

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2024 8:00 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 regular board meeting was called to order by President Steve Vyhnalek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment

Matt Bolton and Matt Smith were present.

4. Request for Change of Agenda

Discussion item 8.3 was moved 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 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 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

7. Reports

7.1. Principal's Report

Mr. Wiese reported that Dorchester hosted a Patriots' Day Program, had our first Longhorn Line-Up, the homecoming bonfire and pep rally, and Grandparent's Day. Parent Teacher Conferences went well with about 80% of parents attending. The end of the quarter is October 18th. There will be no school on November 1st, so teachers can have professional development. Grades 4-8 will attend the UNL Sportsmanship Summit on November 4th.

7.2. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cogswell reported that Mrs. Ridpath presented for Open Sky and did an amazing job. The annual financial audit was conducted on October 7th and will be finalized soon.

8. Discussion Items

8.1. Early Retirement Incentive Program - Policy #4099

Mr. Cogswell visited with eligible staff members and none are wanting early retirement at this time.

8.2. Policy Review

Mr. Cogswell review with the board policy #6015 Summer School, #6016 Homebound Instruction, #6017 Homework, #6018 Grades, and #6020 Multicultural Education.

8.3. Planning

8.4. November 1st Staff Development

9. Action Items

9.1. Recognize the Dorchester Education Association as the Exclusive Bargaining Agent for 2026-2027 school year.

Motion to recognize the Dorchester Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the 2026-2027 school year 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

10. Board Committee Report(s)

The negotiation committee needs to meet before November 1st.

10.1. Negotiations Committee

11. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)

Closed session not needed at this time.

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

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, November 11th at 7:00 pm

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 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