

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017 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.
Mr. Zimmerman, 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, Mr. Zimmerman 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

Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Nancy Sedlacek and a second by Steve Winter.

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

3. Curriculum Review- Art

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Kristen Douglas, art teacher at the Middle School. Ms. Douglas showed Board members a brief power point that showed projects students completed using the tilt brush application (3D option). She noted that all students can create something with this new technology. The tilt brush is used to create artwork that is 3 dimensional and it is done in layers. Ms. Douglas added that she anticipates that it could be used more in the future as careers change and new ones evolve. She stated that the app continually changes and this virtual reality project gets students very excited to learn how to use these new types of technology.

4. Paddock Lane Addition Project Update

Michael Fakler informed the Board that the permit plans and specifications are complete. He noted that along the way, there was an issue with a storm cellar (north side of building) so there had to be a plat put in and that has been approved by the planning and zoning commission and will be included on the November 6th city council agenda. The soils report has been moving slowly (written report is not out yet), but a verbal report has been received and is fine. Fakler told the Board that at this point they are ready to publish a notice to bidders in the paper and choose a bid date. He suggested setting the bid date as November 21st. Winter asked about the steel and the quality of the product and how different companies compare to one another. Fakler responded that they should be competitive and current prices are about the same for steel at the current time. Fakler stated that his main concern right now is probably electricians so they will make sure they contact some local companies to bid that area.

5. Master Facility Plan Update

Pat Phelan updated the Board on the master facility plan project. He noted that a couple of weeks ago DLR came out to tour the buildings and identified some problem areas. They met with staff at the High School, Middle School and Administration Building for feedback on what is working well and what could be better as well as talking through the bigger picture and upcoming needs of the district. As a whole, the Middle School; issues are not as significant as the issues in the Elementary buildings and part of that is due to the hard work of the district's maintenance and custodial crews. Phelan informed the Board that if they are willing to invest in it the structure is good and that you could continue to use it for a number of years (has potential). He did note that the old stadium bleachers are in tough shape. One thing that was suggested and could be further examined is re-purposing the Middle School to use it as an intermediate elementary (3-5), then a new building for Middle School and Paddock Lane could potentially become an early elementary (K-2) building with preschool remaining in the old Cedar Elementary building. Phelan informed the Board that they will do a complete analysis of the maintenance building, but that the building presents a big challenge. He noted that they will be scheduling a time to meet with the administration team to discuss the athletic field/property and future needs.

6. Facility Update- Tree Removal Bids

Mr. Brazell and Terry Brethouwer informed Board members that some tree removal is needed on the Higgins property which lies north of the high school. Terry provided more specifics regarding the exact area and extent of the work (i.e. bulldozing all trees except for one row). He noted that five contractors came out to look at the area. He

shared the bids from each contractor with Board members. The lowest bid was \$8,500 and was submitted by Paul Fossler. They also asked him to try and grade around where the catch basin is on the south side of the high school so it could be mowed regularly. Pieper asked about the timeline for this project. Terry responded that the dirt work would have to be done before it freezes (so looking to do this fall).

7. Assessment Update

Mrs. Nielsen presented an assessment update to the Board. She noted that the state data has been released, but district data is still embargoed. Mrs. Nielsen informed the Board that parents have received student data for 4th-9th graders and that she is hopeful that she will have district data to share at the November Board meeting. Mrs. Nielsen used a power point presentation to share some of the specific data. She noted that the state saw a drop in the overall ACT scores. The NeSA ELA assessment was taken by 3rd-8th graders and scores regressed dramatically throughout the state as the proficiency rate was increased significantly and there were new college and career readiness standards for the first time with proficiency scores ranging from 47%-56%. Math proficiency scores statewide ranged from 65-76% which falls within that normal range. The science scores ranged between 68-72% using the same test and proficiency criteria. The state also created benchmarks for tracking the new requirement that all juniors must complete the ACT as an assessment. The benchmark categories include: ACT, On Track, and Developing with target scores for each of the three testing areas (ELA, Math, and Science). Discussion ensued about the ACT scores and the additional support that is needed from the state. Finally, Mrs. Nielsen shared that a new summative Nebraska Assessment on the NWEA platform will begin in the spring (2018).

8. Policy Update

Mr. Nauroth asked Board members if they had any questions on the following policies that were presented at the October meeting:

- 1200 Anti- Discrimination
- 1323 Internet Safety and Acceptable Use
- 3550 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- 5004 Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment
- 5111 Homeless Students
- AR-5205 Confidentiality of Records- FERPA
- 5525 & AR-5225 Student Interviews

Mr. Nauroth informed Board members that with policy 1200 there was just a citation change so he is planning to ask them to approve that at the 2nd reading in November. He added that there was a small update to AR-5220 Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation too. According to policy 8330, the Board has the right to review administrative regulations, but it is not necessary for the Board to formally adopt administrative regulations unless they wish to or state laws require such.

9. Central Office Restructuring

Mr. Nauroth shared options for a potential central office restructuring from an administrative standpoint with Board members. The four presented options included:

1. Leave the three central office positions (Superintendent, Director of Finance, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction) as they currently are.
2. Select a superintendent with a strong finance background, reduce to a business manager or book keeper, and leave the Director of Curriculum and Instruction position.
3. Select a superintendent with a strong background in curriculum and instruction, reduce to a business manager and eliminate or reduce the Director of Curriculum and Instruction position and hire a full time clerical support position for curriculum and instruction.
4. Select a superintendent with a strong finance background or a strong curriculum and instruction background, hire an assistant superintendent to compliment the superintendent's skill set, reduce both the Director of Curriculum and Director of Finance positions and add a full time clerical support person.

Discussion followed and Board members shared their preferences. Pieper stated that the one person that the Board gets to hire is the superintendent so her preference is to hire the best superintendent and then backfill from there. Byars expressed the importance of being open with the finalists and making sure that they know the Board is considering a restructure. Winter added that the new superintendent may be able to provide some additional options or insight that may help in that potential restructuring process. Byars, Pieper and Sedlacek noted that they like the

feel of a superintendent and assistant superintendent. Martin responded that she does not think we can afford that option. The consensus of the Board was to hire the best superintendent and then make a decision on the other positions based on the strengths of the new superintendent while being very transparent with candidates throughout this process.

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.

Mr. Sutter informed the Board that a group of staff with the college access grant handed out treats earlier in the evening with information on college during the annual Night of the Great Pumpkin event in downtown Beatrice

11. Adjournment

Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Steve Winter and a second by Lisa Pieper.

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 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Superintendent

Date