

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

as advertised in the Pilot-Tribune/Enterprise  
and on the schools' website [fortcalhounschoools.org](http://fortcalhounschoools.org)

## ROUTINE BUSINESS

-Call to Order: President Schrum called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 4 administrators and 60 visitors present.

- Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws: So noted

-Excused Absences: Moved that the absences of Josh Christensen and Ted Welchert be excused. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Roll Call: Mike Bonacci-Present, Josh Christensen-Absent, Cassie Kelly-Present, Amanda Schrum-Present, Kelli Shaner-Present, Ted Welchert-Absent

- Approval of Agenda: Moved that the agenda be approved as amended to move Administrator Reports earlier in the meeting following the Tech presentation. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

## PRESENTATION-Technology

Mr. Wilson gave a video presentation, spoke about the technology goal in place and what has been and is being done in these areas. He focused on the infrastructure and budget preparation to accomplish the goal. The district participates in E-rate funding which is a Federal grant that helps with 40-50% of the costs of the network for our systems. The bandwidth has been upped, the firewall replaced and all devices are filtered. Two of our servers have been replaced with the 3<sup>rd</sup> in need of replacement. We have been waiting several months on backordered equipment for our latest E-rate project, but the money has already been set aside. Every device has basically been touched with all printers being replaced by only 11 copiers to handle the same volume. The number of access cameras has been reduced with the new ones having expanded views, but our access control has not been touched.

A replacement schedule was presented. Every year monies are being set aside in the Depreciation Fund to coincide with this schedule. It reflects prices higher than currently being charged to take inflation into account. Miscellaneous supplies and equipment are still an expense of the General Fund. The budget has increased in testament to Mr. Hansen and his growing technology classes. The gym's new video board will be set up by them. One item coming in the near future will be a complete rebuild which costs about \$40,000. This will have to take place over summer or a long break, but the equipment should be ordered so it has arrived when we are ready to go basing timelines on what has already been ordered but not received. An upgrade to the access control would combine video and access control. When asked about the access control, he said it is the "fob" system that is used to access the buildings.

## REGULAR AGENDA

-Administrator Reports:

Mr. Wemhoff reported on the new hires and we are getting exciting ones. They will be awesome for our kids as they all have great backgrounds. He then spoke about schedule changes, testing being done to

move our students from a 504 to an IEP, and how they have or will transition. It is in place now for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Our students will have a place to go every period if they need. ESU will help next year and next year's plan is still in the "working" stages through Powerschool. It will most likely be available mid April but we will have a better idea as it is laid out. He said schedule changes are part of school and cited changes that had been made for this year including adding science curriculum, staff being added and moved around to fit students' needs, having one teacher involved in several areas, our Metro schedule changing every year, and having SPED teachers adjust without a full slate of paras. Change happens all the time like last year when the bell schedule was changed. All staff were invited to discuss and give suggestions on the coming changes in multiple meetings. Band chose not to be in attendance. Change happened even today when the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter schedule showed no students so lessons or plan is now an option. The new schedule, in terms of services needed/provided and with no students can be used for a plan or for lessons.

He wanted to note that he agrees band lessons are important as are all activities but none were scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> semester. He also agrees that the lessons should begin August 1, but there were 3 months this year without them. In a paper he prepared and gave to the board, lesson time availability and Fridays also being available were addressed. They don't have to be given during lunch time, and he pointed out all the times that are available to use. There is room in this schedule for each junior high band student to have lessons.

In addressing comments that he did not respond to parents, he has returned calls, e-mails, and met in person with parents who had questions unless Mr. Green had already done so. He didn't respond to statements sent but answered all questions from parents and those who had a current stake in the schools, other than alumni. He continued that it is hard to firm a schedule when all the pieces are still moving. This plan has no impact to the schedule or junior high lessons. There is no change in curriculum, as lessons are not curriculum but a time to do extra work. "The confusion could have been avoided if the matters would have been brought together at the right time but we didn't get a chance to do this." It was put "out there" and ended in confusion. On March 13, 2020 some of this was addressed with additional Band and Choir classes suggested that could be added but no one took him up on it. This schedule change is huge in the band world, but when taking into consideration the big picture it is just a piece of what has to be done to get to the next step for the whole program. He apologized if he didn't communicate correctly, but the schedule will give every junior high student lesson time. When next year's is done and ready to present, he will. President Schrum spoke on behalf of the board and said Mr. Wemhoff has their support as he has kept them updated throughout these scheduling changes.

Mr. Wemhoff also reported on the upcoming Prom, the Jr-Sr High Parent-Teacher conference participation; the upcoming ACT and PreACT testing and how the classes will spend the day; upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade testing; Bria Bench and Grayson Bouwman being selected as outstanding leaders through Midland University that comes with a scholarship; Honor Band and Show Choir honors; and upcoming events. He is now serving on the NSAA board of directors and is the Chair of NSAA District 2. It was a really cool experience getting to hand out trophies at the State basketball tourney. He also just learned that our Quiz Bowl team came home today as Conference Champs.

Mr. Wagner: Parent Teacher conferences were interrupted the second day by weather but parent contacts have been made; preschool enrollment has ended, and both Read Across America and the Talent Show were successes. There is still a K-2 Special Education position open, the Math adoption

will be complete once the purchasing process is finalized, and Kindergarten Roundup has been scheduled. All certified staff have been receiving staff development from our instructional coach and Marzano facilitator. He highlighted upcoming events and gave an update on our school improvement through Nebraska Frameworks including parent surveys and the external visit coming in 2024-25.

Mr. Schleifer reported on winter activities including post season accolades and new records in basketball and wrestling saying that Lance and Ely are 2 standup individuals. The new football coach has met with students, Varsity Spring sports have begun with Junior High to start in a week, and the new video board for the main gym is on schedule expected to be installed in April. The motion cameras in the main gym and on the football field are being switched to HUDL which will assist coaches in filming and be the platform for a new streaming service in these areas. This may furnish free streaming for all activities in these two areas.

-Public Participation: Ellie Collins reported that Cheer earned 7<sup>th</sup> at the State competition and Dance placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in one division and received a bid to nationals.

Karli Johnson, Junior High Social Studies teacher and Junior High Department Head wanted to thank Mr. Wemhoff for all his work on this new schedule which gives teachers better access to the students and they appreciate all that's been done to make it better for our students. Nick Schuler spoke and sees the problem as communication. One morning there was no teacher for Jazz Band which Mr. Green addressed as he was with the students and added that when a teacher knows they will be gone should make arrangements. Another item was that no one answered their questions. Amanda Schrum said she received calls and referred them to the administration. As a board, like all school boards in the state, they have given authority to the administration to make the decisions for the schools. Boards cannot ever by law address personnel issues or public comments during a meeting. This may be how the rumor mill got started. Mr. Wemhoff has communicated with various parents regarding their questions by mail, e-mail and in person. Nick Schuler said again that there was no communication about these changes. Mark Welsher, past board member, spoke about the history of the schools and how they grew to where they are now by communicating on things like the levy override. He commented about fall lessons saying that this is marching season and there is no time. He asked about still offering both band and choir to junior high students, and why this change in scheduling is happening right now. Amanda Maxon said the parents are passionate about both the kids and band, and that there needs to be more communication and working together. Jon Genoways, past board president, said he agrees to continue to support our music programs and thank you for your work in getting the schedule worked out. He is however disappointed at the social media craziness that went on for this one incident.

-Approval of Claims: Moved that the claims for March be approved in the amount of \$143,322.70 from the General Fund and \$22,229.00 from Savings and Depreciation. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. The claims for the month are not out of the ordinary.

-Claim for Abe's Trash Company: Moved that the claim from Abe's Trash Service be approved in the amount of \$1,565.45. This motion, made by Bonacci and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: 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, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Standing Committee Reports:

American Civics---Kelli Shaner reported on going through to review/revise all policies to adhere to the law; new hires for 2023-24; discussions on administrator/superintendent salary increases based on an array of comparable schools; review and recommendations for contracts for the track project; discussion of the state aid projections; moving the high school scoreboard to the elementary when the video board is installed at the high school; and working to get a video marquee for the elementary school.

Finance Committee---Mike Bonacci reported on discussing new hires; discussion and recommendations for administrator/superintendent salary increases; reviewing and recommending contracts for the track project; discussion of state aid projections; research and information about a shade structure for the preschool playground; and school district boundary lines in response to inquiries to change them.

-Extending Contracts to New Staff for 2023-24

- Physical Education: Moved that the board of education extend a contract to Zach Byrd for Physical Education to begin the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Bonacci, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Mr. Byrd comes highly recommended and will a great addition to the staff.

- Secondary English/Social Studies Position: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Marilyn Byrd for the secondary English/Social Studies position beginning for the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. She also comes highly recommended from her prior school.

- Junior High Counselor: Moved that the Board of Education extend a contract to Jacquelyn Fischer for Jr High Counselor beginning with the 2023-24 school year. This motion, made by Bonacci and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. She has been a sub at the elementary and is doing a great job with our kids. She will also work with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders before they transition to 7<sup>th</sup> and help 8<sup>th</sup> as they transition to 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Kindergarten Teacher: Moved that the Board of Education extend a contract to Shelby Kaup as Kindergarten teacher beginning for 2023-24. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

-Contracts for Track/Field Project

- Thiele Geotech-Material Testing Services: This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea

- Lamp, Rynearson - Construction Administrative Services: Moved that the proposal from Lamp, Rynearson be approved in the amount of \$68,000 for construction administrative services for the track/field project. This motion, made by Bonacci and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. Mr. Green explained there is \$11,000 for work that may not be needed as the project progresses this amount could be reduced.

- Metropolitan Utilities District - Gas Service: Moved that the proposal from Metropolitan Utilities District be accepted in the amount of \$7,785.00 for gas service for the track/field project. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. There is a gas line that runs through the middle of the football field which is only 4 feet below the surface and this will need to be dropped to the required 8 foot depth. A question was asked about the field availability and a comment on how great it was to play at Peru State. Mr. Schleifer commented there is a backup plan.

-Policies 2001-Role of the Board of Education; 2002-Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing and Committees; 2003-Development and Education of Board Members; and 2004-Oath of Office: Moved that the Board of Education waive 1st reading and pass on second reading Policies 2001-Role of the Board of Education; 2002-Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing and

Committees; 2003-Development and Education of Board Members; and 2004-Oath of Office as reviewed and recommended. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Shaner, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. The American Civics Committee has begun reviewing all the policies and will present several at each meeting. These have been reviewed, are being recommended. There are no changes.

-Administrative Raises: Moved that the administrators' salaries beginning July 1, 2023 be at a 2.5 percent increase. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. This percentage is the same as for teachers and classified staff. The board looked at comparable schools and this is mid array of those schools which ranged from 2.8 to 3.0%. Classified staff was defined as anyone not being certified or not in a teaching position, and gave examples including cooks, secretaries, and bus drivers.

-Superintendent Raise: Moved that the superintendent's salary beginning July 1, 2023 be set at a 3 percent increase. This motion, made by Shaner and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Mike Bonacci: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Kelli Shaner: Yea. This was also compared to the array of schools and places the salary in the mid range.

-Board Member Reports: Amanda Schrum attended the Capitol trip with 4<sup>th</sup> graders, they represented Fort Calhoun well, and met our senator. The elementary talent show was great, he is excited for prom and mentioned Mr. Wemhoff for his role at the Boys State Basketball tourney.

Kelli Shaner said our kids are lucky to have parents who support them. Mike Bonacci said he always like to see the gyms/schools full, congratulated all on the success of Winter activities, is glad about hiring an additional counselor to help our kids, and thanked those in attendance for their support and passion. Cassie Kelley thanked the audience for coming and commented how her child loved Read Across America.

-Superintendent Report and Legislative Report: The district is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the technology goal plan. He thanked Mr. Wilson for his great presentation and said he has done an “amazing” job as tech coordinator for the schools. In explaining the “Governor’s Education Package” of the current Unicameral session, he spoke about legislation that impacts schools including foundation aid, changes in special education reimbursement, property tax limitation, the proposed educational trust fund, school choice and tax credits, limits on ages of suspended students in metropolitan areas, and increasing timelines between area-wide public hearings and due dates for tax request documents. The session is at about the halfway point.

## ADJOURNMENT

The president declared adjourned at 8:27 PM.