

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2020 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: Steve Winter, **Present:** Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Eric Trusty, Jon Zimmerman. Present: 6, Absent: 1.

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 passed with a motion by Jon Zimmerman and a second by Erin Chadwick.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. Baseball Field Renovation

Due to the absence of Board Member Winter, this topic was tabled.

4. Social Studies Standards

Dr. Nielsen informed the Board that the state adopted the new social studies standards in November 2019; therefore, policy 6212 needs a slight revision to reflect that date.

5. Cyber Insurance Quotes

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that Grant Jones recently obtained a couple of cyber insurance proposals from Great American and Travelers. He encouraged Board members to review the complete proposals in Sparq and stated he would be bringing a recommendation to the March meeting.

6. Strategic Plan Proposals

Mr. Alexander provided Board members with a handout summarizing the consultants that have recently provided a proposal for strategic planning services. The handout listed the groups (NASB, Mission Matters, Cambridge Strategic Services, Emilsson), highlighted their proposal details, and listed the approximate cost. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Alexander closed by informing the Board that they would be asked to make a selection at the upcoming March meeting.

7. Budget & Staffing Update

Mr. Alexander started by thanking the administrators, counselors and departments that have been working diligently to help find solutions that will meet students needs, as well as work towards a balanced, sustainable budget. Next, Mr. Alexander talked about the budget in regards to the leanest month, April, of a school district's budget. An illustration showed the cash reserve level for the last three years along with a projection for 2020 which is showing an approximate decrease of \$1,000,000 over the last three years. As the district plans for the future, there will inevitably be rising costs in salaries, benefits, and utilities so it's imperative that the district evaluate all staffing positions on an annual basis. Mr. Alexander provided an overview on the timeline of events that have occurred up to this point and how protocols have been established by administration to evaluate every resignation/retirement while maintaining a focus on attrition whenever possible. Next, a budget recommendation was shared with Board members. Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the total savings is the approximate cost of the certified salary increase for the upcoming 20-21 school year. Dr. Nielsen provided Board members with handouts listing all teachers and class sizes at both the middle school and high school. Mr. Jarosh briefed the Board on the changes to his schedule that would be required by reducing a position. Mr. Sutter informed the Board that he is in some very early stages of communication with SCC about the possibility of considering some additional partnerships that may allow students to take courses out on their campus. Dr. Nielsen and Mr. Sutter shared a resource which provided options for the science department based on having four or five staff members. Mr. Alexander closed by stating that the district will still have positions that need to be filled for the upcoming school year, but each will be reviewed carefully. He added

that time is of the essence though as hiring season is in full swing for many school districts so with every day that passes, we could be losing out on the best candidates.

8. 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.

Dave Henning, High School Science Teacher, shared his concerns with reducing the science department by a staff member. He spoke about the impact this would have on class sizes and not being able to offer as many classes to students. Wes Garland, High School Science Teacher, also addressed the Board on the possibility of reducing a staff member within his department. He shared concerns about larger class sizes limiting the space that rooms would have for exploring hands-on learning (in the lab specifically).

9. 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.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date