

**MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – September 22, 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 & Roll Call

Mrs. Pieper, 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, Mrs. Pieper 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
Nancy Sedlacek

Absent Board Members:

Andy Maschmann
Jon Zimmerman

Updated Attendance:

Nancy Sedlacek was updated to present at: 6:01 PM

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed: 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

3. Curriculum Review- Music

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Andrew Johnson from the high school and Darren Lojo from the middle school to provide a curriculum review on music. Mr. Johnson informed the Board that music is now a part of the

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He briefly discussed the parts (creating, performing, and connecting) that shape the music curriculum. Mr. Johnson let Board members know that the marching band has been preparing for their first competition which will take place at Seacrest in Lincoln on October 1st. He noted that October 22nd is the state marching band contest. Mr. Johnson added that the elementary concerts occur in November and March and the middle and high school will have performances in December. The high school is hosting the Nebraska Singing Youth event in January.

Mr. Johnson shared that a total of 19 students are auditioning for all-state band or choir at the high school level. He added that the district has had great success in the past. Delegation at the middle school is continuing its success with a total of 54 members this year. Their first concert is October 24th and then they will compete during the spring semester. Mr. Johnson shared information from Mr. Francis regarding the new non-audition choir at the middle school. There are approximately 40 members in the choir which resulted from the new schedule (addition of 9th period). Mr. Francis is planning on having the group perform at some time. Currently, the orchestra program involves 16 students across grades 6-12 and there will be a performance with the Beatrice Regional Orchestra.

Mr. Lojo informed the Board that he travels between six buildings for band instruction. He breaks the band down into groups for approximately 30 minutes of practice with him once a week. Students are then asked to practice on their own for 10 minutes a day. During the second semester, all band students go to the middle school for some joint rehearsals in preparation for the May concert. Mr. Lojo shared that 75 fifth grade students started band this school year which is an increase of approximately 15 students from the end of the 15-16 school year.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Lojo provided an update on their renewed effort to collect data (an idea that stemmed from their PLC group) from students. They shared that they are administering the Iowa Test of Music Literacy to all music students to help look for strengths and adjust their teaching accordingly. To date, about 380 students have completed the 5 small sections and their goal is to finish all testing this month. The plan is to then administer the same tests at the end of the school year to compare scores and also set a baseline for future years so they can begin looking for trends. Mr. Lojo added that many students are doing better than they thought which is a good reflection on the elementary teachers. Mr. Johnson shared that a Google form is being used to administer the test and also grade them which has saved a lot of time.

A brief discussion between Board members and the teachers regarding acquiring instruments for students followed. Sedlacek suggested the idea of grants and Mr. Lojo mentioned that fundraising may be an option. Mr. Lojo's goal is to acquire additional instruments that can be loaned out to students. Pieper asked about the study hall issue to which Mr. Lojo responded that he has not been able to directly solve this problem yet, but he believes that the 9th period may help with it as teachers are more available for those students that need additional help.

4. Assessment Update

Mrs. Nielsen provided assessment information to the Board via a power point presentation. She noted that there was a great article in the paper today and that the district has made some good gains. The power point broke down the scores by grade and subject. At the third grade level, reading and math scores were down some and below the state average. Fourth graders were up in both subjects and above the state average. Fifth through eighth grades were also above the state average in all categories including a 7% increase in 5th grade science, an 8% increase in 7th grade reading and math, a notable 13% increase in 8th grade math, and finally a 9% increase in science for 8th grade. The juniors also increased in all areas (math, science, and reading) and were well above the state average. Finally, Mrs. Nielsen showed a chart that summarized the scores by grade district-wide. She also highlighted how many grades improved from the previous year. In math, the district is starting to go over that 80% mark so we are making some good gains in that area. The

ACT trend has gone down a little; therefore, Mrs. Nielsen and the high school administration have been studying things to see why that may be. One of the things they discovered is that students are taking it at a younger age and may not take it again (one and done).

Mrs. Nielsen informed the Board that reading, math and science for juniors will be eliminated this year as a transition to the ACT is made. She also noted that this is the last year for the reading portion as it will become an English/Language Arts assessment so we expect to see some drops in that area next year before improvements are made. Mrs. Nielsen shared that the ACT test for juniors will most likely be taken on a scheduled day during the school year in the future. She added that ACT prep sessions are still offered at the high school and they are looking into what accommodations can be made for those Special Education students that will need to be tested. She ended by informing the Board that she will continue to stay in contact with those districts that are piloting the ACT testing.

5. Transportation Report

Mr. Brazell provided a brief update on the district's fleet of vehicles. He shared a handout that listed each vehicle, the year, make, model, mileage, average gas mileage, repair costs, and purchase price. Mr. Brazell noted that the vans are used primarily for activities and Special Education. He added that the miles have to be reported to the state each year and that the district has started to keep better records on repairs. Mr. Brazell informed the Board that Car 16 will be replaced sometime this year. There is an informal replacement schedule for the vehicles that are used for students, but the trucks are more on an as needed basis since they are used by maintenance staff and are primarily for in district use only.

6. Elementary Facility Bond Issue

Mr. Nauroth informed the Board that the website contains a lot of updated information on the upcoming bond issue. Specifically, maintenance costs over the last twenty years have been shared and the projected costs for the future are also included. He added that the bond calculator is a useful tool and he thanked the technology department for suggesting the idea. Video clips are also being produced and included online. Mr. Nauroth noted that parent-teacher conferences are coming up next week and there will be informational brochures available for Board members and central office staff to hand out to parents. A speaker bureau is available to give presentations to local service/civic groups and organizations. Mr. Nauroth closed by expressing his appreciation to everyone for the work that they are doing.

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

Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Nancy Sedlacek and a second by Doris Martin.

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

Motion Passed: 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Superintendent

Date