

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 13, 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

Absent: Eric Trusty, **Present:** Eric Book, Janet Byars, Doris Martin, Lisa Pieper, Charles Riedesel, Brandon Vetrovsky. Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Mrs. Martin, Vice-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

Byars 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 9, 2023
- 3.3. Approval of the proposed accounts for payment
- 3.4. Approval of budgetary receipts and expenditures for January 2023
- 3.5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes- February 2, 2023
- 3.6. Approval of Option Students: To Diller-Odell- Mila Wiens- Gr. K (23-24), Blakely Freitag- Gr. K (23-24), Danidy Whiting- Gr. 9 (23-24), Case Paben- Gr. 4 (23-24), Kortney Paben- Gr. 6 (23-24); To Freeman- Luna Meints- Gr. K (23-24); From Crete- Hayley Hollingsworth- Gr. K (23-24); From Freeman- Tandon Paben- Gr. 7, Makenna Burke- Gr. K
- 3.7. Approval of resignation of Roy Farrens- Director of Buildings & Grounds
- 3.8. Excuse the absence of Eric Trusty

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the consent agenda as presented 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, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Outstanding Recognition

4.1. Employee of the Month

Mr. Janssen recognized Heather Brown, a paraeducator at Stoddard, as the Employee of the Month. Those nominating her stated that she is incredibly helpful and approaches all students with kindness and understanding. Stoddard is very fortunate to have her positive, friendly personality in the building. She is an excellent role model in

fostering the "Orangemen Pride" standards and helping students see the importance of demonstrating the "Orangemen Way".

4.2. Business Friend of the Month

Mr. Alexander recognized Nebraska Orthopaedic and specifically Jayson Brueggemann as the BPS Friend of the Month. He stated that Nebraska Ortho has been providing athletic training services for the district's student athletes for many years. Twice a week, they provide a trainer that follows up with our student athletes to ensure they can keep competing or get back to competition.

4.3. Board Member Recognition

Mr. Alexander stated the last week of January an ad was run in the paper to recognize and thank the school board members for serving.

5. Information

5.1. Student Update

Riley Schwisow informed the Board that the preschool continues to be a very busy place. They are looking forward to an upcoming professional development opportunity with Dan St. Romain. Paddock Lane students have been making Valentines for senior citizens as their monthly house activity. All teachers are preparing for parent-teacher conferences. All elementary students are preparing for their upcoming spring music concerts. The Middle School girl's basketball team finished as conference champions. The Middle School is also holding an attendance challenge this semester and 8th graders are getting ready to register for freshman classes for the 23-24 school year. The Beatrice High School wrestling team qualified a record number of wrestlers for the state meet that begins later this week. The recent airplane drive sponsored by the Leadership group raised \$1300. Finally, state dance and cheer competitions will also be taking place later in the week.

5.2. Board Reports

5.2.1. STANCE Report

Mr. Alexander provided a brief summary of the following bills:

- LB99- would provide free breakfast and lunch for all public school students
- LB201- would require all public high school students to complete the FAFSA prior to graduation
- LB575- adopt the sports and spaces act (bathroom and locker room designation)
- LB647- would permit the legislature to appropriate funds for the textbook loan program
- LB630- adopt a written dress code and grooming policy
- LB487- deals with discrimination
- LB320- changes within the TEEOSA formula
- LB440- use of the special building funds

5.2.2. Negotiations

Byars reported that 8 meetings have been held between the Board and BEA negotiation teams. She stated that the Board committee is committed to ensuring that staff is at the midpoint or above the average salary with the 11 other schools within our array. The current base salary for a teacher is \$36,725 excluding benefits. The following offers have been made by the Board: 1) increase of \$1,275 with a change in deductible from \$1,050 to \$1,900, which would bring the base salary to \$38,000 2) increase of \$1,275, \$1,050 deductible, with employees paying the difference between the \$1,050 and \$1,900 deductible premiums; this would bring the base to \$38,000 and employees would pay 7.44% of the annual premium 3) increase of \$800 on the base with a \$1,450 deductible which would bring the base to \$37,525. All offers were opposed by the BEA. BEA offers have ranged from \$600- \$1,000 with the deductible remaining at \$1,050. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th.

5.2.3. Committee of the Whole

Martin reported that the Committee of the Whole met on February 2, 2023. The following topics were discussed: High Ability Learners (Dr. Nielsen), Youth Frontiers (Building Administrators), District Strategic Plan Update (Dr. Nielsen/Mr. Alexander), Policy Updates (Dr. Nielsen/Mr. Alexander), Calendar Options (Dr. Nielsen), and Initiative 433 (Mr. Alexander). Mrs. Timmerman and Mr. Alexander shared information regarding a capital campaign effort during public forum. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

6. Public Forum/Citizen's Requests/Comments Related to Agenda Items

No one spoke at this time.

7. Discussion

7.1. First Reading of Policy 5205 Graduation & Regulation 5205 Graduation Requirements

Mr. Alexander reminded the Board that the district is continuing to work through the new computer science requirement but there is a current bill (LB520) that may adjust the current requirements.

7.2. First Reading of Policy 5602 Naxolone

Mr. Alexander stated that the policy allows the storage, administration, and use of Naxolone (aka Narcan).

7.3. First Reading of Policy 6212 Assessments- Academic Content Standards

Mr. Alexander reminded Board members that dates were adjusted to ensure alignment with the state standards in the core areas.

7.4. First Reading of Policy 6921 Seizure Safe Schools

Mr. Alexander stated that in accordance with state statute and as a result of LB639, this policy is necessary to comply with the Seizure Safe School Act.

7.5. First Reading of Policy 8345 Procedures During Meetings

Mr. Alexander shared that the school attorney is recommending the addition of some language regarding the electronic means of communication during Board meetings.

8. Action

8.1. Approval of the 2023-2024 school calendar

Mrs. Byars stated that she would be voting against the calendar because the #1 complaint she receives from patrons is the early release on Wednesday afternoons.

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 approve the 2023-24 school calendar as presented passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 1

8.2. Designate SNEA representative

I move that the Board of Education of District #15 designate Eric Trusty to replace Jon Zimmerman to serve as one of the District's representatives on the board of directors of the Southeast Nebraska Education Agency passed with a motion by Janet Byars and a second by Eric Book.

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9. Administrators' Report

9.1. Building Culture

Mr. Janssen provided photos portraying the building of culture and relationships within the elementary buildings. He spoke about how Chad Dumas was in the district and encouraged the creation of building committees within each individual building. Next, he introduced Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Meints and stated that they are part of the culture committee within each of their buildings. Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Meints shared that the committees at both Lincoln and Stoddard have focused on providing positive morale among staff and students. Next, a few students had the opportunity to tell Board members about what they like about their school.

9.2. Superintendent Report

Mr. Alexander congratulated all of the winter activities on their successes so far this season. He added that it has been an honor to watch the kids represent their school and community.

10. Notification of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be March 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Administration Building. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be on February 23, 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.

11. Adjournment

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

Eric Book: Yea, Janet Byars: Yea, Doris Martin: Yea, Lisa Pieper: Yea, Charles Riedesel: Yea, Brandon Vetrovsky:

Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks.

Board Secretary/Assistant Superintendent

Date