

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
January 13th, 2025

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:44 p.m. on January 13, 2025 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Duane Teter, John O'Dea, Jennifer McConville, Brooke Brooks, Jason Neseth, Derek Meyers, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Tara Fries, and Sydney Mousel.

Absent:

Visitors: Sagan Carman - Downer, Sasha Burton, Cindy Wilcox, Todd Doyle

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the 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 O'dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Ayes: Brooks, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Meyers, Teter abstained. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by Teter, to Adjourn Sine Die and Elect School board Officers at 7:50 p.m. for the 2024 calendar Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Motioned to nominate elected officers as follows: Jason Neseth as President, Duane Teter as Vice-President, Brooke Brooks as Secretary, and Jennifer McConville as Treasurer. A yes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

President Neseth presided during the remainder of the meeting.

Motioned, to retain committee members as follows: Teter, Meyers, and O'Dea to the Americanism Committee; Neseth, Brooks, and McConville to the Transportation Committee; Meyers, O'Dea, and Brooks to the Building and Grounds Committee; Neseth, McConville, and Teter to the Negotiations Committee; and Brooks to the Foundation Board. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Meyers, to take action to authorize Board Officers to sign checks for the following funds: General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Activity

Fund, Qualified Capital Fund, Student Fee Fund, and School Nutrition Fund. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Brooks, to appoint an official depository for the district funds at Stockmens Bank and Adams Bank & Trust. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Brooks, to take appropriate action on designating The Valley Voice as an official news publication for the school district. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the resignation of Mrs. Conie Lovin. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by McConville, to approve the revision of Policy 3004.1 Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by O'dea, to approve the revision of Policy 2008 Meetings. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Meyers, to approve revision of Policy 5045. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported that the after-school daycare program will remain unchanged for the time being. Letters of intent regarding the program were sent out at the beginning of January. In addition, Superintendent Billeter took the opportunity to thank the board members, as January is School Board Officer Appreciation Month, recognizing their contributions and support to the district. Regarding the district's Beef in Schools program, Billeter shared that they are expecting to receive their first shipment of beef this week, with plans for the kitchen staff to begin incorporating it into meals starting this month. This initiative is part of an effort to provide locally sourced protein to students. The district has also received additional donations to cover the costs of freezers and beef processing, further supporting the program's success. On a different note, we are currently facing an issue with its watt stopper. Superintendent Billeter mentioned that the district is in the process of obtaining quotes for the installation of a new system. An upgrade to the lighting system to resolve the issue and improve efficiency & most importantly safety.

Principal Fries has reported that the preschool admission letters have been sent out, and as of now, there have been 31 applicants. This number indicates the level of interest in the preschool program and may guide the school in determining the resources and planning required for the upcoming year. Additionally, Principal Fries has expressed a desire to revisit and potentially revise the preschool entry policy for the 2026-2027 school year, maybe this spring. This review is necessary due to some "grey areas" in the current policy, which likely refer to ambiguities or inconsistencies that could lead to confusion or challenges in its application. Furthermore, new legislation may be influencing the way students are admitted or the criteria that must be met for preschool entry.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

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