

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 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, Jon Zimmerman, **Present:** Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Eric Trusty, Steve Winter. Present: 5, Absent: 2.

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 Janet Byars and a second by Erin Chadwick.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. Curriculum Review: English/Language Arts

Dr. Nielsen introduced Ms. Reicks and Mrs. Iverson from the high school who shared a very compelling and innovative learning opportunity that a couple of students recently experienced. Ms. Reicks shared that one of her classes went out to the Homestead Monument for a great writing opportunity. She added that Emilee Burck and Shelby Jochem had their poetry chosen by the Omaha Opera. Shelby stated that she was very excited and honored when her poetry was selected and when she learned that her poem was going to be made into music. The students shared that composers from Oregon and New York flew into Omaha for a day to work on putting the poetry to music. Emilee shared that she had to Skype in as she wasn't feeling very well that day. She added that it was shocking to her that her poetry was selected. Mrs. Iverson stated that the project really help established the writing confidence of both of the students. Mrs. Iverson shared some more detailed information about the process of the poetry submission, the selections, and finally working with the musicians and sharing input through that process. She noted that the music cannot be released until after April 7th and there is an upcoming free concert in which it will be showcased.

4. Monsanto Grant

Dr. Christen shared a handout with Board members that shared images of student opportunities that were provided due to grant funding. Dr. Christen and Mrs. Oltman noted that things have changed a lot since the high school got the maker space. Some of the images highlighted use of the 3D printer, programmable legos, the roller coaster project, poster making, dissection projects, chocolate 3D printing, Ms. Walters tower garden, greenhouse work, and the momentum study by Physics kids. The final page of the handout highlighted some former BHS grads and the tremendous impact that these types of technologies have had on them individually and the college paths they have chosen to pursue.

Mrs. Oltman added that the maker space provides a plethora of STEM activities and Special Topic opportunities. She stated that with these new methods there is a huge learning curve and she helps students by giving them manuals and You Tube tutorials and then they work through the process of figuring it out. She added that there is tons of ownership and excitement by students when they successfully figure it out. Dr. Christen informed that Board that there are approximately 16 students competing at the junior science academy on Friday and that all students have their own posters to share information about their projects. Dr. Christen informed the Board that she wrote another Monsanto grant and they should find out in May if it was awarded. If awarded, the plan is to use the funds to set up a class for coding and programming (technology). Dr. Nielsen thanked Dr. Christen and Mrs. Oltman for their commitment to this area. She stated that students are provided with top notch opportunities 100% of the time within the district and the district is starting to build this area K-8 also. She expressed appreciation to all staff who take time to write grants so learning opportunities like these are available.

5. E-rate Option

Dave Koch informed the Board that the district used to get \$100,000 as a technology bond, but that is no longer available. He shared a handout which outlined an E-rate reimbursement possibility which included approximate prices. He added that this is a federal government opportunity that has been used the last several years, but it is not

clear how many more years it will be offered (no guarantees). It is referred to as a category 2 which is 80% reimbursable. Koch informed the Board that the district is looking at spending the money on WiFi access points, switches, as well as a rack and stand by power. He stated that the preschool and administration buildings are not eligible because it is a K-12 program. Koch shared that if this project is pursued that the district will most likely utilize depreciation funds. Trusty asked if we are adding any security risks with age of the current access points and switches. Koch responded that he doesn't believe so. Trusty asked if this kind of project is something that technology staff can do or if it would need to be outsourced. Koch noted that he is looking to outsource it as there will be a relatively short amount of time this summer that it would need to be done in. There is currently at least 1 access point in every classroom in the district. Koch added that the district has not been able to do nearly as much for technology upgrades recently due to budget constraints. He added that the district has submitted the application for e-rate funds, but if awarded can make a decision at that time on whether or not to accept. The Board will be asked to vote on this at the April board meeting.

6. AR- 5225 Graduation Dress Code

Mr. Sutter introduced a proposed administrative regulation regarding graduation dress code with Board members. He shared that he was approached last fall with a parent request to wear a stole representing the family's Native American heritage. Mr. Sutter shared that this conversation allowed administration to go back and look at their practice and also speak with a school attorney. At the recommendation of the school attorney, the proposed administrative regulation was drafted and includes protocol for allowing students to recognize their Native American heritage as long as the proper steps are followed. Mr. Sutter shared that he believes that this is the right thing to do. Trusty noted that he doesn't oppose this, but he questioned the week timeframe that was noted. Discussion ensued and it was decided to revise that part of the regulation to a month instead of a week.

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.

Laney Baumfalk showed the stole to Board members. Martin asked why it's important to her to be able to wear it at the graduation ceremony. Laney shared that every summer the Potawamie nation hosts a festival in Oklahoma and certain families get honored and last summer her family was honored. She added that the stole represents who she is, and she appreciates the Potawamie people and how welcoming they are.

8. Adjournment

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

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date