

Board of Education Committee of the
Whole Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 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

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 Trusty.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Eric Trusty: Yea, Brandon Vetovsky: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

3. High Ability Learners

Dr. Nielsen provided a handout to Board members on the High Ability Learners (HAL) program. She summarized how the district identifies students for the program as well as the number of students by grade level. A brief list of the activities that are provided was shared by level (elementary, middle school, and high school).

4. Youth Frontiers

A video highlighting the recent Youth Frontiers events was shared with the Board. Fifth grade students from Stoddard and Paddock Lane participated in a Kindness Retreat on January 26th. Seventh graders participated in a Courage Retreat on January 25th. Ninth graders participated in a Respect Retreat on January 24th. Building level administrators spoke very highly of the experience and the presenters/teachers. They were very impressed with the level of engagement that all the students showed during the events. It is the hope of the administration that the district can continue to work with Youth Frontiers to provide these opportunities in future years.

5. District Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Nielsen and Mr. Alexander highlighted some of the key focus areas for the district's strategic plan by strategy. Points of emphasis to the Board included:

- Strategy 1
 - New building construction (PK-5 building) has started
 - Participated in BCH mass influx drill (safety & security training)
- Strategy 2
 - Districtwide social-emotional screeners- piloting at the K-5 level
 - Staff wellness- increase services to BCH EAP program and increase use of EHA wellness program
- Strategy 3
 - Attending hiring fairs and evaluating staff salary schedules
 - Piloting a new mentor program at Middle and High School
 - Formative assessment training to identify priority standards (K-5 teachers)
 - PLC leader training
- Strategy 4
 - Develop a CTE (career-tech education) strategic plan
 - PLC data-driven discussions to determine pacing guides and formative assessment schedules
- Strategy 5

- PLC leader training (PK-12) to provide growth in promoting change and implementation of professional learning

6. Policy Updates

6.1. 5205 Graduation & Regulation 5205 Graduation Requirements

Dr. Nielsen took time to outline the previous discussions regarding this policy and the new computer science requirement. She shared that there is a current bill (LB520) that may impact the computer science requirement. Options that the district is continuing to evaluate as we plan for this requirement include: an 8th grade requirement that meets high school standards, a high school online course, and/or a high school in-person course.

6.2. 6212 Assessments- Academic Content Standards

Dr. Nielsen noted that the proposed changes reflect adjustment of the dates to ensure alignment with the state standards.

6.3. 8345 Procedures During Meetings

Mr. Alexander shared that the school attorney is recommending the addition of a statement pertaining to electronic communication at Board meetings.

6.4. Naxolone (5602)

Dr. Nielsen informed Board members that this policy allows for the storage, administration and use of Naxolone (aka Narcan). She informed Board members that the school resource officers have developed training. Currently, administrators, nurses, SROS, and secretaries in all buildings have been trained on. The district also has one dose of Naxolone in each building in a secure location.

6.5. Seizure Safe Schools (6921)

All certificated staff and administrators have participated in training provided by the Epilepsy Foundation. School nurses also participated in more in-depth training. Plans have even been created for all students who need plans and there is a full-time nurse in the buildings where we have seizure plans.

7. Calendar Options

Dr. Nielsen started by reviewing the proposed 2023-24 calendar. She informed the Board that it is very similar to the current year's calendar and that the Board will be asked to approve it on February 13th. Next, Dr. Nielsen provided information on the calendar options for the 2024-25 school year. She informed the Board that she worked with a teacher committee and administration to explore and evaluate the different options that are being presented. The group evaluated feedback from other districts, best practice in research, instructional minutes, feedback from families and community partners, and the effect on student learning in development of the following calendar options:

- Option 1- continue with Wednesday dismissal for professional learning time and collaboration
- Option 2- add an extra 1/2 day per month for dismissal for teacher professional time
- Option 3- add an extra day per month for dismissal for teacher professional time
- Option 4- hybrid option; dismiss every other Wednesday for teacher professional time
- Option 5- hybrid option; students arrive late (every other Wednesday) for teacher professional time

Dr. Nielsen also informed the Board that the group evaluated start and stop times for all buildings as the draft options were developed.

8. Initiative 433 Discussion

Mr. Alexander provided Board members with a packet of information pertaining to classified staff pay. Initiative 433 was voted in by the people of Nebraska in November 2022 and includes a raise to the minimum wage for hourly employees. Mr. Alexander shared that school districts are not currently obligated to abide by Initiative 433, but it would be difficult to compete with local businesses without making attempts to keep up with hourly wages. Mr. Alexander shared some ideas that are being considered which include: salary schedule adjustments, increase to minimum wage, and incentive pay utilizing ESSERS III funds. Board discussion ensued; the majority of the Board was not in favor of changing a budget in the middle of the fiscal year.

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.

Mr. Alexander and Mrs. Timmerman shared some information with the Board on the upcoming capital campaign effort that will soon be underway to help cover some of the "soft costs" for the new PK-5 building.

10. Adjournment

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

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 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date