

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024 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

Present: Eric Book, Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Charles Riedesel, Eric Trusty, Brandon Vetrovsky.
Present: 7.

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 and accessible to members of the public.

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 January 15, 2024
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for January 2024
- 3.5. Approval of Option Students: From Southern- Kaydence Gilbertson- Gr. 11, Zoey Shiech- Gr. 10 (2024-2025), Judson Kreft- Gr. K (2024-2025)
- 3.6. Approval of resignations of: Dick Stuart- Middle School Math; Jennifer Lunt- Speech Language Pathologist; Erin Hamilton- High School Math; Megan Dimas- 3rd Grade at Paddock Lane
- 3.7. Approval of contracts for 2024-2025: Jayse Koehler- Elementary; Cheyenne Pinyan- Elementary Art

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

4. Outstanding Recognition

4.1. Employee of the Month

Dr. Nielsen recognized Kellie Carpenter as the February Employee of the Month. Those nominating Mrs. Kellie Carpenter stated that she builds great relationships with all the students she works with as well as all of her fellow employees. She is one of the first people in the building to help with breakfast and she waits until all students are picked up by the buses before leaving. Over the last several summers, she has stepped up to teach a reading class on Pete the Cat.

4.2. Business Friend of the Month

Mr. Alexander recognized Curt Shin with Johnson Controls as the BPS Friend of the Month. He stated that Curt is a jack of all trades and a master of a lot. For many years, the district has relied on Curt's expertise in HVAC, boilers, sensors, alarms and lighting to keep the district operational and while also conscientious of the taxpayer dollars. Curt will be retiring from Johnson Controls and he will be missed greatly.

4.3. Board Member Recognition

Mr. Alexander stated that the last week of January an ad was run in the paper to recognize and thank the school board members for serving. He spoke briefly about the strengths and attributes that each member brings to the group.

5. Information

5.1. Student Update

Maddie Nielsen shared that teachers enjoyed home visits during the month of January. Preschool students are collecting cans of food to donate to local agencies as they work on being good citizens and learning about kindness. Lincoln and Stoddard students are getting back into the swing of things for the second semester and preparations for their upcoming music programs are well underway. Paddock Lane teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to visit with parents during parent/teacher conferences this week. Kindergarten through third grade students are preparing for their spring programs. At Beatrice Middle School, girls basketball has recently completed their season, but wrestling still has a few more weeks to go. The 8th graders are currently working on their high school registration sheets. On February 22nd, BMS will be holding a career fair with 16 local business representatives across various career clusters coming in to speak. At BHS, the Leadership class recently put on their annual paper airplane contest. Cheer, dance, boys and girls wrestling all have their state competitions this coming weekend. Beatrice FFA members also recently competed at the district competition in Weeping Waters and qualified for state in April.

5.2. Board Reports

5.2.1. STANCE Report

Mr. Alexander provided a brief update on legislative bills:

- LB 1339- change provisions relating to possession of firearms in schools
- LB 1284- computer science requirement and funding; Board member Riedesel testified nicely
- LB 964- loan forgiveness for Special Education teachers
- LB 1121- teacher retention grant
- LB 1053- retention money for extended career retention
- LB 1403- adding 6th graders to the scheme of the Opportunity Scholarship Act

5.2.2. Committee of the Whole

Martin reported that the Committee of the Whole met on January 25, 2024 with Brandon Vetrovsky absent. The following topics were discussed: Building Update- Construction, Furniture, Cornerstone (Mr. Alexander), Policy & Reg 4110.1 & Tuition Reimbursement (Mr. Alexander), and the 24-25 School Calendar (Dr. Nielsen). No one spoke during public forum. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

6. Public Forum/Comments

No one spoke at this time.

7. Discussion

7.1. 1st Reading of Policy 4110.1 Salary Guides & Regulation 4110.1 Advancement on Salary Schedule

Mr. Alexander shared that through the negotiations process and to remain competitive with other schools, a recommendation is being made to update the policy to allow all years of teaching service upon hire.

7.2. 1st Reading of Policy 4110.3 Tuition Reimbursement

Mr. Alexander shared a draft policy regarding tuition reimbursement for teachers that the district asks to get an endorsement in. He added that some other school districts have similar policies and there would be an understanding that the teacher must meet certain criteria and commitments to the school. Discussion ensued

regarding some of the specific details of the policy. Mr. Alexander was directed to revise areas of the policy prior to the next meeting.

8. Action

8.1. Approval of the 2024-25 school calendar

Dr. Nielsen reiterated the proposed changes regarding the calendar for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. She added that the start and end times of the school day are a managerial decision that is still being reviewed.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the 2024-25 school calendar 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

8.2. Cornerstone at New Elementary

Mr. Alexander noted that the group requested official approval from the Board of Education.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the installation of a cornerstone in the new elementary building 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

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander informed all Board members that parent/teacher conferences are occurring this week. He congratulated the winter activities on successful seasons. Finally, he shared that Beatrice High School has their Cogna Visit last week and it was very successful with a wealth of positive feedback from the external visitors to our school. The entire report will be shared with the Board when it is received next month.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be March 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be February 22, 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 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary.

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date