

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:00 PM

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: Eric Book, Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Eric Trusty, Jon Zimmerman. Present: 7.

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, 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 and accessible to members of the public.

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 Lisa Pieper.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

3. Strategic Plan Site Plans

3.1. Preschool

Mrs. Timmerman highlighted the following components of the site plan that the preschool has been focused on:

- Safety and security (Strategy 1 Action Plan 2 Step 3)- started first Circle of Security class that focuses on relationships and "putting time in" with our children
- Social emotional learning (Strategy 2 Action Plan 1)- all staff training on Bridges Over Poverty; started the diaper closet
- Staff (Strategy 3 Action Plan 3 Step 2)- utilizing an online course that staff then discuss at PLC to incorporate the lessons use in the classroom setting

3.2. High School

Mr. Sutter highlighted the following components of the site plan that the high school has been focused on:

- Safety and security (Strategy 1 Action Plan 2 Step 2)- working with Infinite Campus to create and utilize a student ID system
- Student poverty (Strategy 2 Action Plan 1 Step 1)- community partnership with the food pantry to create and start the Beatrice High School Mini Market
- Systematic approach to meet student behavioral needs (Strategy 5 Action Plan 2 Step 1-2)- develop a system to reward students for following the Orangemen Code of Ethics

4. Graduation Policy

Dr. Nielsen provided Board members with a draft revision of the graduation policy (5205). Per 2022 legislation, a five-credit computer science requirement will need to be added. Districts may offer the course in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format. She informed Board members that this requirement will need to be added for the current 8th grade students and that administration is looking at multiple options for how to meet the requirement. With this additional requirement, 160 of the 260 required credits to graduate will be required coursework. This will leave students with just 20 elective classes that they are able to choose. Next, Dr. Nielsen shared that the assessment section (#3) of the policy will be removed

as the NeSA tests are no longer utilized at that level. Academic discussions will continue to see if additional adjustments are needed to this policy, but first reading will most likely occur in December.

5. High School Academics

Board members were informed that the 21-22 data is still embargoed but administration will share it with the Board as soon as it's made public. Mr. Sutter shared a handout with Board members highlighting data on ACT scores, graduation rates, and the grading system for Beatrice High School. A chart of the percent of students proficient on the ACT indicators dating back to 2014-2015 was shared. The scores over the last 5 years have shown improvement. Mr. Sutter shared that the BHS goal is to be above 50% in all tested areas. State and district graduation rates for students who graduate in 4 years and those that graduate in 7 years was also shared. Mr. Sutter reminded Board members that the district has high expectations with 260 credits needed to graduate. Lastly, the grading system was discussed. Mr. Sutter added that the Trailblazer Conference principal group has met and is looking into what each school is using for grading scales and they plan to have future conversations about the positives and negatives of the different grading scales. Mr. Alexander added that academics will always be the highest priority for the districts' students and the next part of this academic discussion will be continued in November.

6. Calendar for 23-24

Dr. Nielsen shared a draft of the 2023-24 school calendar with Board members. She noted that this calendar only has 2 snow days built into it. Another change she noted was moving the professional learning day that is typically scheduled for February back to April. An opportunity for staff to provide feedback on the calendar will be provided soon. Dr. Nielsen informed the Board that as we start thinking about the future and the opening of the new building for the 2024-25 school year, administration is evaluating start/end times for student days as well as exploring different structures for teacher collaboration. A brief Board discussion ensued.

7. Van Quotes

Mr. Alexander shared 2 van quotes from Premier Chevrolet. He added that we can order one of these, but the unknown is that we are not sure how soon we will be able to get it (could be 6-8 months). Mr. Alexander noted that he would probably recommend going with the one with the V8 engine and the hitch. The Board will be asked to take official action at the December meeting.

8. New Building Update

Mr. Alexander shared a video that the BEAM students produced highlighting the groundbreaking event as well as an interior fly through of the new building.

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.

Chuck Riedesel addressed the Board on ACT data/scores.

10. Adjournment

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

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date