

Board of Education Committee of the  
Whole Meeting  
Tuesday, October 29, 2019 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, **Present:** Janet Byars, Erin Chadwick, Doris Martin, Eric Trusty, Steve Winter, 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, Mrs. Martin 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 Jon Zimmerman and a second by Erin Chadwick.

Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. AQuESTT/Data

Dr. Nielsen shared that NSCAS testing data was released the middle of October and that it has been shared with both of the local media outlets. She informed the Board that designations have been added this year. Dr. Nielsen used a brief Power Point to share some of the historical testing data and how it compares to state averages. There was one grade above the state average for the English Language Arts (ELA) assessment while Math had three grades above the state average. Dr. Nielsen stated that she expected declines in Science as they are teaching to the new state standards which are about the process, but the test is still reflective of the content. Next, Dr. Nielsen shared the ACT testing data. More information on the new designations was explained by Dr. Nielsen. The district has three schools that are currently designated as TSI (targeted support and improvement)- Paddock Lane, Stoddard, and the Middle School. This designation means that over a 2-3 year time span, those groups/area have not seen growth; therefore, this means they will be an evaluation of testing protocol and processes, development of school improvement plans with strategies targeted at each student group, and a curriculum evaluation to determine when standards are taught and the level of mastery expected when they are taught. Finally, Dr. Nielsen explained the next steps in this process and the important of getting out of the TSI designation and what will happen if that is not accomplished.

4. 2020-21 School Calendar

A rough draft calendar for the 2020-21 school year was shared with Board members. Dr. Nielsen highlighted the following major differences from recent calendars:

- School starting a week later (August 18th)
- Moving preschool conferences to October during first semester
- Shortening Christmas break in December
- Graduation pushed back a week later
- Changes have resulted in uneven semesters

Mr. Alexander shared that this draft has been shared with administrators and was actually shared with certified staff for feedback earlier in the day.

5. District PLC

Mr. Alexander shared that the District PLC is tomorrow, October 30th beginning at 2:45 PM at Classics. He outlined the agenda for the meeting and the topics that will be covered: *Who Moved My Cheese* book read, district initiatives (learning walks), trivia competition, and social gathering. He added that this is an opportunity to bring everyone back together as a group and establish culture.

6. Technology Update

Mr. Alexander provided a brief summary of the recent meetings on technology adding that the district is blessed with a wealth of technologically savvy staff who see the relevance and importance of being able to continually provide experiences that meet 21st century learning objectives. A list of ideas to generate funds for technology was shared with the Board members. Options on the list ranged from a technology fee for students to grants to creating a technology booster club. Trusty asked if technology comes out of the general fund. Mr. Alexander responded affirmatively. Board discussion followed. Trusty stated that most of the options on the list are all good, but are not necessarily consistent approaches to regularly fund technology. Byars suggested talking to senators now as this is when they are drafting legislature for the upcoming session to inquire about the possibility of a technology bond. Mr. Alexander thanked the Board for their input and stated that the district will probably look at a series of these items and suggestions as a funding source for the technology department.

#### 7. SpEd Van Purchase

Mr. Alexander shared information on the current vehicle fleet noting the need to replace the Ford Taurus. He added that Terry Brethouwer has been working with Beth Cordry-Hookstra and Betty Replogle to develop a replacement plan that takes into consideration our Special Education transportation requirements as well as elementary transportation and extracurricular transportation. Based on such, Mr. Brethouwer's recommendation is to move forward with the purchase of an additional van and then the Taurus would move to Paddock Lane.

#### 8. Property- South Edge @ Lincoln Elementary

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that a patron has requested that the district consider selling him a portion of the land on the south edge of Lincoln Elementary. Mr. Alexander provided a visual map of the area of the property that he was referring to. Mr. Alexander added that Terry Brethouwer has worked with the city street/engineering groups to confirm that we would not be interfering with any city streets or alley projects. Hearing no objections from the Board, Mr. Alexander stated that the next steps are to have the property appraised to determine a fair market value and work on the official documents to sell the land.

#### 9. Policy 5109 Guidelines for Elementary Classes

Mr. Alexander shared that this policy contains the foundation needed and has worked for the district thus far, but he would like the Board to consider some changes that may help this policy from an administrative standpoint. He shared some of the specifics as they relate to more defined timelines and deadlines for such. He informed the Board that he will be meeting with elementary administrators to develop specifics but is hopeful to have a revised policy to the Board within the next month.

#### 10. Superintendent Evaluation

Zimmerman shared that at the end of last year's superintendent evaluation cycle, some Board members communicated that they would like to research a different tool. He stated that Mr. Alexander and himself reviewed what some other schools are using and have developed a file that they believe will fit the request of the Board so they would like to try this tool for the upcoming evaluation. Mr. Alexander added that it is not as wordy as the NASB tool. Board members requested an electronic file that they can complete; Danielle Fairbanks will send that out via email.

11. 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.

#### 12. 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, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

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Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

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Date