

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 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: Jon Zimmerman, **Present:** Eric Book, Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Eric Trusty.
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 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 Janet Byars and a second by Eric Trusty.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. NSCAS/AQuESTT Update

Dr. Nielsen used a handout to share data with Board members. First, NSCAS testing data (reading, math, and science) for grades 3-8 was shared. She noted that when looking at cohort groups from 20-21 to 21-22, the majority of them did make gains. She reminded Board members that students did not take the assessments in 19-20 because of the pandemic. Students that are considered "on track" are proficient. ACT cohort and mean score data for high school was shared next. Dr. Nielsen pointed out that our composite mean score tends to fall above both the state and national average. Next, Dr. Nielsen talked about the AQuESTT classifications and designations across the district. All buildings are classified as Good except for Paddock Lane which is classified as Great. Paddock Lane saw more growth in student data than other buildings, which bumped them from Good to Great. Paddock Lane and Beatrice Middle School are designated as ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) in the area of special education. Stoddard and Beatrice Middle School are ATSI in the area of Hispanic. At Beatrice High School, the subgroup of special education is TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement). The district has moved to ATSI because we were three years as TSI. Dr. Nielsen provided data on chronic absenteeism across the district stating that it plays a strong part in student proficiency and growth. She added that the percentage of chronically absent students is increasing and it has doubled as a district since 2014-2015. Finally, Dr. Nielsen shared some of the professional learning opportunities that have been provided for staff to help them improve.

4. Academics

4.1. Elementary

Mr. Janssen reported that at the elementary level they have seen growth in NSCAS testing. He stated the elementary staff continue to work together during PLC time to look at new strategies and ways to enhance learning. A new phonics program, Heggerty, has been incorporated and has resulted in great growth in our K-2 levels. Intervention strategies for both reading and math will continue to be researched through both building grade levels and district PLC groups. Mr. Janssen shared that the EL population is growing tremendously at the elementary level. The core subjects are taught first thing in the morning, so when kids are late arriving or absent all together, they are missing out on prime opportunities for those subjects. All three elementary buildings are working on strategies to improve attendance and lessen tardiness on a daily basis.

4.2. Middle School

Mr. Haake shared the NSCAS data for the Middle School. He stated that overall, and school-wide, there is overall testing growth. Next, he spoke about some attendance measures/tracking that they are trying to utilize. BMS has created a way for our student information system to automatically notify them when students begin to be chronically absent, so that conversations with students and families can happen much sooner. Historically, the 3rd quarter is the most difficult from an attendance perspective; BMS plans to incorporate attendance challenges to incentivize students to attend. One of the school improvement tasks that BMS is working on is tracking student assignment completion. Beginning in January 2023, they will be using a database called the Power of ICU to preventatively monitor student assignments and make it easier to support each other academically. They have also revamped their intervention for when students need extra time or extra help.

4.3. High School

Mr. Sutter and Mr. Voigt shared a couple of handouts with Board members. The first handout shared ACT student achievement results. Over the last five years, BHS has shown improvement on the ACT. The initial goal is to be above the 50% in all tested areas (ELA, math, science). They have made the commitment to provide the John Baylor Test Prep online materials to all students and staff members. The second handout illustrated where Beatrice is compared to their other peer school ratings as well as the state rating. In all 3 areas, Beatrice is above the state rating. They touched briefly on the challenge that attendance is and how much time teachers spend trying to get students caught up when they are absent.

5. Computer Science Requirement

Dr. Nielsen shared a handout on the computer science requirement. The NDE recently released some guidance on the Computer Science and Technology Act. Dr. Nielsen summarized what the act is and what it will require of the district. She also included the current district courses that would meet the statutory requirements. Next, she shared the three proposed options that the district is currently considering. A short board discussion ensued.

6. Building Project Financial Update

Mr. Alexander used an executive summary document to update the Board on the gross maximum price (GMP) for the new building project. The update consisted of:

- A summary and timeline of the process
- Review of the projected cost (to date GMP)- not final yet
- Breakdown of how the project will be funded
- The effect and projections on the building fund
- Project equity
- Estimated soft costs

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

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 adjourn 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, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date