

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 8:10 PM

Public School Library

506 W. 9th Street

Dorchester, NE 68343-0007

Notice of the time and place of the Dorchester Board of Education meeting was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Crete News, the Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald. Notice is also posted in at least three prominent places within the school district which may include the following: Dorchester Public Schools, Farmers Coop, First State Bank, and the Village Office. Individual board members received in advance the meeting agenda and meeting materials. Pursuant to Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Statutes, the public is hereby informed that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the Board meeting boardroom.

Matthew Hansen: Present

Mike Hatfield: Present

Shelly Lehr: Present

Carol Schnell: Present

Kelli Schweitzer: Present

Steve Vyhnalek: Present

1. Call to Order and Announce Open Meetings Act Verification

The regular board meeting was called to order by President Steve Vyhnalek at 8:00 pm with all board members present. He confirmed the advance notice to the public of the meeting date and agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Roll Call

Also present are Superintendent Curt Cogswell, Principal Jake Wiese, and Jen Feeken

3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment

No visitors present.

4. Request for Change of Agenda

No request for change of agenda.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting(s)

Motion to approve the reading of the last meeting(s) minutes Passed with a motion by Shelly Lehr and a second by Kelli Schweitzer.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

6. Financial Report

Motion to approve the financial report Passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Carol Schnell.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

7. Reports

7.1. Principal's Report

Mr. Wiese reported that staff PD has included a SPED refresher with Corey Bird & Rachel Weakland leading and also required Mental Health/Suicide Training with Leanne Josoff. The Principal Advisory Council met for the first time on October 11th. Grandparents Day for grade K-6 was held on September 29th and had a great turnout. Buttercup 4-H sponsored the adopt-a-door on October 4th. Academic Support Intervention (ASI) has reduced the number of D's & F's dramatically last year, fewer kids need to report this year. Formal Teacher Evaluations started last week.

7.2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cogswell shared with the board highlights from the month including Homecoming, See You at the Pole, Grandparents Day, Parent-Teacher Conferences, & the Financial Audit. He attended the monthly CRC meeting & NRCSA Regional Meeting. Mr. Cogswell reminded members that the negotiations committee must meet before November 1st. The October focus will be IDEA compliance and completing grant applications for ESSA & IDEA.

8. Discussion Items

8.1. Discuss Evaluation of Superintendent

Board members were given information about the superintendent's evaluation.

8.2. Discuss Special Education Monitoring

Mr. Cogswell talked to the board about the timeline of required activities for the Special Education Monitoring Process. The District's Data Questionnaire (Step 2) has been completed and sent to NDE.

8.3. NDE LC-2 Budget Form

Mr. Cogswell has completed the LC-2 form for Dorchester Public School.

8.4. Discuss Policy #4099-Early Retirement Incentive Program

The board discussed the Early Retirement Incentive Program. It was decided that it is not needed at the time.

8.5. Preschool needs

Mr. Cogswell talked to the board about the possible need for an extra para to help with a special-needs student.

9. Action Items

9.1. Recognize the Dorchester Education Association as the Exclusive Bargaining Agent for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to recognize the Dorchester Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the 2025-2026 school year. Passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Carol Schnell.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

9.2. Approve Option Enrollment Resolution

Motion to accept the Option Enrollment Resolution as read. Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Kelli Schweitzer.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

9.3. Approve Additional Wrestling Coach

Motion to approve a contract for Jeff Schoepf as a head wrestling coach Passed with a motion by Shelly Lehr and a second by Mike Hatfield.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

10. Board Committee Report(s)

10.1. 2024-2025 Negotiations

The Negotiation Process must begin before November 1st. Negotiations Committee Members include: Mike, Carol, and Kelli.

11. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)

Closed session was not needed at this time.

12. Establish Future Board of Education Meeting Date(s) and Time(s)

Monday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, November 13th at 7:00 pm,

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

Carol Schnell?(s) Carol Schnell, Secretary of the Board of Education