

Regular February 2023 Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023 7:00 PM
High School Media Center

as advertised in the *Pilot Tribune/Enterprise*
and on fortcalhounschools.org

MINUTES

ROUTINE BUSINESS

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. There were 4 administrators and 32 visitors present.
- Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws: Noted by President Schrum.
- Excused Absences: All members were present.
- Roll Call: Bonacci-Present; Christensen-Present; Kelly-Present; Schrum-Present; Shaner-Present; Welchert-Present.
- Approval of Agenda: Moved that the agenda be approved as presented. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Mr Josh Christensen: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

REGULAR AGENDA

-Public Participation:

Teri McKennan spoke regarding schedule changes how it affects the time that has been set aside by Mr. Jones to have individual band lessons. She returned to speak again as it seems it has gone from discussion to a proposal. If there is no time for band lessons, students will not be afforded the individual instruction needed to excel. The handbook states that 12% of the junior grade is lessons. Mr. Jones makes a commitment to the students and spends his time doing this. The cost of outside lessons is out of reach for some families, giving an example of her upbringing saying “kids learn not to ask if they know the answer”. These lessons are a foundation of our bands. Study halls could be used to give kids the opportunity for other activities, or changes could be made for other classes or emergencies. Para’s should be used for this and if are we short paras is it because of wages? This would be the “beginning of the end” for the program. Kids can add band accomplishments to their resume’ and for some this is their resume’.

Julie Pohlad spoke about the band program stating that a few years ago Mr. Jones was selected for the Outstanding Band Director award by his peers. He has told students that whether it be solos, ensembles, or honor bands it's the kids’ extra that make it happen. Over 2/3 of the junior high band have signed up for solos at an upcoming contest and need extra work from lessons. He holds these lessons for all of them depending on what’s upcoming. Not all students are able to come before or stay after school, so during school time is the only way to get the extra they need. Private lessons cost and most of these families can’t afford that kind of money. “Current band students deserve the same quality program as we have had the last 40 years”. Our music specialists do a great job and she asked that the board please let them do the job they are certified for. “Now is a critical time.”

- Approval of Claims: Moved that the claims for February be approved in the amount of \$105,021.05 from the General Fund and \$28,377.78 from Savings & Depreciation. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green explained some of the claims being for 2 months due to the early date of the January meeting and the S&D expense for 6th Grade Chromebooks; otherwise, the claims are standard.
- Claim for Abe's Trash Service: Moved that the claim for Abe's Trash Service be approved in the amount of \$1,565.45. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Josh Christensen: Abstain, Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

-Consent Agenda: Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea,, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

-Standing Committee Reports:

The Finance Committee met twice. Areas discussed were ESU #3 changing vendors for our payroll and accounting which will increase costs; a new vehicle for special education and the supply issues of getting one; classified staff raises; wanting more information for administrative and superintendent raises; increasing substitute pay; the need for a junior high counselor; an increase in the daily tuition rate for Brook Valley school; the 2023-24 calendar; program/grade capacities in conjunction with our option policy; and making NARCAN available in the schools. They also discussed the track project and upcoming bids. The second meeting included a recommendation for a Junior High Counselor; looking for other types of vehicles in light of the vans in stock; and the upcoming track and field project bidding.

The American Civics Committee also met twice. Areas discussed were recommending the 2023-24 calendar; Policy 5004 Option Enrollment making no changes to capacity limits to approve without any revisions; a comprehensive policy review starting with the 1000 section, which are being recommended without any changes; having NARCAN in the schools and contacting our attorney for guidance; supporting the hiring of a junior high counselor; and reviewing the notes from the Finance Committee. Our SRO does have NARCAN available. During the second meeting, they are recommending adding a junior high counselor, expanding the vehicle search to other types, and opening the track/field bids.

-Move Forward with the Track/Field Renovation Project: Moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to move forward with the track/field project and accept the bid from Nemaha Sports Construction of Lincoln Nebraska in the total amount of \$2,134,107.89. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Shaner, Passed.

Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. This is the conclusion of a project several years in the making after the base was damaged during resurfacing and now needs to be completely replaced. It just made sense that the field be redone at the same time as the area was under construction and it has not been done since it was made in 1972. The board weighed the options of grass vs turf, visited several schools and spoke to administrators about this. It was decided to go with turf because of the costs for maintenance and replacing a grass field, but it emphasized it would not pay for itself over time. It can be used for all sports and the multipurpose surface will tolerate more use and abuse than grass. The bid includes all aspects except soft costs such as moving utilities which is estimated around \$120,000. The shed would be removed and rebuilt as a school shop project to keep costs down. Josh Christensen and Kelli Shaner have been involved since the beginning, visiting 3 different facilities and working with Lamp Rynearson to come up with this plan. Mr. Green explained the financial aspect of general operating costs, building fund to operate facilities and new projects, and savings and depreciation which works like a savings account with monies delegated to certain expenses. The board has put excess monies into this account for about 10 years now to be used for this project. Other expenses earmarked as S&D include textbooks, vehicles, and computers to name a few. We have this money "in the bank". What you can do with these amounts is geared by school finance laws and the district has done a good job of putting unused monies aside for future use.

Jon Genoways asked why now and not wait until we hear about state aid as was discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Green said it would be April before it is announced and would not be certified until June. The board had to proceed now to begin the work by the end of May in order for the field to be ready to go for football. State aid does not affect this project. Christensen said it is a surface that could be used by everyone in the schools or community unlike the grass field which is off limits under certain conditions. With turf there is no reason not to be on it which is an important factor for the community. Nick Schuler added that having it dry for band would be fantastic in the Fall. Lee Anderson asked about the life span of the turf and Mr. Green has

researched this with an estimate of 12-15 years based on other facilities that get much greater use. Replacement monies will be earmarked yearly for any upcoming cost. It was noted that the field would also have soccer lines which will benefit more of our community. The design will also now include pole vault to be located to the west of the wrestling building along with the triple and long jump pits which will be moved. Questions were asked about a contingency plan if not ready for football. Plans are in place to have JV and Junior high games on the practice field if needed and at this time we are planning to have it ready to play for the first game. A question was asked about the sprinkler systems and if this plan was in place prior to installing it. Discussions had been held because of the damage done to the base when it was overlaid, but no plan had been put in place prior to its installation.

-Construction Soft Costs and Costs to Oversee the Project: This item was tabled until costs can be determined.

-Policies 1001-General Policy Statement, 1001.1-Legal Status of the School District, 1002-Creation, Amendment, and Distribution of Board of Education Policies, and 1003.1-Educational Philosophy of the School District: Move that the board of education waive 1st reading and pass on second reading Policies 1001-General Policy Statement, 1001.1-Legal Status of the School District, 1002-Creation, Amendment, and Distribution of Board of Education Policies, and 1003.1-Educational Philosophy of the School District. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green explained that it is recommended that boards revisit and revise if necessary their policies every 3 years. We will be doing 4 or 5 a month including any that need to be done based on new legislation. There are no changes to these.

-Policy 5004 Option Enrollment; 5004R Option Enrollment Capacities; Option Enrollment Capacity Resolution: Moved that the Board of Education waive first reading and affirm and pass on second reading Policy 5004 Option Enrollment, 5004R the Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for 2023-24, and 5004 Resolution Governing Option Enrollment Capacities for Classes and Programs for the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. The capacities have not changed and this will be the third year for them. There are openings in every class and applications for every grade levels. We must notify everyone by April 1st.

-Resignations

•Resignation of Adolph Shepardson: Moved that the resignation of Adolph Shepardson be accepted at the end of the current contract period. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

•Resignation of Sawyer Sterud: Moved that the resignation of Sawyer Sterud be accepted at the end of the current contract period. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea.

•Resignation of Katy Kelsey: Moved that the resignation of Katy Kelsey be accepted at the end of the current contract period. This motion, made by Christensen and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea.

-Junior High Counselor Position: Moved that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration and add the position of a Jr High Counselor beginning in 2023-24. This motion, made by Bonacci and seconded by Shaner, Passed.

Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. The recommendation came from the last board retreat as to what the next hire would be. There was conversation and research where our needs lie, and counseling is the area most needed with the increase in student numbers. The person would be

junior high, however work with 6th graders in their transition to 7th and 8th graders in their transition to high school.

-Compensation for Classified Staff: Moved that the classified staff be granted raises not to exceed 2.5% for 2023-24. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Christensen, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. This percentage is in line with the certified increase and is voted on now for when the budgeting process begins.

-Approval of the 2023-24 Calendar: Moved that the calendar for 2023-24 be approved as presented and recommended. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Christensen, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. There were questions about the early start. Mr. Green explained the factors that go into building a calendar such as the NSAA, holidays and the need for the number of days to be in compliance. He also explained how the NSAA calendar rolls back every 7 years, which would affect the 24-25 calendar.

Authorization to Purchase a New Vehicle for Special Education Transportation: This motion was tabled as it has been a struggle to find a suitable vehicle.

-Substitute Pay: Moved that the pay for substitute teachers be increased to \$150 per day from \$130, and to \$170 per day from \$155 for long term substitutes to begin with the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Bonacci and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Kelli Shaner: Abstain Mike Bonacci: Yea, Josh Christensen: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. This increase is to be comparable with surrounding schools and enable us to get and keep qualified subs by being competitive. It has been quite a while since this has been increased.

-Board Member Reports:

Bonacci said he was glad to get the footprint of the campus started, and the administration is doing a great job of adding support staff and attracting more.

Shaner commented on the background work to get ideas and recommendations for the track/field project and that she appreciated the community coming to the meeting.

Schrum attended the NASB board president meeting and came back with great ideas for the board retreat.

-Administrator Reports:

Mr. Wemhoff: ---Reported on screening applicants and setting interviews; Parent-Teacher Conferences; professional development specifically MTSS and the assistance we have had with collaborators from ESU #3; Having the 2nd place finisher at the Washington County Spelling Bee who is now also the alternate for regionals; highlighted student awards from Scholastic for Art and Writing; and upcoming events. A patron mentioned the accomplishments of Band students and Mr. Wemhoff reiterated their success.

Mr. Wagner: ---Reported about events around the building including the spelling bee, Parent Teacher Conferences, Preschool enrollment, and the book fair; advertising open positions for next year, the Math adoption process and having a recommendation for the March meeting; Marzano training for all certified staff; and upcoming events. He also met with the director of Nebraska Frameworks to discuss the next steps in preparation for our external visit in 2024-25. Mr. Schleifer: Wrapping up Winter Activities having 3 wrestlers qualify for State at the Districts in Ogallala, and the Cheer and Dance State competitions in Grand Island; the exciting Unified Basketball game with the community coming to make it special for the kids with the really cool atmosphere; and the start of Spring activities.

-Superintendent Report and Legislative Summary: Mr. Green reported on the board goals and in line with Technology having Mr. Wilson give a presentation at the March meeting; and an update on the Wrestling building including adding solar lights along the sidewalk to the building. The Legislature met and over 800 bills have been introduced. The "Governor's Package", LB 583 will provide aid to schools who do not receive equalization aid so this part will not benefit Fort Calhoun however it could provide some benefit in our Special Education reimbursement

rates; LB589 which is a property tax limitation bill, but is a soft limit which could be overridden by board or community vote; LB681 an educational trust fund for areas that could provide money for property tax relief; and, LB521 to protect school personal if administering NARCAN. LB527 would provide money to ESU's for mental health expenditures which shows where the governor and legislature are at for mental health. We currently use a counselor from ESU #3 but this is funded by a grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.