

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 14, 2023 7:00 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:** Doris Martin, **Present:** Eric Book, Janet Byars, Lisa Pieper, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty, Brandon Vetrovsky. Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Mr. Trusty, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

Byars 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 July 10, 2023
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for July 2023
- 3.5. Approval of minutes of the special hearings (Student Fees and Title I) on July 10, 2023
- 3.6. Approval of Option Students: From Tri County- Dreyvaughn Garrison, Gr. 8; From Lewiston- Nathan Vazquez- Gr. K; From Freeman- Dawson Deyong- Gr. K; From Diller-Odell- Lucas Lyons, Gr. 11; To Tri County- Ava Miller, Gr. 9; To Lewiston- Brody Helther, Gr. K, Breezelyn Connell- Gr. 8
- 3.7. Approval of Policy (2nd Reading): 1101 Use of School Facilities- Student Groups; 4171 Resignation of Certificated Employees; 5004 Full-time and Part-time Enrollment; 5103 Extracurricular Activity Discipline; 5006 Option Enrollment; 5101 Student Discipline; 5102 Alternative Education; 6215 Collection of Information Relating to Dyslexia; 6284 Initiations, Hazing, Secrete Clubs and Outside Organizations; 6288 Artificial Intelligence; 6600 Special Education; 6700 Firearm Policy; 6930 Behavioral Points of Contact; 8130 Annual Organizational Meeting
- 3.8. Excuse the absence of Doris Martin

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the consent agenda as presented passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Information

4.1. FFA Charter Reinstatement

Mr. Barnard proudly informed the Board of Education that he was excited to share that Stacie Turnbull was in attendance to present the original FFA Charter back to Beatrice Public Schools. Mr. Barnard added that the

charter is almost 100 years old and that Beatrice held the first FFA Charter in the state of Nebraska. Stacie informed the Board that Mr. Barnard is great at trying to engage with grant opportunities and she is excited to watch this program take off under the leadership of Mr. Barnard and Mr. Husa.

#### 5. Public Forum/Comment

No one spoke at this time.

#### 6. Discussion

Mr. Alexander

6.1. Discuss resolution to increase 23-24 tax request by an additional six percent or other maximum amount above the base growth percentage as permitted by law

Mr. Alexander highlighted the impact of LB243 on Beatrice Public Schools. He shared that the statute creates a cap on school finance on non-bonded funds and it restricts a district's access to additional revenue to 3%. School boards are allowed to vote for an additional percentage as permitted by law; the vote requires 70% Board approval and public notice of the meeting must be given at least 1 week prior. The funding package for the next 2 school years should be nice for the district, but beyond those years there is a lot of uncertainty regarding school finance. Next, he provided some reasons to support why the Board of Education should vote to approve accessing the additional 6%. Mr. Alexander stated that he is still waiting for final valuations to come in so that he can properly figure the LC2 for the upcoming budget year. Finally, he reminded Board members that the special meeting to take action on this topic is scheduled for August 24, 2023.

6.2. Masonic cornerstone in the new elementary building

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the Beatrice Chapter Lodge of Masons has offered placement of a cornerstone at the new PK-5 building. He added that this was approved when the new high school was built. The planned location will be towards the north entry (gym side) next to the display case on the wall. The Board of Education will be asked to formally approve in September.

#### 7. Action

7.1. Approval of the contract with Nebraska Mental Health

Mrs. Cordry-Hookstrat shared that this is a continuation of school psych and mental health services.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the contract with Nebraska Mental Health for the 2023-24 school year passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Lisa Pieper.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.2. Approval of the agreement for special education services with the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired/Educational Service Unit 4 for the 2023-24 school year

Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra stated that there are no changes from the previous year and this is for orientation and mobility services for a student with visual impairments.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the agreement for special education services with the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired/Educational Service Unit 4 for the 2023-24 school year passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Lisa Pieper.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.3. Approval of the Special Education contract with ESU 5 for the 2023-24 school year

This contract includes a vision teacher, deaf educator, physical therapy, and mental health services.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the Special Education contract with ESU 5 for the 2023-24 school year passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky:

Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

#### 7.4. Approval of school psychologists' contracts for the 2023-24 school year

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the contracts with Dr. Don Belau and Dr. Maria-Louisa Knobel for school psychologist services for the 2023-24 school year passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

#### 7.5. Approval of Addendum to First Student Contract

Mr. Alexander noted that this addendum represent a 3% annual increase as agreed upon in the contract.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the addendum to the contract with First Student for the 2023-24 school year passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

### 8. Administrators' Report

#### 8.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander noted that first glance shows student growth in Special Education and EL. A great kickoff to the fall activity season was hosted last Friday and the first activities of the school year are scheduled for later this week. Next, Mr. Alexander shared that there will be a number of important meetings pertaining to the budget during the month of September. Finally, he informed the Board that the only NASB area membership meeting that does not conflict with the calendar is the one in Nebraska City on September 27th.

### 9. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be September 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be August 24, 2023 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.

### 10. Adjournment

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

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Date