

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 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

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

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

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, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

3. Strategic Plan Proposal: Mission Matters

Dr. Nielsen introduced Kayla Schnuelle with Mission Matters and provided Board members with a strategic plan proposal. Kayla gave an overview of her approach for the strategic planning process. She shared that she has reviewed the district's current plan and feels that it is a mix of an "operational" vs. "strategic" plan. The approach of the proposed process would include: 1) community engagement, 2) vision development (large group involvement), 3) determining what is blocking the vision, and 4) creating four large strategies. Discussion followed which included questions on what happens to the current plan as well as feedback on the previous processes and successfully obtaining community involvement throughout this process.

4. Community Garden

Mrs. Oltman and Mrs. Heinz addressed the Board on the idea of a community garden. They stated that they are just starting the process and would like the Board's approval. This project would benefit because it is a nice mix of several curriculum groups, and it helps strengthen the school and community relationship. Information on possible locations and the process of such was shared. Mr. Alexander added that there is a lot of excitement about this project.

5. Board Operations/Policy Updates & Revisions

5.1. Code of Ethics

As a follow-up to the Board Retreat, this policy could use some updates/additions. Those will be made and the policy presented to the Board for first reading at the February meeting.

5.2. Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest forms were provided to Board members and they were asked to complete them and return to Mr. Alexander.

5.3. Board Calendar

Mr. Alexander provided a Board calendar that outlines the key items that the Board is responsible for by month. Trusty asked if the Board meeting dates could be added to the calendar.

6. Safety & Security

Dr. Nielsen shared information on P3 Campus, the anonymous reporting system, that was implemented in January 2019, including statistics on its usage and the types of reports. Information on the safety audits of each building that were conducted by Lang Safety Consulting were shared also. Some of the areas that need to be addressed included: inability to directly monitor visitors once they enter some buildings, mental health, incident command training, standard response protocol training for new staff, and a reunification drill. Next, information on upcoming trainings were summarized. These trainings will include school secretary safety training, incident command training, and crisis team training.

7. Legislative Update

Mr. Alexander updated the Board on current legislative happenings.

8. Budget/Staffing Update

8.1. Negotiations

A settlement agreement has been reached with the teachers which keeps the district in the 98-102% midpoint array requirement. The settlement is right at a 3% increase and includes a \$400 base increase.

8.2. ESU #5 Contract- Technology Director

Mr. Alexander informed the Board he has been working with ESU #5 to discuss the possibility of partnering with them for technology director services which would allow the district to reallocate some of the technology funds back to equipment/supplies and upgrades. The proposed agreement would allow for similar services and enable the district to reallocate about \$40,000 back to the technology budget. Advantages and disadvantages of proposed agreement were also shared.

Next, Mr. Alexander transitioned the discussion to finding ways of creating efficiencies in our district that will allow us to work within the parameters of our budget expenditures with far less revenue. He noted that the district continues to have the same state and federal requirements, but no additional funding sources. Mr. Alexander summarized a number of areas in which the district has reduced spending over the last 2-3 years. He also shared reasons for why these budget reductions are necessary. To conclude, he noted that the district is targeting approximately \$350,000 of reductions for the upcoming school year. Furthermore, he stated that this is not an easy task and requires sacrifice on every level. Administration is currently working on fine tuning the details for a proposal, but information should be ready to share with the Board over the next couple of months.

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. No one spoke at this time.

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.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date