

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, December 2, 2021 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:** Eric Book, Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Eric Trusty.
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, 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.

2. Approval of the Agenda

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented and excuse the absence of Lisa Pieper passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Erin Chadwick.
Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. Architecture Firm Presentations for New Building

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that two different architecture firms would be presenting

3.1. DLR

Present: Jon Zimmerman. Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Mr. Alexander introduced Vanessa Schutte with DLR Group. Vanessa introduced her colleagues, Aaron Persen (project manager) and Allie Smith (interior designer). She noted that she was a part of the original planning for a new elementary building when the bond was run in Beatrice about 8 years ago. Board members were provided with a book that included some building concepts. Concepts for the following were included and discussed briefly: the initial concept for Beatrice, Eudora Elementary, DC West Elementary, Prairie View Elementary, and Storm Lake Early Elementary. Vanessa added that if the district chooses a site adapt approach then it would be possible to break ground this summer. The site adapt approach involves selecting a concept/plan that has already been used and making modifications to the plan to suit an individual district's needs. The site adapt fee is lower than designing an entire building from scratch. A majority of the discussion ensued regarding the DC West plan as district representatives recently took a tour of that location. Board members asked questions on the DC West concept and discussion ensued about potential modifications that would be necessary (more classrooms, classroom size, adequate space for special education services and preschool program, storage). DLR Group has experience working with construction managers at risk and also owner reps. They have identified the team for this project in the office already so work can begin as soon as possible; they are also an integrative firm with all engineers right in house. Aaron noted that precast construction is the most economical right now and he estimated the current cost per square foot for that anywhere between \$250- \$300. DLR shared that they would be able to initiate early bid package as well.

3.2. BCDM

Pat Carson and Matthew Erion with BCDM Architects shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board. BCDM was established in 1976 and includes approximately 30 staff. Approximately 80% of their work is in the education field and relationships are the most important thing to them. The PowerPoint showcased some of the districts that they have or currently are working with. Pat shared that many of the images showcase specialized areas in buildings, children's environments, and 21st century learning. Next, Matt shared what the process would entail if BCDM is selected as the architect. He noted the importance of figuring out what the long term goals and short term priorities are for the district. A rough timeframe for the project was shared which included some general

information about what the different stages (understand, learn, create) in the process would entail. With the site adaption method, the kit of parts approach will be ideal while giving consideration to flexibility and growth for the future. BCDM stated that they understand the district is interested in a construction manager at risk (CMR) and they are confident that they can work with the district's timeframe. Questions were asked by Board members. BCDM informed the Board that they could send some sample building concepts to Mr. Alexander to share with the Board in the next couple of days.

4. 22-23 School Calendar

Dr. Nielsen shared that 4-5 calendar options have been reviewed. She shared a draft 2022-23 calendar and summarized the following in regards to the proposed calendar:

- School year starts at a very similar time as the last few years
- Added a day to the break in March and moved it back a week
- Graduation would be pushed back in May and would not fall on Mother's Day
- Semesters start in the middle of the week to help with students adjusting
- Keep 2 built in snow days that will come off at the end of the year if they are not used
- The district will continue to exceed the number of instructional hours that are required

Discussion ensued on the possibility of moving the start of school back and the effect of PLCs on instructional time/days.

5. Policy Article Update

5.1. Article 5

Mr. Sutter addressed the Board on the current communications graduation requirement. He shared information on which classes currently meet that requirement, and that he has recently been approached with questions on why other classes do not fulfill the requirement. A handout was provided to Board members. The handout included data on core course credit requirements as well as some data that was randomly selected to gauge credits earned in the proposed areas of communication, career/technical education, and physical education. Also included on the handout were the graduation requirements (number of credits) and corresponding schedule for approximately 8 other Class B schools. Mr. Sutter requested some direction from the Board on this requirement and what they would like to see with it moving forward. Discussion ensued on the importance of communication and the many different forms of it. Mr. Sutter was tasked with re-evaluating some things and bringing some ideas/options back to the Board at a later meeting.

5.2. Article 3

Mr. Alexander shared that the 3000 series of policy reflect the budgetary and fiscally related operations of the district, including fund setup and management operations, expenditure and revenue procedures, and insurance and inventory requirements. He noted that Board members should begin reviewing these policies and that they would be discussed in further detail at the January Committee of the Whole meeting.

5.3. Article 8

Mr. Alexander shared that the 8000 series of policy reflect the internal board policies that deal specifically with items related to the Board of Education. Areas within this section include the organization of the Board of Education, their role, and the methods of operation for the Board. He noted that Board members should begin reviewing these policies and that they will also be discussed in further detail at the January Committee of the Whole meeting.

5.4. Article 9

Mr. Alexander shared that the 9000 series of policy reflect the bylaws of the Board of Education and are specifically related to the operations of the Board. Key areas within this section include the line of authority and authority of the Board; length of terms of service, and officer roles; bylaws, policies and regulations of the Board; and types of meetings and meeting operations. He noted that Board members should begin reviewing these policies and that they will also be discussed in further detail at the January Committee of the Whole meeting.

6. 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.

7. 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, Eric Trusty: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date