

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 5:30 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.

Matt Bolton: Present

Matthew Hansen: Present

Shelly Lehr: Present

Carol Schnell: Present

Matt Smith: Present

Steve Vyhnaek: Present

1. Call to Order and Announce Open Meetings Act Verification

The board meeting was called to order by President Steve Vyhnaek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

In attendance was Superintendent Curt Cogswell, President Steve Vyhnaek, and Jen Bond.

3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment

Visitors present were Nick Mumm, Elizabeth Mumm, Deb Burrows, Dawn Persing, Judy Persson, Karen Hrdlicka, Corey Bird, Karma Ridpath, Deanna Bird, Brent Zoubek, Jill Choyeski, Amanda Cerny, and Irma Lopez.

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 minutes Passed with a motion by Matt Smith and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnaek: Yea

6. Financial Report

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

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnaek: Yea

7. Reports

7.1. Principal's Report

Mr. Wiese shared that the AAPL Test (Parts 1 and 2) are completed including some makeups. So far, four have earned the "Seal of Bi-Literacy" & earned all four semesters of Spanish 1 and 2. We had the 3rd quarter excellence rallies for both the elementary and high school. The elementary and junior high reading classic competitions were a success.

7.2. Superintendent's Report

We had three students qualify for state speech. Prom and post prom went well and it seemed like the kids had a great time. Nine students attended State FBLA in Kearney. Dorchester hosted the Dorchester Junior High Track Invite at McCool. The Athletic Banquet is Tuesday, April 29th. The elementary concert is May 1st. Honors night is May 6th and Graduation is May 10th.

8. Discussion Items

8.1. Legislative Bill Review

Dr. Cogswell shared with the board legislative bills that could impact our school district.

8.2. District Assessment, Community Engagement, and Grant Coordinator Position

Dr. Mumm presented to the board a new position District Assessment, Community Engagement, and Grant Coordinator.

8.3. Insurance proposals

Dr. Cogswell shared with the board that he has asked two different insurance companies for proposals for the next school year.

8.4. NRCSA Spring Conference

Dorchester's payment for the NRCSA Spring Conference will roll over to the 2026 NRCSA Conference.

8.5. Staff Computers

Dr. Cogswell told the board that we had a quote for 14 new laptops for staff for next year, but we needed to act soon to ensure pricing.

8.6. Para to Professional Program

Dr. Cogswell shared with the board that we have two staff members who are current paras striving to get their teaching certificates.

9. Action Items

9.1. Consider Approving Staff Hiring

Motion to approve the new principal contract for JJ Wagner Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matt Bolton.

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

Motion to table the approval of the District Assessment, Community Engagement, and Grant Coordinator Position Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matt Bolton.

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

9.2. Consider Approving the 2025-2026 Classified Pay

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 classified staff pay scale with a starting of \$18.00 Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Shelly Lehr.

Matt Bolton: Abstain (With Conflict), Steve Vyhnalek: Abstain (With Conflict), Matt Smith: Nay, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea

10. Board Committee Report(s)

There are no committee reports at this time

11. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)

Close session not needed

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

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, May 12th at 7:00 pm

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:54 pm Passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Matt Smith.
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

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