

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 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: Janet Byars, **Present:** Eric Book, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty, Brandon Vetrovsky. 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 Lisa Pieper and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. Cheer Competition Information

Mrs. Dein spoke to the Board about her desire to take the cheerleaders to an extra competition to prepare for state which is at the end of February. She shared dates of recent and upcoming competitions and proposed a Sunday in January. Board discussion followed.

4. NSCAS/AQuESTT Update

Dr. Nielsen provided an update on state testing and student progress to Board members. She presented information on the AQuESTT domains, key testing/data terms, as well as the achievements for the district. Next, NSCAS proficiencies were shared. Mr. Haake provided some data points on the improvement in chronic absenteeism. He also spoke about the cohorts and some of the positive effects of the Power of ICU program that has been implemented at the Middle School. Dr. Nielsen closed by sharing areas of growth that the district will continue to focus on and work towards.

5. Middle School Schedule

Mr. Haake shared that the Middle School has done a lot of early schedule planning for the upcoming school year. He informed the Board that they would like to offer reading and PE every day (as year-round courses) which would result in needing to expand from a 7 period to 8 period day to keep class sizes down. Mr. Haake added that in order to make this happen, they would need to repurpose a Language Arts and Math teacher. The Special Education caseloads are very heavy at the Middle School; therefore, Mr. Haake proposed adding a Special Education teacher to assist with that. Mr. Haake noted that this proposed schedule change could have ripple effects on staffing in other buildings so he would like to begin the hiring process as soon as possible. Mr. Alexander noted that this is not something that requires official Board approval, but he wanted to make sure the Board was aware of it. Board members support offering year-long reading and PE.

6. Furniture Bid

Mr. Alexander reminded Board members of the timeline for the furniture bidding process. He informed the Board that School Specialty and Shepherds Business Interiors both submitted proposals and the district has been spending time reviewing those bids and requesting the necessary additional information. The plan is to make a recommendation to the Board at the December meeting to work with 1 of the companies.

7. New Elementary Building Update

Mr. Alexander provided the Board with some of the most recent milestones for the building project. He noted that the project is on schedule. Mr. Alexander informed the Board that the 2024-25 calendar will be brought to them in January, but the district needs to make some decisions about how this school year will end. To allow elementary staff time to pack and organize for the move to the new building, Mr. Alexander proposed releasing PK-5 students on May 17th. The Board will be asked to take official action on this at the December meeting.

8. Superintendent Update

Mr. Alexander provided brief updates on the following topics:

- Upcoming school improvement visits
- Cognia and NE Frameworks visits in February
- Request for proposals for door aces for the new PK-5 building
- Upcoming data presentations
- Open positions/hiring

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 Eric Book and a second by Brandon Vetrovsky.

Eric Book: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary.

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date