

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, December 9, 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.

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 11, 2024
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for November 2024

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. All-State Band

Mr. Voigt recognized Ryan Rempel & Caroline Davis for their selection to all-state band.

4.2. Employee of the Month

Mr. Voigt recognized Zac Lauenstein, School Resource Officer at BHS, as the December Employee of the Month. Those nominating Officer Lauenstein stated that he is a foundational rock at BHS; he is caring, compassionate, intuitive, considerate, and sincerely concerned about the well-being of students. He is constantly serving and protecting all students and staff. Officer Lauenstein was the driving force behind the opening of the mini-marts at BHS and BMS, and he has been instrumental in the success of providing those students and families who need it with food.

4.3. Board Member Recognition- Lisa Pieper & Janet Byars

Dr. Nielsen expressed appreciation to Board Member, Lisa Pieper, for her 16 years of service. Pieper was instrumental in ensuring that the district has a strong vision through their strategic plan. She helped push for the high school outdoor classroom and athletic complex as well as the brand new elementary school.

Next, Dr. Nielsen expressed appreciation to Board Member, Janet Byars, for her 12 years of service. Byars attention to detail is to be applauded. She has a keen eye for helping keep the district fiscally responsible, but she will always make sure that we are meeting the needs of the students involved in each and every decision that is being made.

5. Information

5.1. Student Update

Annie Gleason reported that Breakfast with Santa was hosted at the preschool this past Saturday and it was such a fun morning! At the elementary, testing is wrapping up and it has been fun to see the student growth. Staff have worked very hard to target specific skills and help students grow. Classes are working hard to earn the golden spatula which is awarded to the class that does the best at lunch. The Beatrice Middle School girls finished 109-46 in their first season of Girls Wrestling. BMS raised over \$1,200 for the Gage County Christmas Wish List and were able to help 17 kids in need by buying presents with the proceeds. Middle school students will be finishing up IXL testing and unit tests as the semester ends. At the High School, winter sports seasons began on December 5th. High school students are preparing for finals week. Many school clubs and organizations have volunteered their time to the community by helping out with the annual Breakfast with Santa and making Christmas cards for nursing homes.

5.2. Board Reports

5.2.1. STANCE Report

Dr. Nielsen reported that the group met on December 3rd with Senators Tom Brandt and Dave Murman attending to provide perspectives on the summer's special session as well as provide insights into the 2025 session.

5.2.2. Negotiations Committee

Byars reported that the negotiations group has their next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 12th.

6. Public Forum/Comments

No one spoke at this time.

7. Discussion

7.1. Financial Literacy

Dr. Nielsen provided a handout to Board members and highlighted the following as it pertains to financial literacy:

- Experiences at the elementary are very hands-on and give students the opportunities to understand spending and saving.
- Through multiple classes at the Middle School (Social Studies, Counseling, FCS, and Math), students begin to understand debt, savings, credit cards, interest rates, and post-graduation financial strategies.
- At the High School, all students are required to take a semester of financial literacy course to meet graduation requirements. This course is an integrated course where they understand financial literacy but connect it to future goals and careers.

7.2. 2023-24 Audit Report

Ryan Bruns of Dana F. Cole provided an overview of the 2023-2024 audit report. He noted that the district's net expenditures were down approximately \$150,000 and general receipts were up about \$970,000.

8. Action

8.1. Approval of 2023-24 audit

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the 2023-24 audit 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. Approve HVAC repairs at Beatrice High School

Dr. Nielsen shared that a couple of HVAC units at the High School are not functioning properly and need to be replaced.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the quotes from Prairie Mechanical for the repair of the HVAC units at Beatrice High School 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

8.3. Approve purchase of Bobcat

Dr. Nielsen informed the Board that the district has been working with Mead Lumber to help us procure a bobcat. Mead Lumber is willing to sell us theirs for a total of \$31,500. The bobcat will be utilized at the new elementary school for snow removal and other projects and funds from the auction proceeds will be used to purchase it.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the purchase of a Bobcat from Mead Lumber 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

8.4. Approval of the superintendent contract addendum

President Trusty informed the Board that he is proposing a 1.09% increase to the salary amount for Mr. Alexander for the upcoming school year.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the superintendent contract addendum for the 25-26 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

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Superintendent Report

Dr. Nielsen provided a brief update on the online registration (OLR) process.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be January 13, 2025 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 Janet Byars and a second by Lisa Pieper.

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 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks, Recording Secretary.

Board Secretary

Date