

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 12, 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

**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. 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 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 May 8, 2023
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for May 2023
- 3.5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes- May 25, 2023
- 3.6. Approval of the resignation of Amber Bouma- Kindergarten at Lincoln; Tara Ringen- 2nd Grade at Lincoln
- 3.7. Approval of contracts for 2023-2024: Debra Thimm- Middle School Resource, Dave Barnard- High School Ag, Erin Struebing- Elementary Media Specialist, Rachel Bisbee- High School Science

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. Information

4.1. Board Reports

4.1.1. Committee of the Whole- May 25, 2023

Trusty reported that the Committee of the Whole met on May 25, 2023 with Book, Martin and Pieper absent. The following topics were discussed: Summer Project Update (Ronda Pieper), Bread and Milk Bids (Dr. Nielsen), Lunch Prices (Dr. Nielsen), Multiculturalism Report (Dr. Nielsen), Wellness Policy (Dr. Nielsen), Hiring Update/Graduation Requirements Policy (Mr. Alexander), Certified Comp Time (Mr. Alexander), Building Update/Topping Out Ceremony (Mr. Alexander), and State and Federal Reporting (Mr. Alexander). No one spoke during public comment. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

## 5. Public Forum/Citizen's Requests/Comments

No one spoke at this time.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1. Community Eligibility Program (CEP)

Dr. Nielsen used a PowerPoint presentation to provide information on the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). She began with a review of the National School Lunch Program. Next, she reviewed the definition of CEP, the benefits of the program, how it works, how students qualify, and the requirements for the school districts under the program. Dr. Nielsen shared data on the free and reduced rates for each of the district's buildings for the last 5 school years as well as the most recent CEP percentages. She also shared what things should be considered if the district chooses to participate and what the potential impacts on other funding sources may be. Information on the possible impact that the CEP program could have on state aid was shared. Dr. Nielsen also provided information on why the program has not been utilized in the past. Specific information (estimated figures) on the impact that participating in the program would have on the district's general fund budget was also shared. Dr. Nielsen ended the presentation by providing some closing considerations for the Board to consider: cost vs. equity, there is already a system in place to offer assistance to those who qualify, every district is different, impact on other grants and programs.

## 7. Action

### 7.1. Community Eligibility Program

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 not participate in the community eligibility program for the 2023-24 school year 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

### 7.2. Approval of bread bids for the 2023-24 school year

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the bread bid from Rotella for the 2023-24 school year 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

### 7.3. Approval of milk bids for the 2023-24 school year

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the milk bid from Hiland Dairy for the 2023-24 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

### 7.4. Approval of breakfast and lunch prices for 2023-24

Dr. Nielsen shared that lunch and milk prices will be increased in order to meet federal requirements identified through the Paid Lunch Equity tool. Meals will increase by \$.10 and milk will increase by \$.05. Staff prices have not yet been provided by the USDA, but for now the district will be increasing them by \$.25 and will adjust the price accordingly to meet the standard if needed.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the breakfast and lunch prices for the 2023-24 school year 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

#### 7.5. Approval of revised 2023-2024 school calendar

Mr. Alexander reminded Board members that at the May Committee of the Whole, he reported the instructional hours and units logged as part of the Consolidated Data Reports. He added that a request to reevaluate the 2023-2024 school calendar was made to see if adjustments could be made to end the school year earlier. Dr. Nielsen presented a proposed and updated calendar to the Board of Education. She noted that student days were reduced to 174 and that she made adjustments throughout the year to provide more staff development days to maintain the 186 staff days. She also noted that the elementary levels would be released a few days earlier to allow staff to prepare to move into the new building. A very lengthy Board discussion ensued.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the revised 2023-2024 school calendar failed with a motion by Doris Martin and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Nay, Janet Byars: Nay, Doris Martin: Nay, Lisa Pieper: Nay, Charles Riedesel: Nay, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea  
Yea: 2, Nay: 5

#### 8. Administrators' Report

##### 8.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander shared that the administrative team participated in a zoom legal/legislative update session that covered mandates that will impact schools or educational service units (ESUs). He added that a number of new policies will be presented at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. Other topics for that meeting will include handbook revisions and a strategic plan update. Next, he provided some information on the Governor's funding package and the effect that he believes it will have on our district (the largest benefit will be Special Education reimbursement). Finally, he informed the Board that substantial progress has been made with the new elementary building project.

#### 9. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be July 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be June 22, 2023 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.

#### 10. 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 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

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Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

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Date