

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
February 14, 2022

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on February 14, 2022 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Duane Teter, Jason Neseth, Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Superintendent Todd Porter, Principals Matt Springer and Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Jennifer McConville and Jason Klopping.

Visitors: Jody Hyke, Don Ellicott, and Jack Moles.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Neseth, to excuse absent board members Jennifer McConville and Jason Klopping. Ayes: Teter, Brooks, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Klopping. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Brooks, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, O'Dea, and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Klopping. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, Stockmens Bank Bartley Branch, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley and published in the Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Brooks, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 board meeting as presented. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Brooks, and Teter. Abstained: O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Klopping. Motion carried.

Jason Klopping arrived at the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Neseth, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, Brooks, and O'Dea. Abstained: Klopping. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Klopping, to declare the district's real estate on the south side of 103 West Nebraska Street as surplus property and are investigating the specifics for public auction. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, O'Dea, and Klopping. Nays: Teter. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Neseth, to approve the bid by Gerih Concrete Construction LLC in the amount of \$36,450.00 for replacing concrete on the east side of the junior-senior high school. Ayes: Brooks, Klopping, Neseth, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the bid by Dell in the amount of \$23,995.20 to purchase 80 Chromebooks with a three-year warranty. This will be year one of a three-year rotation to replace the district's student laptops. Ayes: Teter, O'Dea, Klopping, Neseth and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter reviewed the current Return to School Plan, as posted on the school website, with board members.

Superintendent Porter also reiterated that the ESSER III Grant allocations are being used for the salary and benefits of elementary instructors for splitting two grades and an additional interventions instructor for two to three years. This is a total of 2.5 full-time equivalency instructors.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Neseth, to approve the school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Ayes: Teter, Kloeping, Neseth, Brooks, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloeping, to go into executive session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss pay increases for the protection of the public interest and personnel issues for the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. President Teter repeated the motion, and the board voted as follows: Ayes: Neseth, O'Dea, Brooks, Teter, and Kloeping. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

President Teter closed executive session at 8:31 p.m.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Brooks, to renew a contract with Tara Fries as the elementary principal and Matt Springer as the junior-senior high school principal and transportation director for the 2022-2023 school year with a 3% increase in salaries. Ayes: Teter, Neseth, Kloeping, Brooks, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Kloeping, to approve a 3% pay increase for non-certified staff for the 2022-2023 school year. Ayes: Kloeping, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Abstained: O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Jack Moles of Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association discussed the process and timeline of performing a superintendent search for the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent Porter reported on a teacher vacancy survey, his and the principals' plans to attend the NRCSA Spring Convention in March, student medical issues and counseling and good staff and principals handling extraordinary situations.

Principal Fries thanked board members for approving the 10:00 starts every month to address curriculum and access weaknesses and their correction, upcoming kindergarten orientation, and preschool enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year.

Principal Springer informed the Board of the retirement of Bernie Walz on February 25 with Marvin Korell as the route bus driver for the remainder of the school year, possible placement of student teachers within our district, adequate buses and possible option students for the next school year, installation of a television monitor in the gym, and upcoming changes and needs for equipment in the gym.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloeping, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Brooks, and Kloeping. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.