Stoddard has went very well. He shared the following positive outcomes:

- Great teacher collaboration- able to do this during lunch times and PLCs
- Strengths of each teacher are highlighted during specific content areas- students are enjoying this
- Better use and utilization of paras within grade levels
- Buildings have been opened early for breakfast which helps enhance relationships
- Team bonding activities as both staff and students has gone over well
- Parents have commented that their kids will know more kids when they transition to Middle School

Mr. Janssen shared that the Lincoln & Stoddard PTOs have combined and they had their biggest turnout (over 30 people) ever at the first meeting. He commended his staff in both buildings for making the transition as smooth as possible.

4. Summer Project Update

Mr. Brethouwer provided a brief update on another busy summer of projects. The summarized list included:

- Administration Building
  - New sewer line
  - Completed the office for the educational foundation
- High School
  - New float installed in the underground water tank for cooling tower- will be installing low water alarm this fall
  - Parking lot was resurfaced and lines painted- still need to paint the handicap symbols
  - Northwest exit doors were replaced
  - Auxiliary gym floor was sanded down and refinished
  - Voice com fire alarm panel for gyms were replaced
  - Drain line in nurse's office- need to install a new line
  - House of Orange scoreboard was repaired- replaced fence with gate for future access
- Alternative High School
  - Moved wanted items to ESU
- Middle School
  - Opened up a doorway from the library to the room next door
- Athletic Park

- New steps to track- added some more supports and fencing to the railings by steps
- Preschool
  - Installed new playground equipment
  - New backflow for the first sprinkler system
- Lincoln and Stoddard
  - Completed classroom moves- installed white boards, bulletin boards, cabinets, etc.
  - Removed broken playground equipment at Lincoln
- Level 3 or CORE Building
  - Removed partitions and touched up paint
  - Installed new camera system
  - New entry door system was installed

## 5. SOCS Website/Video Upgrade

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the district is eligible for a free SOCS website upgrade. He unveiled the new template to Board members and showed them some of the basic functions. He added that there is a new SOCS admin app and with some training for administrators and building level users it can be used as a powerful tool that will help lead to more current information being available via the website. Next, Mr. Alexander shared some information on a promotional video opportunity through FES which could be used to highlight the great programs that the district offers. Current research shows that 30-45 second videos are very useful in creating messages that market the platform/services that one can offer. Mr. Alexander noted that he feels that this is a mode that would reach a lot of people and four areas that are being considered are early childhood education, career and college readiness, extended learning opportunities, and community engagement. The estimated price is approximately \$2,000 per video. Martin suggested using student voices in the videos and helping direct individuals to where they can find additional information once they are "hooked" by the video.

## 6. Bus Grant Award

Mr. Alexander shared that through a grant writing process with Blue Bird, Beatrice Public Schools was awarded a grant of \$42,500 to help offset the partial cost of replacing one of our older buses. The new 2020 54-passenger diesel engine bus will replace the 1998 IHC 59- passenger bus. The grant will pay a significant part of the new bus cost, but the district is still awaiting final new bus costs. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Brethouwer are working on getting a spec sheet that will be sent out to get quotes from bus companies (ballpark of \$92,000-\$100,000). Mr. Alexander added that this new bus will be built into the budget. He added that the district will continue to investigate more and bring this to the Board again in September. Winter asked about the schedule for replacement. Mr. Brethouwer responded that buses are replaced approximately every 10 years, but that they are a little behind on the bus replacement schedule. Pieper asked what happens to the 1998 bus. Mr. Brethouwer noted that the engine has to be destroyed or disabled as it is part of the standards for the grant. Byars thanked both for pursuing this grant.

## 7. Policy Update

### 7.1. 3305 Purchasing

Mr. Alexander noted that this policy update is designed to give the superintendent the flexibility to approve purchases up to \$5,000. It also clearly outlines the procedures for purchasing. The proposed changes will help create a level of employee accountability. The corresponding administrative regulation has been a district practice that we would like to incorporate as it complements the policy and clearly outlines out the credit card procedures.

#### 7.1.1. AR-3305 Credit Card and Charging Procedures

### 7.2. 3305.1 Public Lettings

Mr. Alexander shared that this policy was an update in language from the business manager to superintendent of schools. He added that he may look to add assistant superintendent to it before the first reading.

### 7.3. 3525 Nutrition Services

This was another simple update in language from business manager to superintendent/assistant superintendent.

### 7.4. 3525.1 School Food Procurement

Mr. Alexander noted that this is a new policy which is required by federal food procurement regulations and this will impact all schools in the state. The policy is determined by the anticipated total annual expenditures related to the food service program.

### 7.5. 4001 Line of Authority

Next, Mr. Alexander introduced another new policy, Line of Authority. He provided an explanation of order of the operation to explain how we function from students all the way up to the Board. He added that it works in two levels of order and serves as a chain of command. Mr. Alexander noted that he feels it would be in the best

interest of the Board to have a policy like this in place. Board members asked for some samples from other districts.

#### 7.6. 9225.3 Order of Business

Mr. Alexander suggested making a few changes to this policy. The changes are basic and just help clarify the order of operations at board meetings and establish some continuity.

#### 8. 2018-2019 Budget Review

Mr. Alexander shared that the budget is due to the state by September 20th. He reminded the Board that there will be a special budget hearing before the regular meeting in September. Next, he informed the Board that these figures are preliminary so there is a possibility that there could be changes to this before the budget hearing. Mr. Alexander shared a power point that outlined the historical figures and changes for the following areas: state aid, enrollment, valuations and levies. The following goals of the budget cycle were shared with the Board: financing an educational program that supports the best interest of the students attending BPS, maximizing budget allowances to increase state aid, aspiring to maintain board goal of four months reserves by end of 2018-19, preparation for property valuation adjustments losses proposed in 2018 legislative session, restoration of reserve funds used during lost of state aid from 15-16 to present, and recognition of the continued tax burden on property owners. Mr. Alexander noted that the valuation increase is just .19% (\$2,283,686). State aid is projected to drop again for the 18-19 school year (by approximately \$57,367). Information from the Gage County Assessor shows that district taxable property values will increase in FY19 to \$1,223,893,312. The overall tax levy for 2018 is 1.079515. Overall, the budget reflects a decrease in expenses of 7.0264% (\$2,055,194). There is an overall -.517% projected increase in revenue.

9. 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.

#### 10. Adjournment

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Jon Zimmerman and a second by Nancy Sedlacek.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Nancy Sedlacek: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

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Board Secretary/Superintendent

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Date