

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2020 12:00 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

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

Mr. Zimmerman, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 12:00 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. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

Martin presented the following items on the consent agenda:

- 3.1. Approval of the agenda as submitted
- 3.2. Approval of minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on February 10, 2020
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for February 2020
- 3.5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes- February 27, 2020
- 3.6. Approval of Option Students: To Diller-Odell- Alaina Vitosh- Gr. 7, Noah Vitosh- Gr. 7
- 3.7. Approval of retirement of Ann Luers- Speech Language Pathologist; Jan Smaus- Middle School Family Consumer Science
- 3.8. Approval of resignation of Claire Weber- 4th Grade at Paddock Lane; Delaney Woodruff- Middle School Physical Education

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the consent agenda as presented passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

Jon Zimmerman: Abstain (With Conflict), Janet Byars: Yea, Erin Chadwick: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

4. Outstanding Recognition

4.1. Employee of the Month

Mr. Sutter recognized Carol Oltman, high school media specialist, as the March Employee of the Month. Those nominating Mrs. Oltman stated that she wears many hats and is one of the most helpful people in the district. She has initiated a study group program that is geared to providing extra time and attention to underclassmen that may be struggling in their classes. Mrs. Oltman stays in tune with new technology trends and regularly attends technology conferences. She also co-teaches the new audio visual media class that generates contents for and runs the new digital display in the O-Zone.

5. Information

5.1. Student Update

No update was given.

5.2. Board Reports

5.2.1. Committee of the Whole

Martin reported that the Committee of the Whole met on February 27, 2020 with Steve Winter absent. The following topics were discussed: social studies standards (Dr. Nielsen), cyber insurance quotes (Mr. Alexander), strategic plan proposals (Mr. Alexander), and an update on budget and staffing (Mr. Alexander, Dr. Nielsen, Mr. Sutter, & Mr. Jarosh). Dave Henning and Wes Garland addressed the Board during public comments. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

5.2.2. STANCE Report

Winter provided an update on LB 974 stating that it remains in limbo with not enough votes to bring it back to the floor for discussion. He added that the education coalitions are in favor of the property tax reduction portion of the bill, but are opposed to the bill due to the harsh punitive parts that Senator Linehan and Groene are trying to apply to local schools.

5.2.3. School Community & Staff Relations Committee

Byars reported that the committee met on February 28th at Lincoln Elementary. Board members Byars, Chadwick and Trusty were present. Staff expressed appreciation for the full-time paras in the Kindergarten classrooms. Staff continued to advocate for smaller class sizes and shared that Special Education needs continue to increase each year. Other topics discussed included: lapse between preschool and kindergarten, budget proposal, staff continuing to adjust to the grade level concept, inadequacy of bathrooms, and the maintenance of buildings and the lack of funding to address building issues.

6. Public Forum/Citizen's Requests/Comments Related to Agenda Items

No one spoke at this time.

7. Discussion

7.1. 1st Reading of Policy 6212 Assessments- Academic Content Standards

Dr. Nielsen informed the Board that this revision is to formally adopt the state social studies standards dated November 2019.

7.2. Baseball Field Renovation

Winter provided some background information on the discussions that have occurred regarding possible renovation to Christenson field. He noted that the district is currently working with Southeast Community College and some city officials to look at renovation options. Estimates for putting field turf down on the infield and both bull pens have been received, but no formal bids are being accepted at this time. Mr. Alexander thanked Winter for taking the lead on this and added that grants are being prepared as the intention is to fund this renovation project through grants and private donations.

7.3. 2nd Reading of Policy 8000 Code of Ethics

Mr. Alexander stated that no additional changes have been made to this policy.

7.4. 2nd Reading of Policy 8225 Conflict of Interest

Mr. Alexander stated that no additional changes have been made to this policy.

8. Action

8.1. Approval of cyber insurance proposal

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that two proposals were received. He shared that Travelers is more economical, but it does lack some components that Beezley includes which is the main difference in the premiums. Travelers is also on admitted paper with an AM Best of A++ for public institution.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the cyber insurance proposal from Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

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

8.2. Selection of strategic plan proposal

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that he did confirm that the cost from Cambridge would not exceed \$20,000 for the strategic planning process. He added that the district may be able to save somewhere between \$5,000-\$8,000 by working with Seward to do some of the legwork. Dr. Nielsen added that Seward's current plan is available in Sparq for Board members to review.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the strategic plan proposal from Cambridge passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Trusty.

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

8.3. Approval of superintendent contract

Zimmerman informed the Board that himself and Martin recently met with Mr. Alexander to review his evaluation. A brief discussion on attending community events to represent the district and the funding of such ensued. Byars stated that she would prefer to approve the contract once a salary amount has been determined and that figure can be included.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 table the approval of the superintendent contract passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Lisa Pieper.

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

8.4. Consider retraction of Mr. Brockman's resignation

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that he has spoken with legal council on this situation and the district would just need some guidance in the contract language and salary pay. Mr. Sutter informed the Board that he has a potential candidate for Mr. Brockman's position but that the individual still needs to do his student teaching. He added that Mr. Brockman is willing to retract his resignation and stay to allow the candidate to complete his student teaching requirements in the fall and then take over once those requirements were satisfied. Mr. Sutter noted that this is a very gracious and professional offer by Mr. Brockman and he believes it would benefit the district to move forward with this.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the retraction of Mr. Brockman's resignation passed with a motion by Doris Martin 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

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Ron Clark Academy

Mr. Haake and Mrs. Replogle reported on his recent experience at the Ron Clark Academy. They stated that this was the best professional development experience of their professional career. They provided an overview of the academy environment and the house system that they incorporate. Mr. Haake informed the Board that BMS is planning to implement the house system to enrich the education experience for students. Doing so will directly relate to the district's strategic plan (Strategy 1, Action Plan 2) and also one of the BMS school improvement goals of increasing engagement within our classrooms. Next, Mrs. Replogle informed the Board how they will continue building the house system at Paddock Lane and incorporate the Essential 55 into their expectations.

9.2. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander began by stating what a wonderful few weeks it has been for the district with state championships and Read Across America activities. Next, Mr. Alexander informed the Board that staffing is constantly being evaluated to work on developing different options that will allow the district to maintain as much as possible from a curriculum and course offering standpoint. Mr. Alexander shared that the Coronavirus is being closely monitored and meetings held to emphasize the importance of detailed internal cleaning to help mitigate the spread of germs. With interest rates at an all time low, it may be a good time for the district to look at refinancing the QCPUF/Build America Bonds. This is also the best time in the past 20 years to borrow money at amazing interest rates for building construction. Finally, Mr. Alexander shared that he would be attending a planning and zoning meeting this week to hear the discussion surrounding the possible site production of the wind farm proposal in northern Gage County.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be April 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be March 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building. An agenda for the meeting, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours.

11. Adjournment

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Steve Winter.

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 1:14 PM

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date