

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2018 6:00 PM Central

Beatrice Middle School
215 North 5th Street
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: Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Nancy Sedlacek, Steve Winter, Jon Zimmerman, **Absent:** Lisa Pieper. Present: 5, Absent: 1.

Ms. Martin, Vice-President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the media center at Beatrice Middle School. At the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Martin 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. Approval of the Agenda

Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Nancy Sedlacek.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Nancy Sedlacek: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. Master facility plan presentation

Pat Phelan updated the Board on the master facility plan project. He noted that we are at a transitional point in the process. Phelan presented a Power Point presentation to the Board that included an overview of the facility audit findings and the next steps in this process. The scope of the facility audit included information on both the physical plant facilities as well as the educational program facilities. Phelan shared information on the total project cost approach which includes site develop allowances, renovation costs, new construction costs, A/E fees, appropriate contingencies, escalation, cost of financing and other miscellaneous expenses. He added that the costs do not include costs for moveable furniture or computer hardware/software. Information on the current cost of repairs, replacement cost as well as the facility condition index (FCI) was shared for all district buildings/sites. Phelan noted that no solutions are being offered at this time. He encouraged the Board to call for a citizens' committee and review the audit findings with them so pros and cons of possible solutions can be discussed and feedback obtained from the community for the Board to consider.

4. Curriculum Review- Media & Technology

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Karen Dittbrenner, Middle School media specialist, and Carol Oltman, High School media specialist. Mrs. Dittbrenner informed the Board that Beatrice Public Schools is the only district in the state that has their own virtual reality lab. She shared that the modified 1:1 program is working very well and the makers space options are very popular with students. Mrs. Dittbrenner shared a video that highlighted some of the great experiences and opportunities with technology that students are provided. Mrs. Oltman echoed all of the comments made by Mrs. Dittbrenner and added that the high school maker space is almost always being utilized and watching the students learn and succeed by exploring and trial has been very rewarding. Next, Board members and those attending the meeting were given an opportunity to go try out the virtual reality lab.

5. Special Education

5.1. Level 3 Program

5.2. Mental Health Person

Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra provided Board members with background information on the mental health services that the district is providing as well as the behavior program and the concerns/challenges that the district is facing. She included updates on changes that have been made to the program to try and address the behaviors at the elementary level as well as some options for moving forward. The proposed recommendation for the 2018-2019 school year is for the district to create their own level 3 separate program. The handout outlined basic information about a program as well as the pros and cons of such and a breakout of the estimated costs. Board members asked questions on the size of the program as well as a possible location for it.

6. Discussion of forming a finance committee

Byars informed Board members that a finance committee is something she has been considering for awhile now. She emphasized the importance of a thorough review of the proposed accounts for payment before Board meetings. Byars noted that it could be a permanent committee of three Board members or another option would be to have Board members rotate and do it in pairs each month before the regular meeting. Incoming superintendent, Jason Alexander, shared how his current finance committee at Ord functions. Discussion ensued, but no final decision was made.

7. Central office restructuring

Mr. Nauroth reminded Board members that they have previously been sent revised policies and job descriptions for the potential restructure of the central office. He noted that he included the new superintendent, Jason Alexander, in the potential restructure conversation. He asked Board members for any input and noted that he intends to bring an assistant superintendent recommendation to the Board at the February meeting as long as they are comfortable with such.

8. Budget planning for 18/19

Mr. Nauroth shared a draft list of potential budget reductions for the 2018-19 school year. He added that the process began months ago with the administrative team and was very long, thoughtful, and difficult. The proposed recommendations will impact every level of the district, from preschool to central office administration. Mr. Nauroth stated that the intent was to keep reductions away from certified positions that directly impact students, but he was not able to do that completely. However, based on past history he believes the staffing items would naturally occur through attrition. Board members asked questions about eliminating orchestra and if there may be other options for funding it. John Francis, from the Middle School, shared the orchestra program's numbers, which indicated recent growth, and stated that the elimination of the program would greatly effect the current participants. Byars asked if there were any other potential areas for savings. Mr. Brazell responded that the district could potentially hold off on a carpet upgrade that was planned for the summer which would save approximately \$10,000. Mr. Nauroth encouraged Board members to send any additional feedback to him and noted that he plans to bring a final recommendation to the Board in February.

9. 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 additional addressed the Board.

10. Adjournment

Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Jon Zimmerman and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Nancy Sedlacek: Yea, Steve Winter: Yea, Jon Zimmerman: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Superintendent

Date