

## Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025 7:00 PM Central

HS CONFERENCE ROOM  
705 N 9th Street  
Arlington, NE 68002

Jason Arp: Present  
Cassie Flesner: Present  
Chase Kratochvil: Present  
Brian Laaker: Present  
Steve Slykhuis: Absent  
Shanon Willmott: Present  
Present: 5, Absent: 1.

### 1. OPENING PROCEDURES

#### 1.1. Call Meeting to Order

Chase Kratochvil called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

#### 1.2. Roll Call

Motion to excuse the absence of board member Steve Slykhuis due to prior conflict before joining the board Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Jason Arp, Present: Cassie Flesner, Present: Chase Kratochvil, Present: Brian Laaker, Present: Shanon Willmott, Present:

Excused absence-Steve Slykhuis

Also Present were Jacque Morgan and Aaron Pfingsten Elementary and Secondary Principals. Dawn Lewis Superintendent, and recording Secretary Jennifer Arp

Athletic Director James Shada was absent due to athletic activity happening at home this evening.

#### 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 1.4. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

### 2. WELCOME TO GUESTS AND PUBLIC FORUM

#### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

### 3.1. Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting(s)

### 3.2. Monthly Financial Reports

- Includes SPED Training Stipends of \$500 each for:
  - Heather Mueller
  - Hayley McMartin
  - Charlee Bierman
  - Jordan Jenkins
  - Sarah Sharp
- These will be "Get SET" grant reimbursed

### 3.3.

#### Resignations:

- Gail Barth, PK
- Marc Rexroad, Industrial Tech

#### Hires:

- Kortney Daws, MS ELA
- Megan Porras, 9-10 ELA

#### Reassignments:

- Marcia Kaup, From 2nd Grade to K-6 Art
- Haley McMartin, From El. SPED to 2nd Grade
- Jaden Green, From 4th Grade to 1st Grade
- Anna Hornung, From 1st Grade to 2nd Grade

## 4. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION REPORTS

- FCS (Family Consumer Science)
- 5th Grade

Mrs. Mackenzie Rhoads and Mrs Carla Kaup were present to highlight and report on 5th grade  
Mr. Doug Hart was here to highlight and report on Family Consumer Science (FCS)

## 5. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

### 5.1. Mr. Pfingsten's Secondary Report

### 5.2. Dr. Morgan's Elementary Report

### 5.3. Mr. Shada's Activity Report

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### 6.1. Discussion of Community Engagement Meeting, Focus Group Conversations, and Strategic Planning Next Steps

The community engagement meeting was postponed due to icy weather on Feb 5th. The board is looking at alternate dates to host the meeting with NASB.

### 6.2. NASB and NRCSA Reports

### 6.3. Supt Leave Log Review

### 6.4. Legislative Updates

### 6.5. Update on Recent Title IX Changes

### 6.6. Review Semi-Annual Arbor Family Usage Report

### 6.7. Discussion of Final Payment on the Lease Purchase scheduled 2026

The final payment for the lease purchase will come due in February next year. We have enough money to make the payment, but we can also hold that money in the account and hope to make some money off the interest on the money in the bank.

The board discussed the options for the payment and/or trying to make some money on the interest. The total interest on the actual payment is low, but the interest on the account in the bank is about 3-4 %

It would make sense to keep the money in the account at this time to try and make some money off it.

## 7. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

### 7.1. Committee for American Civics

The committee met this evening at 6:30 pm just prior to the board meeting and discussed the upcoming curriculum that will be in this year's cycle for the 2025-2026 school year.

Shanon Willmott reported on behalf of the committee. She spoke of the civic duties that are being covered by the school daily and quarterly. They also reported on the curriculum that is up for adoption for the 2025-2026 school year.

### 7.2. Negotiations Committee

Negotiations met January 28th, there will be action items later on this meeting.

## 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

#### 9.1. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Early Retirement Incentive Program Application and Agreement from Gail Barth

Motion to Approve Early Retirement Incentive Program Application for Gail Barth Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

#### 9.2. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Request for Leave of Absence by Certificated Staff Member

Motion to Approve Request for One Year Leave of Absence by Mrs. Nichole Fairhead Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

9.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Purchase Tomcat Pro Rideable Floor Cleaner as Presented

Motion to Purchase Tomcat Pro Rideable Floor Cleaner as Presented Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Custodial staff have requested the purchase of a new rider floor cleaner. The need for a new one has now become needed. The current one is over 5 years old.

9.4. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve 2025-2027 Superintendent Contract with Dr. Dawn Lewis as discussed and publicized according to statute

Motion to Approve 2025-2027 Superintendent Contract with Dr. Dawn Lewis as Presented Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

The board discussed the renewal of the contract for Dr Dawn Lewis. A negotiation committee met on January 28th and discussed the contract and went over, and took into consideration of years of service, other districts. One of the board requirements for the superintendent is the superintendent evaluation, and all board members received a copy of the current evaluation. The members felt that their was really good discussion with all contracts that are being proposed for this year.

9.5. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Principal Contracts as Presented, with a 3.07% Total Package Increase:

- Aaron Pfingsten, Secondary Principal
- Jacqueline Morgan, Elementary Principal
- James Shada, Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Motion to Approve Principal Contracts as Presented, with a 3.07% Total Package Increase for Mr. Pfingsten, Dr. Morgan, and Mr. Shada as Presented Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Brian Laaker.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Along with the Superintendent's contract, the negotiations committee also discussed and went over the principals contracts, arrays and years of service. Again, the committee felt that all of our Administration was very good for our district and felt that they kept the budget in check. There was a lot of consideration for each of the contracts, and they wanted to make sure that the board members knew that they did not take anything lightly in presenting these contracts.

9.6. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Certificated Director Contracts for 2025-2026:

- Tashia Wolf, Curriculum/Assessment Director
- Sarah Sharp, SPED/Student Services Director

Motion to Approve Certificated Director Contracts for 2025-2026 as Presented for Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Sharp Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner. Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

The negotiations also made about these admin contracts for Mrs Sharp and Mrs. Wolf. These arrays were a little different, as we were quite a bit behind in the arrays and could not catch up anyone in one or two years and will need to be responsible for the districts' money. These contract percentages are a bit higher due to trying to catch them up in the array and among other districts.

#### 9.7. Discussion of Special Education Staffing Needs and Consideration of Adding Additional Staff

Motion to add a certified staff member to fulfill special education staffing needs Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Sarah Sharp was here to discuss and give background on our Special Education Department program. Mrs. Sharp is looking at our special education population growth over the last 5 years. Our students with IEP have jumped from around 70 in 2021 to anticipating over 100 for the 2025-2026 school year. Not only is the number of students increasing, the current needs of the students are becoming more demanding. We have had numerous students move into the district with highly significant needs in the 2023-2024 school year, and she foresees no decline in the future. Other schools are showing high numbers across the state.

Mrs Sharp is proposing hiring another special education teacher for the next school year.

#### 9.8. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Adopt 2025-2026 School Year Calendar Motion to Approve 2025-2026 School Year Calendar as Presented Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

The calendar for the 2025-2026 school year looks similar to last year, the end and start dates are close to the same. The late start Fridays are not as effective as the district had hoped and the district will go back to the regular start for all days of the week. There have been 4 professional development days that were added into the calendar to make up for the late starts.

The committee also determined that best way to fulfill those professional developments is also during conferences, so that the 2nd day of PTC will be a professional development day with no students, and there will be an extra day built in around Thanksgiving break as well.

They also felt that the last day of the school calendar would be a professional development day instead of ending the school year on a day with students.

The breaks fell a bit differently different, having to move the spring/Easter break a week up, but it will fill in nicely with giving everyone equal amounts of breaks.

2 snow days are built into the calendar- if no snow days are used, finals will be on May 18 -19 and last day would be the 20th. Teachers would need to report on the 21.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Chase adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm