

## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, February 11, 2019 7:00 PM

Media Center of the Secondary Building

Mike Bonacci: Present

Mike Conrad: Present

Jon Genoways: Present

Kim Lukasiewicz: Present

Amanda Schrum: Present

Kelli Shaner: Present

### **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. There were 4 administrators and 3 visitors present.

Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws

Excused Absences and Roll Call: All members were present

Approval of Agenda: Moved that the agenda be approved 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

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

Public Participation: No one asked to address the board.

Approval of Claims: Moved that the claims for February be approved in the amount of \$82,021.93 from the General Fund and \$2,650.00 from Savings and Depreciation passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Mike Conrad. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea  
There were questions about tuition payments to Boystown and Westside Schools.

Consent Agenda: Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved 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.  
Jon Genoways commented that David Genoways has done a nice job with the monthly expenditures narrative.

Standing Committee Reports: Both committees met this past month.

Jon Genoways began with an overview of Option Enrollment he compiled showing the impact on our district. One of the focuses was the positive financial impact it has on our district. After expenses for growth, there has been over \$1.7 million realized to replace aging equipment, vehicles, technology and the 2017-18 improvements to our Elementary building/campus. The

district was facing financial trouble and option was started as a way to remedy this. Our average number of students is 35 per grade and 17 in each class so there would be no reduction in staff with resident only students. The board said if this would help the financial picture, they would give back and they did just that with a 2¢ decrease in property tax last year. The approximately \$2 million received annually from option far out paces what is received from property taxes, but resident students are still the goal.

After talking to teachers, all agreed that lower student to teacher ratios are best. He spoke about class sizes and compared ours to studies and we are within the range of 22-25 per class with paras being used in classrooms with higher numbers or unique dynamics. One area of concern brought up was physical space in classrooms with the configurations of furniture/supplies etc. in those where the ratios are higher and the need for the students to have space to move around as they are very “mobile and busy”. All classroom sizes are within State guidelines. Also discussed was paras having an education background if they are in the classrooms. Dr. Johnson charged Mr. Wagner with speaking to teachers about ideas for different classroom designs which could help.

The report also compared our class sizes to other schools in the area and Genoways said it is his opinion that the District maximize the investment and classes should be filled to the set capacities as long as the numbers are not detrimental to the educational process. The board will go with what the administration suggests as they “live with it every day”. In talking with teachers, the majority said they would rather have smaller classes than a para in their room. Typically, surrounding schools do not add a para unless the class is over 25 students or there is/are students with a verified need. We need “one voice” from all.

In summary, the board believes the staffing is in place to handle our current class size capacity limits, with resident students being the exception; Fort Calhoun has similar class sizes compared to surrounding districts; option enrollment is critical for the financial viability of the District; it is critical that we all represent the District with “one voice in agreement”; and the limits will be set at this meeting.

Some items that are part of the option program include being over the number of students where a district could be forced to consolidate; the option deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> but a student may apply after March 15<sup>th</sup> if the resident district releases them; all option students will be treated the same as resident students---once they’re in, they’re in; and if a resident student attends Fort Calhoun for at least 2 consecutive years, they are our student even if they would happen to move from the District. The state deadline date of April 1<sup>st</sup> makes it difficult for schools to determine the capacities as resident students are our students no matter when they move to the District. We receive option applications from all locations including families looking for a quality education for their children, teacher/staff children, families with Fort Calhoun address who are not in our District; individuals that own property or a business in Fort Calhoun, don’t live here, but pay taxes here; and families who live in close proximity to our District. They are not from one specific area.

In conclusion Genoways gave reduction examples and savings that would be realized, and what the dynamics of the District would be if there were no option enrollment. He said the District needs to “maximize what we have”. It is his opinion that option enrollment is the way to do this.

Education & Americanism: It was a good meeting discussing option enrollment and class sizes;

staff training for subs and paras to be sure they are being utilized properly and possible new teacher training; the process of reporting the legislative issues as they progress through the Unicameral being reported by NASB, stressing legislation providing teachers with the options of force, restraint or removal from class; and personnel.

Finance, Grounds & Transportation: Conrad reported on discussing the budget being on track with taxes coming, personnel; expenditures being recommended based on recommendations and/or suggestions through the security audit; option enrollment; and a salary and benefit discussion for new personnel,

Policy 5004 Option Enrollment; 5004R Option Enrollment Capacities; Option Enrollment Capacity Resolution: Moved that the Board of Education affirm Policy 5004, pass the Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for 2019-20 and pass the Resolution Governing Option Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for the 2019-20 school year 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. Dr. Johnson met with the teaching staff and talked about the numbers. They assured him they have the ability to work within them. He also said they are talking about the paras and making sure they are where they are needed and meet requirements needed for their assignment. Siblings were also discussed as was lowering the numbers and the financial impact; the numbers of paras and the classroom dynamics; and formulating a plan for assigning paras. Genoways said we have supported teachers and classrooms with paras as needed. The District and board has kept its word to make this happen after the years where funds were low and with this plan there are still “dollars to educate, no matter how many kids”. These numbers are visited each year so things could change in the future.

Staff Resignation: Moved that the resignation of Elizabeth Brittain be accepted at the end of the current contract period passed with a motion by Kim Lukasiewicz and a second by Mike Conrad. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. She is seeking a Junior High position and is excited for a new opportunity.

#### Board Member Reports

Amanda Schrum reported on attending her first committee meeting, getting her feet wet, and doing well while trying to understand board dynamics. Lukasiewicz commented on students in honor bands and how they are able to master difficult college and professional music. Dr. Johnson said these students represent the most we’ve had attend. Bonacci started discussion about the band trailer, if it is used for the Summer trip and if a new vehicle was in the works to take the place of the van that pulls it. Dr. Johnson said will not go on the band trip, no new vans have been purchased, and possibly the maintenance truck could work to pull it.

#### Administrator Reports

Mr. Green: Reported on the local spelling bee; ACT prep underway for our Juniors; teachers attending a seminar for English Language focusing on ownership of learning and desire for mastery among the teaching styles; Marzano training for staff; and the students and their awards

from the Scholastic State Art Competition.

Mr. Wagner: Reported on the PFE sponsored Artist in Residence project; Early Childhood playgroup for incoming students; the spelling bee; Donuts with Dad; and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the Omaha Symphony. He also spoke about the elementary yearbook, hiring a secretary; upcoming program reviews; professional development; and upcoming events. The school improvement committee is continuing its work on creating school improvement plans for each building.

Mr. Wemhoff: Reported that Fort Calhoun will be hosting District Track this year; the Wall of Excellence is being completed and yearbooks have been sent to be scanned for the online yearbook project; and upcoming events including District competitions, Spring sports practices, and music dates.

Superintendent Report and Legislative Summary: Dr. Johnson reported on meeting with area schools to identify and formulate a mental health plan based on the needs discussed; auxiliary projects that were discussed and approved or placed on hold; the upcoming Title I review visit; the Fort Calhoun/multi-agency safety review meeting to discuss the plans we have in place which are good with suggestions for revisions where necessary; and upcoming events. He called attention to the bills presented so far in the legislature, summaries of them and which ones will affect schools and education. Special attention should be given to the one providing teachers with the options of force, restraint or removal from class.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was not necessary

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 passed with a motion by Jon Genoways and a second by Kim Lukasiewicz. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Kim Lukasiewicz: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea