

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, December 11, 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: Eric Book, Lisa Pieper, Brandon Vetrovsky, **Present:** Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty. Present: 4, Absent: 3.

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

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 November 13, 2023
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for November 2023
- 3.5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes- November 28, 2023
- 3.6. Approval of Option Students: To Fairbury- Karely Otero, Gr. 12
- 3.7. Approval of contract beginning January 2024 for: Amanda Book- 2nd Grade at Lincoln Elementary
- 3.8. Approval of resignations of Cindy Gronewold- Middle School Math, Shana Ensz- Kindergarten at Lincoln, Beth Sederberg- High School Special Education, Jeff Junker- Middle School Physical Education, Kevin Janssen- Elementary Principal
- 3.9. Excuse the absence of Eric Book, Lisa Pieper, and Brandon Vetrovsky

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 Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

4. Outstanding Recognition

4.1. Employee of the Month

Mrs. Replogle recognized Denise Behrends, Resource teacher, as the December Employee of the Month. Those nominating Mrs. Behrends stated that she is always willing to jump right in and help with whatever is needed. She gets to know her students at all levels and is incredibly caring and hard-working. She takes a very proactive attitude and approach to all of her duties and responsibilities, and she is eager to explore new opportunities and challenges.

4.2. Business Friend of the Month

Mr. Alexander recognized Farm Credit Services of America as the December business friend of the month.

5. Information

5.1. Student Update

Maddie Nielsen reported that the preschool had over 400 people attend Breakfast with Santa. Teachers will be completing home visits in January to welcome students back to school. Paddock Lane students and staff are participating in their annual food drive for the Community Food Pantry and will also be celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas with dress up days, music trivia, and a movie. MAPS testing and first semester common assessments are taking place at the elementary level as well. Christmas activities will also be taking place at Lincoln and Stoddard. Beatrice Middle School recently completed a service project to raise funds for the Gage County Christmas Wish List in which they raised over \$1,200 to purchase presents for families in need. The Middle School boys basketball season has wrapped up and after break girls basketball and boys/girls wrestling will begin. At Beatrice High School, winter sports teams have begun competing. The unified bowling team hosted districts in Beatrice. Student Council is putting on a Christmas spirit week. Speech have their first meet on December 15th and the vocal/music concert is scheduled for December 18th. Finals are scheduled for December 18th-20th.

5.2. Board Reports

5.2.1. Committee of the Whole

Martin reported that the Committee of the Whole met on November 28, 2023 with Janet Byars absent. The following topics were discussed: Cheer Competition (Mrs. Dein), Middle School Schedule (Mr. Haake), Furniture Bid (Mr. Alexander), New Elementary Building Update (Mr. Alexander), and Superintendent Update (Mr. Alexander). No one spoke during public forum. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

5.2.2. STANCE Report

Mr. Alexander shared that a review from Dr. Maher recently covered many topics pertinent to K-12 and NDE organizationally. He added that Dr. Maher has already issued a requirement that 31 of the top level employee department/division heads be back in the office when they are not in the field. Kyle McGowan and Mike Dulaney also provided a brief update on the following topics: NPERS retirement solidity, EPIC tax, teacher shortage, and School Safety Rapid Response Option Act being proposed by Senator Brewer.

5.2.3. Negotiations Committee

Mrs. Byars reported the group has met 4 times and that both parties have reached a tentative agreement that the BEA membership will vote on it later in the week.

5.2.4. Staff Relations Committee

No report was given.

6. Public Forum/Comments

No one spoke at this time.

7. Discussion

7.1. 2022-23 Audit Report

Ryan Bruns of Dana F. Cole provided an overview of the 2022-2023 audit report. He noted that expenses were up approximately \$4.7 million from the previous budget year with the largest increases in net instruction and capital projects. Ryan pointed out that the funds that were overspent were the Nutrition and Coop.

8. Action

8.1. Approve list of property to sell per policy 3090

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the list of property to sell as presented passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8.2. Approval of Regulation 5205.1 Graduation Dress Code

Mr. Alexander shared that there have been no additional changes to this policy since the last meeting.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve Regulations 5205.1 Graduation Dress Code passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8.3. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action with regard to possible approval of the purchase of furniture for the new PK-5 elementary school in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000

Mr. Alexander reminded Board members of the recent timeline for the furniture bidding process.

Motion that the Board of Education of this School District should, and does hereby (1) approve School Specialty as the lowest responsible bidder for the new furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new PK-5 elementary school, (2) authorize and approve an agreement with School Specialty in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000, and (3) authorize, approve, and direct the Superintendent of Schools or Leadership Committee for the School District, to develop the final list of furniture, fixtures and equipment, to develop and sign, execute, and deliver an agreement, and any documents or agreements called for in such agreement, for and on behalf of the School District, to sign and approve any amendments, modifications, and change orders, to pay the purchase price amount and other transaction costs, change orders, and expenses related to the project, and to take or cause to be taken all other action necessary or appropriate to complete any requirements or obligations under the agreement passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8.4. Approval of the 2022-23 audit

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the 2022-23 financial audit as presented passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8.5. Approval of change to the 2023-24 calendar

Mr. Alexander informed Board members that information on the 24-25 school calendar will be shared in January. To prepare for the move to the new PK-5, administration proposed release PK-5 students on Friday, May 17, 2024. This will provide staff with time to pack up their rooms for the move.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve releasing PK-5th grade students on May 17, 2024 to allow staff time to prepare for the move to the new building passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8.6. Approval of the superintendent contract

President Trusty informed Board members that the contract is being offered for 2 years and includes an approximate 2.75% salary increase.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the superintendent contract with Jason Alexander passed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander shared that at each Board member's place he left a legislative calendar, listing of state senators, information on EPIC tax, a report on the school retirement system, and the ESU annual report. He reminded the public that there is an upcoming assessment/date information night (December 18th) at Beatrice High School.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be January 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. There will not be a Committee of the Whole meeting in December. 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 Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date

DRAFT