

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, January 15, 2024 5:00 PM Central

Administration Building - Student Programs
Conference 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: Eric Book, Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty, Brandon Vetrovsky.
Present: 7.

Eric Trusty called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in the Administration Building Student Programs Conference 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. Organization of the Board of Education

Mr. Alexander asked for the organization of the Board of Education for 2024.

3.1. Election of Officers

Mr. Alexander asked for the organization of the Board of Education for 2022.

Nomination that Eric Trusty be elected as President to serve a term of one year passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Eric Trusty: Abstain (With Conflict), Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Nomination that Doris Martin be elected as Vice-President to serve a term of one year passed with a motion by Eric Book and a second by Brandon Vetrovsky.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Nomination that Dr. Jackie Nielsen be elected as Secretary of the Board of Education passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Nomination that Mr. Jason Alexander be elected as Treasurer of the Board of Education passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Nomination that Danielle Fairbanks be elected as the Recording Secretary of the Board of Education passed with a

motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

3.2. Committee Appointments

At this point in the meeting, Eric Trusty, President of the Board of Education, made the following committee appointments: Staff Relations are as follows: Janet Byars (chair), Charles Riedesel, and Eric Trusty. Americanism Committee appointments are as follows: Lisa Pieper (chair), Brandon Vetrovsky, and Eric Book. Negotiations appointments for the 2025-26 school year are as follows: Janet Byars (chair), Doris Martin, and Eric Book. Eric Trusty was appointed as the NASB Legislative Delegate. Doris Martin was appointed as the Government Relations Network Representative.

I move that the committee assignments be accepted as stated passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Brandon Vetrovsky.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

4. Consent Agenda

Martin presented the following items on the consent agenda:

- 4.1. Approval of the agenda as submitted
- 4.2. Approval of minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on December 11, 2023
- 4.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 4.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for December 2023
- 4.5. Approval of resignations of Darci Haraldson at the end of the 2023-24 school year- Special Education at Paddock Lane; Kevin Janssen- Elementary Principal, effective immediately
- 4.6. Approval of contracts for 2024-2025: Angela Frerking- Middle School Special Education; Miranda Camin- Middle School Special Education; Cassandra Eickhoff- High School English; Jordan Heinz- Middle School Math
- 4.7. Approval of Option Students: From Southern- Karter Henrichs- Gr. 4 (2024-2025), Kinslee Henrichs- Gr. 7 (2024-2025), Cassidy Henrichs- Gr. 9 (2024-2025), Karrigan Henrichs- Gr. 10 (2024-2025)

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 Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

5. Outstanding Recognition

5.1. Employee of the Month

Dr. Nielsen recognized Carol Vetrovsky as the January Employee of the Month. Mrs. Vetrovsky is an individual who has worn many hats during her time with the district (food service, custodial, accounts payable). Those nominating Mrs. Vetrovsky stated she is very organized and always willing to help others. She continues to grow and learn new tricks and tools as technology continually changes. With staffing changes, she has picked up more responsibilities to ensure that the district office continues to operate and staff continue to receive everything they need to teach at a high level.

6. Information

6.1. Student Update

Dr. Nielsen shared that the student update report is available for Board members to review in Sparq.

6.2. Board Reports

6.2.1. Committee of the Whole

No report was given as there was not a Committee of the Whole meeting in the month of December.

6.2.2. STANCE Report

Mr. Alexander reported that over the weekend he sent out updates from the STANCE meetings. The legislative session has started, and the group has been discussing the bills related to education that have been introduced. In short, there are approximately 47 bills (as of January 11th) that would have an impact on education in some way.

6.2.3. Negotiations Committee

Mrs. Byars noted that her report would be given during action item 8.8.

7. Public Forum/Comments

No one spoke at this time.

8. Action

8.1. Approval of legal counsel

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 designate Perry Law Firms or KSB School Law to be representatives of the Board of Education passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Brandon Vetrovsky.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.2. Approval of Jason Alexander as the District's Federal Grant Representative and Financial Representative

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve Jason Alexander as the District's Federal Grant Representative and Financial Representative passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.3. Approval of the depository banks for Beatrice Public Schools be named as Pinnacle Bank, Security First Bank, First National Bank of Omaha- Beatrice branch, First State Bank Nebraska- Beatrice branch, and BMO

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 name the following as the depository banks for Beatrice Public Schools: Pinnacle Bank, Security First Bank, First National Bank of Omaha- Beatrice branch, First State Bank Nebraska- Beatrice branch, and BMO passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Lisa Pieper: Abstain (With Conflict), Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

8.4. Designate the Beatrice Daily Sun as the official newspaper of record

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 designate the Beatrice Daily Sun as the official newspaper of record passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.5. Approval of current Board policies and regulations

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the current Board policies and regulations passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.6. Approval of contract for school-based mental health therapist

Dr. Nielsen reminded Board members that the addition of a school-based mental health therapist at the new PK-5 building was discussed at the November COW meeting. She added that there were two great candidates that the district interviewed; Carlina Grove was selected for the position. She will work with administration and the district's current mental health partners to build a strong process for the new school. The district received a grant that will fund the salary and benefits for the position for 2 years.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the contract with Carlina Grove to serve as a school-based mental health therapist for the 2024-25 school year passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.7. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action with regard to the possible approval of the door access controls for the new PK-5 elementary school

Mr. Alexander informed the Board members that one of the items that the district is managing for the new building is video surveillance and door access controls. The main reasons for this include wanting to be able to select a system that will work with our other systems and also to save us some money. The district received 2 bids back on this request, one from Kidwell and one from Diode. Diode was the lowest responsible bidder at \$34,216.62. Mr. Alexander added that he believes the NDE will have a new grant out soon that we may be eligible to apply for to help cover some of these costs.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the bid from Diode for door access control for the new PK-5 elementary building in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.8. Approval of the 2024-25 Negotiated Agreement with the Beatrice Education Association

Mrs. Byars reported that the negotiations committees met a total of 4 times with a tentative agreement being reached on December 6th and the BEA body officially approving it on December 13th. She added that the offer included a \$1,000 increase on the base, revisions to bereavement leave, and some minor changes to the extra duty schedule. Next, she provided salary and benefit ranges for a beginning, middle, and maximum teacher on the proposed salary schedule within our district. The average number of years of service for the current staff is 15.07 years and the average salary (teaching contract only) is \$59,316.88. Overall, it's a 3.94% total package increase for certified staff. Mrs. Martin added that the negotiations process went very smoothly this year as both parties were very prepared when the process began.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the 2024-25 Negotiated Agreement with the Beatrice Education Association passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander reported that elementary principal interviews are scheduled for January 26th. Next, he shared that the district applied for and received a 2-year new school adjustment factor from the Nebraska Department of Education which will boost our state aid during 2024 and 2025. A couple of additional policies regarding salary and tuition reimbursement will be discussed at the January COW meeting. Finally, he informed Board members that the extra paid day for classified staff who met an excellent attendance requirement during first semester has been calculated and will be paid out with January payroll. Out of 99 total eligible employees, 41 earned the extra pay stipend which resulted in an overall district cost of \$4,555,80.

9.1.1. Conflict of Interest Form

The form will be emailed out to Board members.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be February 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be January 25, 2024 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 Eric Book.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date

DRAFT