

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021 7:00 PM
High School Media Center

ROUTINE BUSINESS

-Call to Order: The president called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with 5 members, 3 administrators and 4 visitors. Mr. Wagner was absent, excused.

-Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws

-Excused Absences: Moved that the absence of Josh Christensen be excused as requested passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Absent, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Roll Call: Roll was taken with Mike Bonacci, Mike Conrad, Jon Genoways, Amanda Schrum and Kelli Shaner present. Josh Christensen was absent, excused.

-Approval of Agenda: Moved that the agenda be approved as presented passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

PRESENTATION-HIGH ABILITY LEARNING

All present moved to the Auxiliary Gym for the presentation with more space allowed for it and social distancing. There were 16 additional visitors along with Mr. P.J. Mallette and students Lauren Lammers, Mabel Wilmes, Sean Waters, Mason Reichert and Gannon Otte who presented the HAL project with 5 coding challenges and the drones that are able to perform as a result of them. *For the Win Robotics* is curriculum-based on the standards and incorporates activities that range from building them, to learning the science of flying, to getting them to fly, to programming them, and then to getting them to work within given parameters. The students also gave information on careers connected to what they're doing with coding and drones.

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 \$89,827.55 from the General Fund, and \$294,051.13 from Savings and Depreciation passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. There was discussion about the first installment of the SRO payment to facilitate requesting reimbursement through the Title IV grant; how members were aware that this money was available and for what, and that the balance will be paid when the total invoice for services is received.

-Claim for Abe's Trash Service: Moved that the claim for Abe's Trash Service be approved in the amount of \$989.28 passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Mike Bonacci. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

Consent Agenda

-Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Standing Committee Reports

American Civics: Kelli Shaner reported on bus replacement and needing more research on the different types of busses; increase of \$2,000 on phone proposal but still recommending it; getting a couple of verbal proposals regarding clearing the land for the new parking lot and the bids for the same; the Foundation having its first meeting and electing a Treasurer and Secretary with the President and Vice President to remain the same; any conflict of interest with a board member on the Foundation board and their voting status; discussed and are recommending the proposed numbers for class sizes and program parameters; reviewed and are recommending the 2021-22 calendar; furnishings for the new preschool classrooms; discussed pending legislation; discussed having a mid-term graduation and more research regarding this; and recommending that only community members and school organizations be given use of the Community Building.

Finance and Technology: Amanda Schrum reported on recommending to go ahead with the installation of a new phone system; recommended Mr. Green to explore options on moving the house and clearing the land for the new parking lot; discussed having new lights on the old lot which would be more cost effective and lend aesthetics as all would match; discussed class sizes and asked that the elementary staff be brought into the conversation to increase them; opening up the second class of preschool for 2021-22; recommending that a Junior High Cross Country coach be hired as a paid position; elementary cameras and intercom system are both out of the scope of the building bid, but are recommending they move forward; and reviewing and discussing the 2021-22 calendar and recommending it to the full board.

-Policy 5004 Option Enrollment; 5004R Option Enrollment Capacities; Option Enrollment Capacity Resolution: Moved that the Board of Education affirm Policy 5004, accept the Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for 2021-22 and pass the Resolution Governing Option Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for the 2021-22 school year passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Mr. Green said the capacity numbers is all that needs to be approved, there are no other changes. Mr. Wagner met with teachers in grades 4, 5 & 6 to get their input and told Mr. Green they were in agreement to adding one per class as long as it was assured that this would not be a regular practice. Mr. Mike Mallette and Mrs. Ali Romans were present and concurred. It was said that 22 was a perfect number for instructional strategies, but cautioned about the older grades are getting bigger bodies and space needs to be considered. These numbers will be consistent to follow through to the Jr-Sr High. Amanda Schrum said we have no control if resident students increase as they are part of the district and this is one reason she wanted teachers to have a say. Jon Genoways said we do not want to be a "declining district" which has a financial component and would affect state aid

if we would lose only one student from the last year's count. We participate in option enrollment and take these students to make sure we are not "declining". Ali Romans asked if we could open up classrooms possibly at the semester, and Mr. Green said our policy says no new options accepted after August 1st of the year prior to attendance, and there will always be some mobility in the grades. Mike Bonacci said we need to support the financial importance, and not too long ago in 2016-17 the capacity was at 48 with only 2 sections. This is a yearly review and we have added para's to help with this, but all the para's outside the clerical staff do work with kids with special services. David Genoways said we are reimbursed for their salaries at a rate of about 45-50% through our special education program.

-Adding Junior High Cross Country to the Extra Duty Schedule: Moved that the Board of Education add Junior High Cross Country to the Extra Duty Schedule as a paid position passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Our program has grown over the years and our volunteer coach has retired. This position is at 5 or 7% and will probably start on the first step. We will open it to our current staff first and then look outside. It is not believed that any of the current high school cross country coaches would like to take this on also.

-Authorization for Opening the Second Preschool Classroom: Moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to move forward with the necessary steps to prepare for the opening of the second section of preschool for the 2021-22 school year, to include but not limited to personnel, furnishings and supplies failed for lack of a vote. There was discussion that this motion was ambiguous. David Genoways said the initial bid was \$19,000 but this is being revised as additions need to be made to complete the areas and purchase supplies. Also, a teacher needs to be hired. Moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to move forward and hire a teacher for the second preschool class passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Mike Bonacci. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Approval of the 2021-22 Calendar: Moved that the Board of Education pass the 2021-22 school calendar as presented and recommended passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Both committees, staff and administrators have discussed it.

-Acceptance of Parking Lot Bids: Moved that the bid from Core Construction LLC be accepted in the amount of \$166,998 for the elementary parking lot passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Mr. Green said we received bids from 6 companies and when checking with Lamp Rynearson they gave a "glowing report" saying Core was an A-1 company. There was discussion about the split of payments with the city and David Genoways explained that could not be determined until the bid was accepted by the school, the party that let the bids; the school must accept the bid for the whole amount. He had estimates which he shared for the city's portion and said an interlocal agreement is in place for their payment.

-Amendment 1 of the Parking Lot Bids

Moved that the board of education accept Amendment 1 of the Parking Lot Bids for the replacement of 3 light poles on the current elementary parking lot in the amount of \$19,990. with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner failed for lack of a vote.

Mr. Green explained this is an alternate to the bid to upgrade the current lights and that there are funds available in the general fund to do this. Jon Genoways asked how old the current 3 are and if in good working order why is the board considering replacement. David Genoways said it will result in operational value as they will be LED. Economics and aesthetics were discussed further and both were important in the discussions by the committee. How the lights would affect neighbors to the school was also discussed saying information was given to them that LED lights are more directional. Retrofitting the current poles to LED was also discussed. It was the consensus of the board that more information is needed to act on this item.

-Security Cameras in the New Elementary Gym Area and PLC: Moved that the board of education contract with Prime Communications to install security cameras in the new elementary gym area and PLC for their quote of \$7,951.68 passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Jon Genoways. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. This is outside the scope of the building project.

-Approval to Move Forward on Phone System Update: Moved that the quote from ESI Communication be accepted in the amount of \$24,867.47 for the new phone system passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. This is outside the scope of the building project. The original quote for the phone system has increased by about \$2,000. It is being recommended to go forward with it.

-Intercom System in the New Elementary Gym: Moved that the board of education proceed with the installation of an intercom system in the new elementary gym area failed for lack of a vote. There was discussion about the price of this and it was decided to include a “not to exceed” amount of \$5,000 in the motion. The bid has not yet been received but believe it would be less than \$5,000. Moved that the board of education proceed with the installation of an intercom system in the new elementary gym area with costs not to exceed \$5,000 passed with a motion by Amanda Schrum and a second by Kelli Shaner. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Authorize the Superintendent to Seek Alternative Options for Removal of the Stephens' House and Clearing of the Lot: Moved that the Board of Education authorize the superintendent to seek the best alternative option for clearing the house and lot passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Mike Bonacci. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Mr. Green shared two options that have come forward, both are aware of our timeline, and know we need it done in a timely manner. Jon Genoways said the fire training would be a great option, and asked if this motion means the superintendent could decide what he wants. The board concurred it should be an agreement in writing to have it done and ready to go for construction by May 1st. Mr. Green will bring it to a meeting for board approval, but will make sure he keeps all board members in the loop with his Friday reports. It was said again that we need a commitment in writing, through our attorneys. Mr. Green said he would not make a choice without informing the board of their options.

-Teacher Resignation: Moved that the resignation of Carly Rohrich be accepted at the end of the current contract year passed with a motion by Kelli Shaner and a second by Amanda Schrum. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mike Conrad: Yea, Jon Genoways: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. She is moving closer to home and family. It will be a loss for us and we wish her the best. She taught 1st grade and is in her 3rd year in Fort Calhoun. Mr. Mike Mallette and Mrs. Ali Romans both said she was an asset.

-Board Member Reports; Mike Bonacci said the HAL presentation was great and was impressed with the technology at the elementary. He suggested this type of technical instruction follow the students into the high school. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Mallette already work hand in hand with this program. Kelli Shaner too liked the program and thought it would be good to share it with other classmates. Amanda Schrum also commented on the presentation and asked about a Spring Vocal concert. At this time they are not able to actually sing as a group and are doing other activities. She said other schools are starting to do this as is our Jr-Sr High and it might be something to consider. Mr. Wagner has not expressed this to Mr. Green one way or the other. Mike Conrad also commented on the presentation. He said the foundation met and is looking into any conflicts that may arise by his being president albeit non voting. It is their opinion there should be a school board member on the Foundation board.

-Administrator Reports: Mr. Green highlighted Mr. Wagner's report including the school Spelling Bee winners – Zoey Coontz and Aiden Tinkham, pilot assessments for ELA and Math, a construction update, virtual Parent/Teacher conferences, American Red Cross Heroes essay contest, professional development, NETA being virtual this year with staff possibly watching as part of their regular day, and upcoming events. Work continues on our school improvement plan.

Mr. Wemhoff: Interviewing candidates for the Social Studies position; secondary Spelling Bee winners-Kaylee and Anna Taylor; working on curriculum alignment for English and Science with our rep from ESU #3; switching the grades where Biology and Physical Science are taught; adding a new course in forensic science to next year's curriculum due to a lack of enrollment in integrated chemistry; adding Digital Art to our computer courses which will also qualify for Fine Arts credit; and Parent/Teacher Conferences will be virtual at the Jr-Sr High School also by either Zoom, e-mail, or phone.

-Mr. Christensen: Keeping our COVID protocols for sports/activities up to date to coaches and on the website with guidance from Three Rivers Health and the NSAA; hiring a new volleyball coach and having a "meet & greet" for parents; opening the concession stand again for home contests which makes it feel like a real event again – with the smell of popcorn; and congratulations to the 7 wrestlers who have advanced through subdistricts to districts

-Superintendent Report and Legislative Summary: Mr. Green gave an update on the board goals and said he is excited about the foundation and the direction it is taking; the Legislature has many bills introduced that could affect education including a cap on tax asking, alleviating a building fund, physical force and behavioral awareness training, and eliminating growth as a factor in state aid for one year because of COVID; even though the governor has made new DHM's, NSAA directions are to remain at 50% capacity, our cases remain low, and our health department has cautioned us on the new highly-contagious strain; and final work is being done

on the new gym which we should be able to occupy on March 1st. The board will tour the new gym prior to the March meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.