

Board of Education Committee of the  
Whole Meeting  
Tuesday, October 24, 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:** Lisa Pieper, Brandon Vetrovsky, **Present:** Eric Book, Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty. Present: 5, Absent: 2.

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 Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. Strategic Plan Site Plans

3.1. Preschool

Mrs. Timmerman highlighted the following components of the preschool site plan:

- Character education (Strategy 2 Action Step 1): all staff within the building are taking the Dan St. Romain's Cultivating Character course
- Staff retention (Strategy 3 All action steps): compassion calendar that includes monthly activities and staff morale games
- Data-driven instruction (Strategy 4): focusing on what the GOLD standards mean
- Maximize enrichment opportunities (Strategy 4): addition of OT screeners for all 4 year olds; Teacher Switch (teaching a character lesson in another classroom every week)

3.2. High School

Mr. Sutter highlighted the following goals for the high school:

- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (Strategy 2): decreasing discipline behavior referrals and suspensions/expulsions
- School safety and culture (Strategy 2): school improvement group is examining the data from the high reliability school surveys
- Academic (Strategy 5): academic interventions for freshmen to earn at least 60 credits and maintain being on track toward cohort graduation; study the BMS "Power of ICU" program to see if it should be implemented at the high school level

4. Policy 5103.1: Random Drug Testing for Students Involved in Extracurricular Activities

Board discussion regarding the research provided as well as possible alternative ways to use the funds occurred. The Board will take action on this topic at the November regular meeting.

5. Regulation 5205.1: Graduation Dress Code

Mr. Alexander noted that over the past couple of years, the district has had a few requests to wear an adornment of cultural, ethnicity-related, or heritage-based significance. He added that there will probably be more requests in the future and that the Board needs to consider how they would like administration to handle these requests. He shared that the Board could leave the policy as is or consider a proposal that would allow some flexibility within the guidelines. Mr. Alexander added that the proposal has been drafted with the assistance of the district's legal counsel.

#### 6. Stronger Community Connections Grant

Dr. Nielsen shared that the district received a grant in the amount of \$226,000 which will allow the district to hire an individual during the 24-25 and 25-26 school years to provide school-based mental health services to students at the K-5 level. In addition, the district will provide a mental health screener for all students in the new elementary school. Both of these components will serve as a strong part of the MTSS process in the new building.

#### 7. Superintendent Report- Chemistry Lab

Recently, Dr. Nielsen and Mrs. Dein, BHS chemistry teacher, met with Dr. Joseph Brewer to make arrangements to clean up the chemistry room and inventory all of the chemicals. An annual clean up and disposal of chemicals in the lab will be arranged moving forward.

8. 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.

#### 9. Adjournment

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

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date