

# **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

**Monday, November 13, 2023 7:00 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 meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Steve Vyhnalek with all board members in attendance. President Vyhnalek confirmed the advance notice to the public of the meeting and agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## 2. Roll Call

Also present are Superintendent Curt Cogswell, Principal Jake Wiese, Jen Feeken, and Special Education Teacher Corey Bird.

## 3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment

No visitors present.

## 4. Request for Change of Agenda

There was a request to change the Superintendent's evaluation to the end of the meeting.

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

Motion to approve the reading of the last meeting minutes. Passed with a motion by Kelli Schweitzer and a second by Mike Hatfield.

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

Mr. Cogswell reviewed the minutes from the regular October board meeting.

## 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

Mr. Cogswell presented the October financial report.

## 7. Reports

### 7.1. Principal's Report

Mr. Wiese reported that staff PD has included going over instructional models with April Kelley, MTSS Overview with Mrs. Ridpath & Mrs. Josoff, CPR with Deb Burrows, and Reading Instruction with Megan Hammer. Mrs. Choyeski had a junior & senior parents night with information on choosing a college, completing the FAFSA, & Education Quest. Longhorn Line-up has talked about Red Ribbon Week & made thank you notes for Veterans. Becky Tyser came on October 26th to do health screenings. Elementary and junior high/high school had their excellence rallies. Events coming up include DVFD with Fire Prevention Presentations and many sporting events.

### 7.2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cogswell reported that the fall sports seasons have wrapped up. The school had it's Veteran's Day Program on November 10th. Mr. Cogswell attended the ESU 6 Senator's Forum with Steve Vyhnaek and will be attending the NRCSA Legislative Committee and Teacher Shortage Committee meetings this month. Some highlights are Hailey Schweitzer earning State Believers and Achievers (NSAA), Ashton Jirsa earning All State Choir Selection for his fourth year, Mr. Wiese being nominated for the NSASSP Outstanding New Principal of the Year, and the Young Women's Quiz Bowl Team brought home 1st place under the direction of Sandy Severance.

## 8. Discussion Items

### 8.1. 2024-2025 Staffing

Mr. Cogswell discussed with the board staffing needs for the 24-25 school year. With our growing special education population, we will need to address how to serve identified students with current and future staff.

### 8.2. Committee on American Civics

Mr. Cogswell talked about schoolwide activities done to promote American Civics. This included reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily, our Patriots Day & Veteran's Day Programs, County Government Day, and Seniors taking the Citizenship Test.

### 8.3. Review Board Policies #5037, 5044, 5048, 5050, 5051 and 5055

The board reviewed policy #5037, #5044, #5048, #5050, #5051, and #5055. Policy #5037 is Student Internet & Computer Access. This policy outlines acceptable and unacceptable use of the internet for our students. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act is also covered in the policy. Policy # 5044 Safe Pupil Transportation Plan was also reviewed. The policy addresses emergency procedures, drop-off procedures, emergency evacuation procedures, student behavior, and bus driver expectations. Policy #5048 Self Management of Diabetes and Asthma was reviewed. This policy addressed the ability for students to self-manage their diabetes or asthma. Policy #5050 is about Home Schools. A school district must send notification to NDE of any student who they know is not enrolled in a public or private school and is not on NDE's homeschool list. Policy #5051 is Eye Examinations for Students. All incoming students to kindergarten or new to the State of Nebraska are required to show proof of an eye exam upon enrollment. Policy #5055 is Enrollment of Students. This policy addresses early enrollment for kindergarten, admission to first grade, age 21, and requirements at the time of enrollment.

### 8.4. Hand out Audit to Board Members

The board was given a copy of the financial audit.

### 8.5. Class Rank

Mr. Wiese presented information regarding class rank and criteria for selecting a valedictorian. He will meet with teachers later to possibly make changes next school year.

#### 8.6. Old Bus

Mr. Cogswell discussed with the board what to do with the bus that is sitting at Tyser's Repair.

#### 9. Action Items

##### 9.1. Closed Session to Discuss Superintendent Evaluation

##### 9.2. Approve Para-Educator Hire

The board approved the hire of Amanda Easley as a preschool para. 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

#### 10. Board Committee Report(s)

Mr. Cogswell gave the board negotiation information.

#### 11. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)

Motion to move into closed session to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent at 8:02 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

Motion to return to an open meeting at 8:20 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

The meeting moved into closed session for personnel and the evaluation of job performance clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual in compliance with the law.

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

The next scheduled board meeting is December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

#### 13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm. Passed with a motion by Kelli Schweitzer and a second by Mike Hatfield.

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