

MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – May 26, 2016
Central Administration Building- Board Room

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

Mr. Zimmerman, Vice-President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Central 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.

Attendance taken at 6:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Janet Byars
Doris Martin
Lisa Pieper
Jon Zimmerman

Absent Board Members:

Andy Maschmann
Nancy Sedlacek

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Sedlacek entered the meeting at 6:01 PM.

Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Lisa Pieper.

Motion Passed: 5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Janet Byars	Yes
Doris Martin	Yes
Andy Maschmann	Absent
Lisa Pieper	Yes
Nancy Sedlacek	Yes
Jon Zimmerman	Yes

3. Curriculum Review- Science

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Carol Oltman and Steph Coudeyras from the high school to provide a curriculum review on science. Mrs. Coudeyras shared that the next generation science standards are very hands-on. Mrs. Oltman added that they are trying to find ways to enhance the science curriculum through use of technology. Mrs. Coudeyras mentioned the STEM activities which include online labs, critical thinking as

well as making predictions. In her classroom, Mrs. Coudeyras uses technology for vocabulary. She added that her students are excited to use the chrome books to study vocabulary and will often ask to do more. Mrs. Oltman and Mrs. Coudeyras provided everyone at the meeting with a chrome book to use to showcase the program, Quizlet Live, which is often used to study vocabulary. The program splits students into teams and then they have to communicate and collaborate to figure out the correct answer. Everyone present participated in a game on Nebraska history through Quizlet Live. Mrs. Coudeyras shared that one of her classes did a project on creating a mechanical hand (using only Popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and straws) where the students used chrome books to research, plan and analyze their results. Mrs. Oltman informed the Board that there is another cohort of teachers ready to jump in on the modified 1:1 pilot program next year. She added that she is excited to see more teachers becoming interested in learning about ways to incorporate the effective use of technology in their classrooms on a regular basis. To close, Mrs. Oltman encouraged the Board to pass the tech bond that should be up in August.

4. Multiculturalism Report

Mrs. Nielsen reported on multiculturalism and provided a handout listing the lessons and activities at all building levels. She provided a few highlights of each building. At the elementary level, she pointed out that the teachers focus on the importance of acceptance and how children interact with each other. The elementary buildings also honored women's history month in March. They did so by researching influential women throughout history. Nick Ziegler also came in to teach Spanish through the story of the 3 Little Pigs. Teachers also utilize our students who are fluent in Spanish to teach students basic words in their language. In the middle school, the September 11th attack and cultural awareness of the people involved was covered. Within the Language Arts curriculum, they taught about empathy within the umbrella of critical thinking and getting the students to think outside of the box. Out at the high school, they utilize a bell ringer activity for Spanish IV which focuses on learning about one Spanish speaking country every week. A unit on racial and ethnic relations in Sociology includes sections on 1) race, ethnicity and social structure 2) patterns of intergroup relations, and 3) minority groups in the United States. Daily discussions with staff on bullying, the Boys Town social skills (how do we treat one another), and growth verse fixed mindset conversations have become deeper with staff.

5. Choice Program

Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra and Ms. Lineweber provided the Board with a brochure that contained information on the CHOICE program. The program is for older high school students who have met most of their academic requirements for graduation but who have special transition needs (mild to moderate cognitive disabilities). The curriculum for the program includes independent living and vocational activities. Ms. Lineweber shared that students will visit different employers and fulfill on site job duties/responsibilities. Some of the businesses they regularly visit include: ShopKo, Sunmart, Pipeline, Beatrice Manor and 4one8. She noted that typically the businesses they enter are locally-owned as there is often times too much liability with the large corporations. Through the program, students also work on vocabulary, good communication skills, and handshakes. The new daycare in town has also taught them how to read to young children as well as sign. Activities within the independent living category include household maintenance, financial planning, personal hygiene, community access, and functional academics. Specific activities they regularly practice include hanging clothes up, doing dishes, cleaning a local church.

Mr. Nauroth asked where most of the students transition to after graduation. Ms. Lineweber responded that many will transition to Mosaic, Region V, some stay at home, and some will land jobs but it is all dependent on their personal family dynamics. Mr. Zimmerman asked about the number of students in the program to which Ms. Lineweber responded that it varies from year to year, but is usually anywhere from 2-7. Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra commended Ms. Lineweber for the great job she does on writing grants to help cover some

of the costs of the program. She also noted that the graduation meal the students prepared was very well attended by the high school staff.

6. Energy Savings Update

Next, Mr. Brazell provided information on the energy savings audit that was recently conducted. He noted that there are 4 areas that the study focused on: lighting, HVAC, weatherization, and retro commissioning. Dave Villines from Johnson Controls noted that the retro commissioning is a low capital cost, but high energy savings. He went on to note that the district is a little unusual in the sense that there is not much room to save money as everything is very well-maintained within the district which is a good thing. They did find a considerable amount of savings in the lighting as it is outdated (not a maintenance issue).

Mr. Brazell noted a couple of options for the lighting upgrade which will most likely utilize a Nebraska Department of Energy 1% loan (max of \$750,000). Both options would replace most of the lights at the high school, middle school, and central administration building; however, the options do not include the gym lights as they are only a couple of years old. Option 1 he referred to as the "kit option". Joe Rice from Innovative Power Solutions shared detailed information on the lighting kit and the work process it would involve. He noted that there is an LED kit sample in room 125 at the high school and programmable and motion indicators are available that are the biggest advantage of this option. Mr. Brazell shared that option 2 consists of linear LED tubes. Joe Rice shared details on this option and informed the Board that there is a linear sample in room 133 at the high school. Overall, an upgrade in lighting will increase the life of the lights (approximately 80,000 burn hours) as well as result in more energy and money savings (material costs savings). Both options include a 5 year warranty and labor credits and parking lot lights are included as well. Dave added that LED lighting is more conducive to learning.

Mr. Brazell noted that the last lighting changes were done about two years ago. The estimated cost for option 1 is \$737,000 with an annual savings of \$55,988. This option would take approximately 13 years to pay off; however, Mr. Brazell would like to see this upgrade as a 10 year plan so the district would need to pay approximately \$200,000 up front. The estimated price for option 2 is \$570,000 with annual savings of just under \$45,000 so an upfront payment of approximately \$100,000 would be needed. Joe stated that these numbers are conservative and they would expect the savings to be even better. Mrs. Pieper asked once a decision is made if the cost savings is guaranteed to which Joe responded yes. There is also a potential rebate of \$36,000-\$38,000. Mr. Brazell shared that some staff members have looked at the mock up lighting at the high school. The approximate completion time frame would be around 8 weeks and could be done during the school year during evening hours.

Mr. Brazell added that they still need to breakout some of the weatherization items that need to be taken care of and the front money for that work will come out of the depreciation fund. Mr. Brazell informed the Board that he plans to bring one of the lighting options for approval at the June meeting.

7. Strategic Planning Update

Mrs. Nielsen shared a handout of the strategic plan. She noted that it is the work of the strategic planning committee and action teams and they all worked very hard to develop this plan for the district.

She noted that strategy one focuses on the educational journey of the student. The first specific result focuses on a goal-setting program that is K-12. Mrs. Nielsen added that specific result two looks at how we can help students move into developing and using those 21st century skills (critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity). Specific result three looks at how students learn and their individual styles.

Strategy two focuses on exemplifying a culture of character and the specific results are organized pretty chronologically. Specific result one first defines good character for all stakeholders. Next, specific result two will look at the current system and others to make sure the District is utilizing the right model. Then specific result three will figure out a way how to bring everyone together in character-building. And lastly, specific result four will assess the process and make changes that may be needed.

The focus of strategy three is to stimulate and strengthen mutual engagement community-wide. Specific result one looks at enhancing communication with all stakeholders. The focus of specific result two is on how to ensure that everyone is a part of the community and creating/building upon those partnerships within the community. Specific result three will work on developing ways to bring the community into the school buildings to become an active part of the District. And specific result four is the hands on piece in which the District will work with and through the community to provide experiences for our students.

Strategy four looks at facilities, infrastructure, and technology. Looking at the needs for all physical plants district-wide is the intent of specific result one. Specific result two focuses on providing safe and environmentally energy efficient facilities. Providing technology to enhance 21st century learning is covered under specific result three. And finally, specific result four will ensure that a safe and secure environment for students and staff is provided.

Mrs. Nielsen emphasized that this is the district plan for the next five years. She added that by the August Committee of the Whole meeting, specific individuals should be assigned to all the individual action steps. She closed by stating that the Board will be asked to officially approve this plan at the June meeting.

8. Elementary Facility Update

Mr. Nauroth noted the flyer he provided them with a copy of will be included in the June utility bills that the city sends out. He noted that the community meeting is scheduled for July 6th at 7 PM out at the high school. Mr. Nauroth thanked Ms. Martin for meeting with Danielle and himself to help guide the way for the meeting preparations. He shared that the elementary buildings will be open before the meeting for patrons to tour. Next, Mr. Nauroth shared three possible options that he intends to provide information on at the community meeting: 1) utilizing the Cedar building for preschool and dispersing those students to the other three buildings 2) Cedar as a preschool location and making Paddock Lane a 3 section building or 3) grade level buildings (PK, K-1, 2-3, 4-5).

Mr. Nauroth noted that the portables and special education rooms would have to be used at Paddock Lane if that building were turned into a three section building. Ms. Martin expressed her feelings in regards to the use of portables and how the size of them limits what teachers can do. She suggested that the rooms be set up with desks during the building tours so community people can truly see how they are used. Mrs. Sedlacek asked how grade level buildings would be accommodated. Mr. Nauroth shared more information and also noted that the bad side of this option is that it will affect all families. Mrs. Pieper shared that she is not in favor of dispersing the Cedar students to multiple buildings as she thinks it is important that they remain with those peers they have been with (keeping them together). Ms. Martin stated that she will never support grade level buildings. Mrs. Byars added that her main concern with grade level buildings is that we would have to provide special education services at all locations and that doesn't seem very cost effective.

Mr. Nauroth shared that he has met with Pat Phelan from DLR and looked at some options with elementary administrators as well. Pat Phelan is working on developing some options which should include cost ranges for the community meeting. Mr. Nauroth stated that he has also asked Pat Phelan for estimates on renovating the current buildings.

Mr. Nauroth shared very rough preliminary cost estimates provided by Pat Phelan on a few option B scenarios:

- New K-5 building and preschool at Cedar: \$29 million plus renovation work at Cedar (\$3.5 million)= \$32.5 million
- New 3-5 building and PK-2 at Lincoln and Paddock Lane: \$17 million plus \$4.5 million per building in renovations at Lincoln and Paddock Lane (\$9 million total)= \$26 million
- New PK- 2 building and 3-5 at Lincoln and Paddock Lane: \$20 million for new building plus \$4.5 million per building in renovations at Lincoln and Paddock Lane (\$9 million total)= \$29 million
- Remodel of Cedar (\$4 million) plus remodel/addition of Paddock Lane (\$16 million)= \$20 million

Mr. Nauroth informed the Board that his preference at this time, if the district is not going with a new PK-5 building, would be the option for a new 3-5 building as it would upgrade facilities and also utilize some of the existing buildings.

9. Spec House

Mr. Nauroth shared that Tiemann Construction and the high school started conversations about a spec house project and wanted to include the city/community but this all happened very late in the year. He stated that he spoke with Mayor Stan Wirth and Pinnacle Bank is willing to assist with providing a low interest loan and the city is willing to provide a lot and the permits associated with such. Mr. Nauroth is waiting to hear back from Tiemann Construction to make sure they are on still on board. He added that there might be the possibility of building a house a year. Board members are very supportive of this project and would like Mr. Nauroth to proceed with these conversations. If Tiemann is not interested then the district will look for another contractor. Ms. Martin suggested looking into the possibility of this construction projection counting for college credit. Mr. Nauroth stated that this would most likely become a self-funding project. Mr. Brazell noted that the district could utilize the activity fund for the upfront costs.

10. 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.

11. Adjournment

To adjourn the meeting passed with a motion by Nancy Sedlacek and a second by Janet Byars.

Motion Passed: 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

Janet Byars	Yes
Doris Martin	Yes
Andy Maschmann	Absent
Lisa Pieper	Yes
Nancy Sedlacek	Yes
Jon Zimmerman	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.