

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
October 8, 2018  
7:30 PM

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members in attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Branson Husa, Dave Zimmerman, Harlan Rickers, and Jim Zvolanek. The following administrators were presents: Jerry Rempe, Jeff Murphy, & Christopher Proski. The following student board member was present: Cheyenne Leach. The following visitor were present: Angela Meyer, Jeff Argo, and Milton Pike.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 10, Regular Board Meeting, Budget Hearing, & Tax Request Hearing

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

III.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

Milton Pike said the city supports the track project because no taxpayer dollars will support the project. He noted he would like more information about the project before all parties move forward. Angela Meyer stated she is working hard to secure grant funding and if any one has questions or need more information about the project, they should contact her.

IV. Financial Statement: Item for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

C.D. Bids for the month were as follows:

Security First Bank, Blue Springs Special Funds: 1.19%

Wymore State Bank, Special Funds: 1.18%

IV.A. Approval of Bills

IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

#### V.A. Facility Update

John Linder provided the school board with a written report over completing tasks before winter, shop roof replacement due to hail damage, and the replacement of a frequency drive at the Elementary School.

Dr. Prosocki gave the board a list of upcoming summer projects for the district with the projected start and completion dates. Money from the QCPUF bond will be used to finance the majority of these projects which includes roof replacements, new windows, new phone system, and resurface the gym floor. The new bleachers for the football field and replacing the glass doors at the Jr./Sr. High School still need to be planned and Dr. Prosocki hopes to pursue this during the next month.

#### V.B. Personnel Items

#### V.C. Technology Update

Dr. Prosocki noted that the district just added an Instagram social media account in an effort to increase external communication with students, staff, parents, and patrons. He also gave the board an update on the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of technology for the 2018-2019 school year. Lastly, he gave the board an update on the all the software purchases in the district.

### VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

#### VI.A. Student Board Member Report

The student board member reported on the following items: upcoming activities and the start of fall sports.

#### VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the following items: current enrollment numbers, parent teacher conferences that took place on September 27 (There was a 84% turnout and this number was up from last year), Red Ribbon week during the week of October 29, upcoming activities and athletic contests, and he noted Southern will be hosting D-1 sub-district volleyball on October 29.

#### VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the following items: alternative school update (One of the district five spots is filled, recent career fairs and college visits offered to students, a manufacturing day in Beatrice, PreACT for sophomores, parent teacher conferences on September 27 (There was a 46% turnout as compared to 61% the year before), and an enrollment update.

Dr. Prosocki did note that there was an away volleyball game during parent teacher conferences.

#### VI.D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Prosocki went over a handout from a recent Nebraska Association of School Boards area membership meeting and he went over the positives and the concerns associated with the current preschool partnership with Head Start. If the district decides to end the partnership for the 2019-2020 school year, he would like a decision made by December board meeting for planning reasons. Next, he went over the ESU 5 special education costs which are down from the previous school year because the district hired their own 3-year-old preschool teacher. Dr.

Prososki is going to serve on Deshler Public Schools external visit in January and Bobby Truhe from KSB School Law will now help lead the district through the policy review because Tim Malm has is changing jobs and he will no longer be working at KSB School Law. Dr. Prososki said that he hopes to have all of the district policies updated by the March board meeting and he hopes that all of the district handbooks will be updated by August 1. Dr. Prososki went over the recent fall MAP scores, he gave an update regarding the NASB State Education Conference on November 15 & 16, and he went over how Southern is offering a wide array of personal finance courses to 10-12 grade students that covers checking accounts, saving accounts, budgeting, debit cards, credit cards, and retirement to name a few topics that are covered. Dr. Prososki reminded the school board that they will need to complete his evaluation at the November board meeting, he went over the district's strategic plan for the acquisition of textbooks for next year, and the board talked about Angela Meyer's desire to raise money for a track. Dr. Prososki noted that Southern Public Schools is not currently involved with the track project, but if a track is built in the future, the district may consider covering the upkeep costs. He went over a recent payment of \$45,500 to purchase a bus. The district has spent around \$200,000 in the last couple of months to pay for buses. Dr. Prososki recently started to work on the federal program grants and since Southern is a property poor district, these grants help cover overhead costs and other district costs throughout the school year. Lastly, Dr. Prososki noted that Southern Public Schools is a safe and positive learning environment for both students and staff. The district legally cannot comment on student discipline matters and the same is true when it comes to personnel matters (The district cannot legally comment on personnel matters as well).

## VII. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

### VII.A. Policy 3040: School Safety and Security (Student Memorials)

The school board tabled Policy 3040: School Safety and Security (Student Memorials). Dr. Prososki noted that Southern currently has a number of student memorials on display at the Jr./Sr. High School. If the board approves this policy, the current student memorials that are on display will be taken down and returned to each individual family.

Dr. Prososki noted that most school districts across Nebraska do not allow student memorials for the following reasons:

- 1) Multiple studies have shown that student memorials are detrimental to students' wellbeing.
- 2) Research shows that memorials can delay grieving and things like memorials and media coverage of suicides can contribute to copy-cat deaths.
- 3) A school district does not want to foster an environment where suicide becomes a response to any of life's difficulties for school-aged students.
- 4) However, it is impossible to disallow memorials for some deaths yet allow them for others. For example, a student death due to a car accident or terminal illness could receive an outpouring of support, while a student suicide generates a muted response due to the school's desire to minimize the impact of suicide among the student body.
- 5) From a purely legal side, another difficult issue is the fact that memorials almost always create a "forum" where First Amendment issues and questions of "equal treatment" arise.
- 6) Similarly, allowing memorials puts the school in a position of determining whether the scope of the memorial is appropriate or "fair." For example, requests for memorials have ranged from a moment of silence, to a small plaque on a bench, to a full statue. In some cases, the financial

status of the family has impacted the request to the point where the school district has been asked to pay for it.

7) Southern Public Schools will support students who wish to attend student memorials by allowing any Southern student to attend a memorial service and receive an excused absence. Grief counseling and other support will also be made available to students at Southern Public Schools.

VII.B. Approve the Resolution to Adopt the First Half of a More Current and Revised Set of 4000 Series Policies

VII.C. Approve the Track Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Wymore

VII.D. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., November 12, 2018, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education  
Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education  
of this School District