

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2020 7:00 PM
High School Media Center

ROUTINE BUSINESS

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. There were 5 visitors.
- Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws
- Excused Absences: None-all members present.
- Roll Call: Mike Bonacci: Present Mike Conrad: Present Jon Genoways: Present Kim Lukasiewicz: Present Amanda Schrum: Present Kelli Shaner: Present
- Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Mike Conrad and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Election of President: Mike Conrad nominated Jon Genoways for president. There were no other nominations. Jon Genoways was elected president by secret ballot on a 6-0 vote.
- Election of Vice President: Amanda Schrumm nominated Mike Conrad for vice president and Mike Bonacci seconded. There were no other nominations. Mike Conrad was elected vice president by secret ballot on a 6-0 vote.
- Election of Secretary: Mike Conrad nominated and Mike Bonacci seconded Kim Lukasiewicz for secretary. There were no other nominations. Kim Lukasiewicz was elected secretary by secret ballot on a 6-0 vote.
- Election of Treasurer: Kim Lukasiewicz nominated and Mike Conrad seconded for treasurer. There were no other nominations. Mike Bonacci was elected treasurer by secret ballot on a 6-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

Anita Saalfeld, Spanish Instructor
Paul Wilson, Computer Science
Ashley Dougherty, Elementary Special Education

-Anita Saalfeld gave the board information about a Spanish Club trip she would like to plan for the summer of 2021. She is in contact with Mr. Jones to coordinate with upcoming band trips and she is planning this year because it coincides with her freshmen's her first year here who will be seniors at that time. She had handouts from one company however nothing has been decided yet awaiting board approval. The itineraries are similar throughout companies for Latin America and the destinations are not dangerous places. She is hoping to fundraise to defer costs, but with the amount of fundraising being done, students would probably be responsible for at least part of the costs. They require 1 sponsor for every 5-6 students, and it would also be open to those not in Spanish Club. Mr. Green said it will be a great opportunity for our kids and he has canvassed conference schools and more than half have policies in place for student trips but with this being out of the country, we would need to get policies of our own modeled after those of other schools. Our attorneys and insurance carriers should be contacted also. Ms. Saalfeld said the companies also carry insurance for these trips. There was discussion about language barriers and how the cultural experience could outweigh this. A comment was made that students can understand Spanish after being in her classes. The board supports this request and administration will work to bring it to our students.

-Paul Wilson presented information on how computer science is now a reality of industry as there is not a field that is not being transformed by computers. He gave examples of the number of jobs available in the field compared to the low number of computer science graduates and there is no way they can keep up with the jobs available even with wages twice the rate of other jobs. This person would incorporate logic, problem solving and

creativity into the courses and not just how use it. He said this is foundational to every job and helps students to be good digital citizens. It will improve what we already offer after aligning it with what we now have. It would also open up teachers who now are teaching computers classes for other classes, especially Business and can coordinate with robotics. We now do not have much programming but will increase it helping our MCC Academy kids' opportunities. There are now at least 5 classes that can be taken over by this person which can remold our classes to a better use. The classes will be scheduled wherever there is room. The board agreed to this hire.

Ashley Dougherty gave a presentation showing how teacher caseloads are weighted with the ratings capturing the needs of each student. Our elementary special education staff has a lot of needs on their caseloads with increased awareness of more disabilities and the changes in regulations to find more kids and is asking to hire another special education teacher. Early interventions are in place to help students who don't necessarily qualify but need extra help. The staff has been trying to work through this without the need for another teacher. The District has hired more paras because of increased students with needs. The two teachers in the lower grades have the highest numbers of needs in the ratings. There was a question about ideal caseloads and 20-25 is what we have now depending on the needs. There are paras at both buildings but elementary are not with one specific teacher as they follow students throughout the day in their classes and are spread throughout the building. High school paras are assigned to specific teachers based on grade level and also are either with or in classes of students who need help. Hiring an additional Special Education teacher would not necessarily reduce the need for any of our paras. Ashley concluded by saying she would like someone experienced in behavior as it takes up a lot of time in the classrooms. We are experiencing bigger and bigger behavior numbers.

REGULAR AGENDA

-Public Participation: No one asked to address the board.

-Approval of Claims: Motion to approve the Claims as presented in the amount of \$100,451.15 from the General Fund and \$5,600.46 from Savings & Depreciation passed with a motion by Mike Conrad and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Board Committee Realignment: New committees: Committee on American Civics/Facilities and Grounds and Transportation Finance/Technology. Moved that the Board of Education reorganize the Board Committees to be: Committee on American Civics/ Facilities and Grounds and Transportation; and Finance/Technology Committee passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Mike Conrad. Jon Genoways said this realignment will make for better board involvement. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Committee Assignments 2020: Committee on American Civics/Facilities and Grounds and Transportation - Kelli Shaner, Amanda Schrum, and Mike Bonacci; Finance/Technology - Jon Genoways, Mike Conrad, and Kim Lukasiewicz

-Set Regular Board Meeting Day and Time: Moved that the Regular Meetings of the Fort Calhoun Board of Education be held at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Monday of each m passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Designate the District Official Newspaper for Publications: Moved that Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise and the Daily Record, when needed, be designated as the official newspapers for the Fort Calhoun School District passed with a motion by Mike Conrad and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Designate District's Legal Counsel: Moved to designate the attorneys of KSB School Law of Lincoln, Nebraska as district legal counsel. The District reserves the right to use the legal counsel of Nebraska Association of School

Boards, as may be needed passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Mike Bonacci.

Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Board Authorization for Superintendent Actions: Moved that the Board of Education authorize and grant the superintendent or his designee, authority to represent the District in all matters relating to local, state and federal programs and funds passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Amanda Schrum.

Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Appoint an Executive Secretary: Moved that Rose Tinkham be appointed as the Executive Secretary for the Fort Calhoun School District passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum.

Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Board Members Make Declaration for the Record of Any Conflicts of Interest per Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Laws. There were none.

-Selection of Bank Depository for District Funds: Moved that Washington County Bank, Blair and Fort Calhoun Nebraska be designated as the depository for all School District #3 accounts for 2020 passed with a motion by Mike Conrad and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Enrollment Information

Information about current enrollment, capacities, and option applications so far was discussed. Comments were made about the numbers and with some of the numbers additional sections wouldn't need to be added. There was also discussion about Kindergarten Roundup and how it is set up. It will be April 17th and 24th and all kids will come both days.

-Plan B - Elementary Gym and Preschool

Plans were presented for a new recreation/gym space at the elementary which could also be used for practices to eliminate early morning practice at the high school. The facility can be locked down from the school. The current gym would be converted into two preschool spaces. There was discussion about lowering the ceiling height. As there needs to be at least one outside door for preschools, one would have to exit through the other. Storage was discussed as this would put stairs in spots where storage now is and also having an office for the PE teacher. Also discussed was how this would affect the bus drop off, setbacks and easements, and preschool dismissal and bus lanes. Parking will change for this so it will be a "park and walk" situation. The gym will not be used for competitions as there will be no bleachers or room to stand and watch—it is for elementary recreation and practices. This will complete the footprint and gets rid of the ramp and water retention problem on the west side, but would also necessitate relocating part of the playground.

Financial option proposals were discussed and that the board does not want to deplete the Building Fund to do this. One proposal is for a 7 year loan of \$3 million with a down payment that will save around \$200,000 in interest over its life which is much more doable. The proposed start date is after the current addition is finished, and if started this Fall while equipment etc. is still on site it could cost less, and some changes would have to be made to the addition plans to work. The estimated time of completion would be 18 months and the costs are just for construction. Another option would be to wait until we have the money and not have to borrow. Renovating the old gym into classrooms would probably be the last thing. Amanda Schrum said the gym space is good and keeping it attached meets the needs of what we've been telling the public. Mike Conrad said this will make all our facilities up-to-date and get 3 classes of each grade inside one building. Jon said this is not a bond issue or increase of taxes—the board still can give back tax money to the public. The District has always used Davidson for finances and we have always had a good relationship and they work hard for us. They have saved us years and money on our bonds by their recommendations and refinancing knowledge. Jon said all the kids are important to us and after this there would be no more room to expand so the next logical conversation would be to

build a middle school. 63 is the capacity number for all grades K-12. Mr. Wagner said this plan meets all the needs and the few inconveniences along the way will be managed. Boyd Jones made the proposal, but with the cost it probably would need to be bid. The building will be accessible to the public but not as free rein or with fobs. It will be scheduled as are the other ones when no school or school activities are scheduled. Jon Genoways concluded by saying we still need a community space with the city, but that process is continuing but has not gone any further with the joint venture.

-Standing Committee Reports

Finance: Discussed a budget review for 2019-20 in conjunction with the 4 classroom build; discussed 2 additional teachers and is recommending them for full board approval; discussed another possible addition to the elementary school with gym and recreation space; and reviewed the option enrollment information in preparation for the February board meeting.

Education/American Civics: Kelli Shaner reported on visiting the district's social media policies and after consultation with the school attorneys will be presenting it for approval; Three Rivers Health Department has asked to distribute materials making people aware of their services, which will be reviewed and presented possibly some time other than home ball games; recommending both 2 new positions for board approval; discussed option enrollment limits in preparation for the February board meeting; discussed Plan B for the elementary school and is in favor of exploring this further; and is recommending the committee realignment for full board approval. She spoke about 2nd and 4th grade for 2020-21, and she will get with the school attorney about contract information for the superintendent search.

-Board Member Reports

Amanda Schrum attended the 6th Grade cells presentation and said they were really well done; Kelli Shaner thanked the board for their condolences; and Mike Bonacci is excited about what's going on in the schools and commented on Friday's presentation and said the best way for people to stay informed is to come to our meetings and not listen to rumors about what's going on. Jon Genoways expressed mixed feelings after the public meeting and explained why this time is so different and why the board took the direction it did and Mike Conrad added the board was divided on a decision. The last superintendent was hired after consulting with ESU #3 and recommendations to stay internal with only one candidate and that is what happened. This is a difficult process and we have taken steps to head down the right path as it is no easy path going forward. "We feel this is the fairest avenue and the district deserves the best candidate we can." "It is the board's responsibility to do its due diligence to the community and kids to get the best." He also stated the internal candidates have the qualifications and "would do to have any of you".

-Administrator Reports

Mr. Green reported on the various tests the students will be taking this semester including the State-mandated ACT for all our Juniors. The First Semester Report Card showed that 95% of our junior high kids passed all their classes; 96% of our high school kids passed all their classes with 100% of the freshmen and sophomores passed all their classes. We sent 4 Robotics Teams to the Omaha Benson competition and all competed with one of the teams competing very well. This competition put them with large Metro Omaha school teams. Professional Development breakout sessions and School Improvement items filled the teachers' inservice the first day back after break.

-Mr. Wagner reported on continuing the behavior modifications in the building, Science projects and curriculum followup committee; working on the Social Studies adoption; professional development with ESU #3; and upcoming events. He also reported on the all staff inservice during which they collected information and artifacts for their domains to work for our school improvement process. ESU #3 will also be here on 1/17 for further inservice.

-Mr. Wemhoff reported on attending the upcoming NSAA District 2 meeting and that he is up for election for two positions within the organization—Chair of District II and alternate to the Board from District II; Conference

AD's with those from prospective members will meet on 1/23 to go over information and schedules to see if will work between schools; paperwork for the baseball coop has been filed and some of the "backend" stuff is being done while waiting for approval; and upcoming events.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Johnson spoke about board goals including having Deputy Byelick give a report to the board in either February or March; the Legislative Preview he attended where the main topics seem to focus on property tax reform, prisons and the teacher discipline law. The discipline law has been introduced and seems to have been cleaned up. He will keep informed and report back at the February meeting. He reminded board members about the upcoming deadlines for filing for office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

-Enter into Executive Session: Motion to enter into Executive Session for # 2 and #6 – a strategy session with respect to real estate purchases and discussing personnel and the evaluation of job performance clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual in compliance with the law. The Board entered into executive session at 8:33 PM passed with a motion by Mike Conrad and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Reconvene in Open Session: Motion to return to regular, open session at 8:55 PM passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.