

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 9, 2023

7:30 PM

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members in attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 19, 2023, Special Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the September 19, 2023, special board meeting. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

III.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

IV. Financial Statement: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

IV.A. Approval of Bills

IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

Motion to approve the general fund, special building fund, depreciation fund, and qualified capitol purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

V.B. Personnel Items

V.C. Technology Update

VI. Administrative and Committee Reports

VI.A. Student Board Member Report

VI.B. Elementary Principal's Report

VI.C. Secondary Principal's Report

VI.D. Superintendent's Report

VII. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

VII.A. Resolution on School District Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications

VII.B. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to approve the resolution on school district standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of

an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right

to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other instate locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised
10/2020



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MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 19, 2023
6:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrator was present: Christopher Prosocki.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 9/13/2023

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

Motion to Excuse Betsy Frerichs from the Special September 19, 2023, School Board Meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Betsy Frerichs: Absent, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and the September 11, 2023, Budget Hearing

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023, regular board meeting and the September 11, 2023, budget hearing. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

III. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

III.A. The 2023-2024 Southern Public Schools Budget

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Southern Public Schools budget. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The 2023-2024 budget continues to invest in meeting the needs of our district with growing student needs. The General Fund budget of expenditures shown on the Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is greatly inflated to allow the district to expend "unused budget authority" for future years, and does not accurately reflect actual anticipated expenditures. The district over-estimates the budget of expenditures of all active funds so that we don't have to amend them later in the year due to unanticipated costs (Activities Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, General Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Special Building Fund, & Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund). The Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary (Public Notice) is very deceiving to the public and the only actual figures are Actual Disbursements & Transfers (Column 1) and Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (Column 7).

For the 2023-2024 school year, the district gained \$369,375 in valuation revenue and the district lost \$148,545 state aid revenue. These numbers do not account for the increased costs to run a school district over the years (Utility increases, salary and benefit increases, insurance increases, inflation, etc.). The overall personnel cost will be up by \$309,403. He noted that this figure does not include purchased services through ESU 5 for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law and these services will cost \$239,855 this upcoming school year.

Dr. Prosocki noted the valuation in Gage County was \$433,936,240 and the valuation in Pawnee County was \$1,456,165. The district's overall valuation was \$435,392,405 and Southern saw an increase 8.52% or \$34,201,611 increase between Gage and Pawnee Counties from the prior year. Dr. Prosocki noted that 85% of the district expenditures are in personnel and the other 15% of expenditures are fixed costs that cannot change.

Tax Year	Gage County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Pawnee County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Overall Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
2019	\$382,188,694	(4.41%)	\$1,376,110	(.001%)	\$383,564,804	(4.39%)	(\$16,874,224)
2020	\$378,656,597	(0.93%)	\$1,374,630	(0.10%)	\$380,031,227	(0.92%)	(\$3,533,577)
2021	\$387,897,024	2.44%	\$1,391,515	1.23%	\$389,288,539	2.43%	\$9,257,312
2022	\$399,748,194	3.05%	\$1,442,600	3.67%	\$401,190,794	3.05%	\$11,902,255
2023	\$433,936,240	8.55%	\$1,456,165	0.94%	\$435,392,405	8.52%	\$34,201,611

III.B. The 2023-2024 Property Tax Resolution

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 property tax resolution. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

Dr. Prosocki gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 property tax request and tax rate. Dr. Prosocki recommended the General Fund levy be set at \$0.975, the Special Building Fund levy be set at \$0.075, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund be set at \$0.03. He recommended the overall levy be set at \$1.08. Based on these recommended mill levies,

the General Fund tax request will generate \$4,245,076, the Special Building Fund tax request will generate \$326,543, and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund tax request will generate \$130,617. The overall proposed tax request will generate \$4,702,236. Based on these proposed figures, the overall mill levy will stay the same from the previous school year and tax request will go up by \$369,375 from the previous school year. Dr. Prososki said that with the record high inflation, it will make all school district's budget tight this school year. Lastly, Dr. Prososki gave the board a breakdown of the tax request over the past seven years and a Pioneer Conference cost per pupil comparison for the 2021-2022 school year by Average Daily Membership.

Year	Building Fund	QCPUF	Bond Fund	General Fund	Total
2017-2018		\$ 20,202	\$ 161,616	\$ 4,188,625	\$ 4,370,443
2018-2019		\$ 120,131		\$ 4,204,610	\$ 4,324,741
2019-2020	\$ 38,356	\$ 115,069		\$ 3,989,074	\$ 4,142,499
2020-2021	\$ 38,003	\$ 114,009		\$ 3,952,324	\$ 4,104,336
2021-2022	\$ 38,928	\$ 116,786		\$ 4,048,600	\$ 4,204,314
2022-2023	\$ 200,595	\$ 120,358		\$ 4,011,908	\$ 4,332,861
2023-2024	\$ 326,543	\$ 130,617		\$ 4,245,076	\$ 4,702,236

**Cost Per Pupil (2021-2022)
Average Daily Membership (ADM)
Pioneer Conference Comparison**

District	Rank (244 Districts Total)	Per Pupil Spending (ADM)
Johnson-Brock	44	\$14,855
Sterling	93	\$18,296
Southern	102	\$18,760
Tri County	104	\$18,810
Pawnee City	117	\$19,475
Friend	158	\$21,421
Diller-Odell	181	\$23,048
Lewiston	189	\$23,313
HTRS	231	\$30,500
FCSH	N/A	N/A
NCL	N/A	N/A

Lastly, Dr. Prososki gave the school board an update on the new safe and secure entrance at the Jr./Sr. High School. He noted that retrofitting a building that is almost 100 years old presents many challenges. Dr. Prososki said there have been some unanticipated costs with the floor, the windows, and a load-bearing wall. Dr. Prososki noted that there are 2 schools of thought. Either you build new or you retrofit what you currently have to match the required code and ADA requirements as per state law.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

yes: 5, no: 0, Absent: 1

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., October 9, 2023, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education
Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education
of this School District

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:
This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

- **Getting Started:** When you have been recognized, please identify yourself, including an address and the name of any organization you represent. The board may waive the address requirement to protect the security of the individual.
- **Time Limit:** The board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to around 5 minutes. If there are more than 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The Board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.
- **No Action by the Board:** The board will not act on any matter unless it is on the published agenda.

Southern Public Schools

Technology Rotation Schedule

Year of Implementation

- 2021-2022
 - Teacher/Counselor Laptops
 - 39 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - School Board Members
 - 6 Laptops Purchased
- 2022-2023
 - Elementary School (2-6)
 - 45 MacBook Airs Purchased (Elementary School)
 - Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 - 45 MacBook Airs Purchased (Jr./Sr. High School)
- 2023-2024
 - Elementary School (PK-1)
 - 70 iPads Purchased
 - Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 - 35 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - Principals/Technology Director
 - 3 MacBook Pros Purchased
- 2024-2025
 - Elementary School (2-6)
 - 30 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 - 30 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - Library/Office Staff
 - 7 iMacs or Laptops Purchased (Move Extra Devices to Kitchen Staff)
- 2025-2026
 - Teacher/Counselor Laptops
 - 39 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - School Board Members
 - 6 Laptops Purchased
- 2026-2027
 - Elementary School (2-6)
 - 35 MacBook Airs Purchased (Elementary School School)
 - Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 - 35 MacBook Airs Purchased (Jr./Sr. High School School)
- 2027-2028
 - Elementary School (PK-1)
 - 70 iPads Purchased
 - Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 - 35 MacBook Airs Purchased
 - Principals/Technology Director
 - 3 MacBook Pros Purchased



School Safety Audits and Conferences Personal Safety Seminars

5728 W. Scott Rd. Beatrice, NE 68310 Phone: 402-239-1985

Dear Dr. Prosocki

I would like to thank you for once again choosing Lang Safety Consulting LLC. for your annual safety audit. On September 7, 2023 I visited both the Elementary Building and the High School/Middle School. During this visit I found your staff to be both helpful and very concerned about safety.

This audit meets the requirements of the Nebraska State Board of Education, Rule #10 regarding an independent audit review of your District. Southern Schools has the proper safety policies and procedures in place. Combine that with the new secure entry being constructed for the High School/Middle School and the new entry system at the Elementary School and your District provides a safe environment.

Enclosed is the checklist completed at each building and a short narrative of observations I made during my visit. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce E. Lang", written in a cursive style.

Bruce E. Lang

President, Lang Safety Consulting LLC.

langsafetyconsulting@outlook.com

402-239-1985

SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023-24

SAFETY AUDIT

High School/Middle School

1. The new entry being constructed will bring this building up to modern standards for entry control. The first step to school safety is entry control and your new construction will be a welcome addition to school safety.
2. A large parking lot for students was only partially full, which reduces the risks to students from other cars entering the parking lot.
3. The entry by the cafeteria is utilized for student entry in the morning and I observed staff to lock those doors shortly after 8:00am.
4. Bullet resistant film is scheduled to be installed on at risk windows in both the High School/Middle School as well as the Elementary School.
5. Because this was early in the school year, all drills had not yet been conducted. A relocation drill has not been conducted for several years and I strongly recommend one be conducted.
6. The safety committee was reported to have met, which is a requirement.
7. Staff can turn off the ventilation system during a shelter in place order.
8. An anonymous reporting system is in place for students and parents.
9. Vape and threat detection devices were installed in the restrooms which was a good addition.

10. The building utilizes a prerecorded message to initiate a lockdown. This is a good step and I spoke with Mr. Murphy about emerging technology which will allow for immediate lockdown activation from anywhere in the building. This is similar to the fire alarm system found in all schools.
11. The Standard Response Protocol is posted throughout the building and staff are trained on its applications at the beginning of each school year.

SOUTHERN ELEMENTARY

2023-24

SAFETY AUDIT

1. With elementary students, arriving and departing school presents itself with unique safety challenges. Several years ago, Southern Elementary School addressed these challenges by designing a specific parent drop off area which allows for curbside unloading of students. The bus unloading and loading area is also separated from other traffic and provides a safe area for students.
2. The new entry system prevents visitors from entering the school without going through the office. While this new entry system is still being adapted to by staff, it should provide another layer of security.
3. Mr. Hookstra is new to this position and on the day of our Audit he was presented with several challenges. One of those challenges required the activation of the Hold procedure of the Standard Response Protocol. He reported that it went well, and it highlighted the need to understand the SRP from day one.
4. We went over the need to turn off the ventilation system during a Shelter in Place order as the result of a gas leak, etc. The building is equipped with an emergency shut off and we reviewed its location.

5. Due to the limited number of school days so far, many of the drills have not been conducted, however they are scheduled.
6. Mr. Hookstra and I discussed the unique challenges of a school located potentially far away from law enforcement services. Strong safety procedures can help buy time should a situation occur.

In summary this building is and has been for many years a safe place. The new entry control only improves those safety measures. I look forward to working with Mr. Hookstra in the future to maintain that level of safety and security.

Southern Public Schools

2024-2025 District Calendar

July—2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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August—2024

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September—2024

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October—2024

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November—2024

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December—2024

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15	16	17	18	19	<u>20</u>	21
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August—2024

- 12 Teacher In-Service (No School)
At Beatrice Public Schools
- 19-21 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 22 First Day of Classes

September—2024

- 2 Labor Day (No School)

October—2024

- 3 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
Parent Teacher Conferences
(3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- 4 Fall Break (No School)
- 11 End of First Quarter (35 Days)
- 14 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 15 Second Quarter Begins

November—2024

- 1 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 3 Standard Time Begins
- 27-29 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

December—2024

- 20 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
End of Second Quarter (45Days)
- 21-31 Winter Break (No School)

January—2025

- 1-5 Winter Break (No School)
- 6 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 7 First Day of Third Quarter

February—2025

- 20 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
Parent Teacher Conferences
(3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- 21 Teacher In-Service (No School)

March—2025

- 7 Spring Break (No School)
- 9 Daylight Savings Begins
- 13 End of Third Quarter (46 Days)
- 14 Spring Break (No School)
- 17 Fourth Quarter Begins

April—2025

- 18 Spring Break (No School)
- 21 Spring Break (No School)

May—2025

- 9 Last Day for Seniors
- 17 Graduation (5:00 p.m.)
- 23 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
End of Fourth Quarter (48 Days)

January—2025

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February—2025

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March—2025

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April—2025

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May—2025

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31						

June—2025

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29	30					

Note: Any/all mechanical or weather related loss of school time will be made up at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the Superintendent.
Student Instructional Days **174**
Teacher Contract Days **182**

Key: Blue Font (Single Underline) = Late Start or Early Dismissal
Red Font = Holidays/Non-Contract Days (No School)
Red Font (Strikethrough) = Teacher In-Service (No School)
[] = First/Last Day of the Quarter

Southern Public Schools

2024-2025 Preschool Calendar

July—2024

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August—2024

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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September—2024

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October—2024

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November—2024

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December—2024

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August—2024

- 12 Teacher In-Service (No School)
At Beatrice Public Schools
- 19-21 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 22 First Day of Classes

September—2024

- 2 Labor Day (No School)

October—2024

- 3 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
Parent Teacher Conferences
(3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- 10 End of First Quarter (29 Days)
- 14 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 15 Second Quarter Begins

November—2024

- 3 Standard Time Begins
- 27-29 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

December—2024

- 19 End of Second Quarter (37Days)
- 21-31 Winter Break (No School)

January—2025

- 1-5 Winter Break (No School)
- 6 Teacher In-Service (No School)
- 7 First Day of Third Quarter

February—2025

- 20 Early Dismissal (1:20/1:30 p.m.)
Parent Teacher Conferences
(3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

March—2025

- 9 Daylight Savings Begins
- 13 End of Third Quarter (40 Days)
- 17 Fourth Quarter Begins

April—2025

- 18 Spring Break (No School)
- 21 Spring Break (No School)

May—2025

- 22 End of Fourth Quarter (39 Days)

January—2025

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February—2025

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March—2025

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April—2025

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27	28	29	30			

May—2025

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June—2025

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29	30					

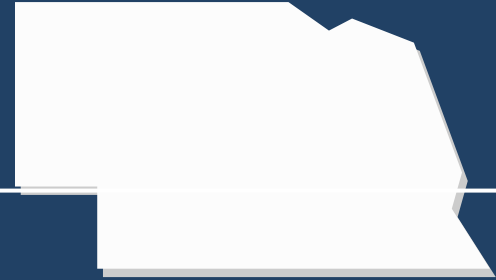
Note: Any/all mechanical or weather related loss of school time will be made up at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the Superintendent.

Student Instructional Days **174**
Teacher Contract Days **182**

Key: Blue Font (Single Underline) = Late Start or Early Dismissal
Red Font = Holidays/Non-Contract Days (No School)
Red Font (Strikethrough) = Teacher In-Service (No School)
[] = First/Last Day of the Quarter

NASB

Nebraska Association of School Boards



Superintendent Evaluation – VIII

<u>Standard #3: Board Relations</u>	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Not Applicable
1. Provides leadership to maintain the board's focus on student achievement.			
2. Attends and participates in all board meetings unless specifically excused by the board from its consideration of the superintendent's performance, contract, or salary.			
3. Develops in cooperation with the board president the agenda for each board meeting.			
4. Ensures that all board meetings are legally conducted and communicated to the public in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.			
5. To the greatest extent possible, ensures that the board has adequate information and sufficient time to make critical decisions on behalf of the district.			
6. In cooperation with the board president, develops and maintains an annual board calendar that ensures timely consideration of: (a) routine matters requiring board approval, (b) follow-up reports requested by the board, (c) regular updates on district goals and the school improvement plan, (d) regular updates on student achievement data, and (e) continuous policy review.			
7. Ensures that administrative recommendations to the board identify: (a) the situation necessitating the recommendation, (b) how the recommendation relates to district and/or school improvement goals and district policies, (c) the options reviewed and the reason for selecting this recommendation, (d) the benefit that is expected to result from the implementation, (e) the personnel that will be involved in or affected by the implementation, (f) the immediate and long-term cost of the implementation (g) how the staff will measure the results of the implementation, and (g) how and when progress will be reported to the board (see AIM document for format).			
8. Using agreed-upon methods, communicates with the board between meetings to ensure that all members have current information about district issues and activities.			

Comments:

1. Areas for commendation

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION: BOARD SUMMARY

Board President Signature

Date

Superintendent Signature

Date

RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF OPTION ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Southern Public Schools is committed to providing an education of high quality to its students in an economically efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the school district's faculty, facilities, and equipment can serve only a limited number of students effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Board of Education, in consultation with the administration, has reviewed the school district's faculty, facilities, equipment, interdisciplinary efforts and interrelationships of grades, subjects, and faculty; and has determined the maximum number of students it can serve effectively at any given grade level and in total;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board adopts the following standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications:

Special Education Capacity. Capacity for special education services will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If an application for option enrollment received by the school district indicates that the student has an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., or has been diagnosed with a disability as defined in section 79-1118.01, the application will be evaluated by the director of special education services or the director's designee who must determine if the school district and the appropriate class, grade level, or school building has the capacity to provide the applicant the appropriate services and accommodations. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) permits the release of education records when a student seeks or intends to enroll in a different school district.

Numeric Capacity. For the 2024-2025 school year, the capacity in the following grade levels, programs, classes, and/or school buildings is as follows:

- Kindergarten – A maximum of 20 students per class.
- First Grade – A maximum of 22 students per class.
- Second Grade through Sixth Grade – A maximum of 25 students per class.
- Seventh through twelfth grade – A maximum of 25 students per class.

Programmatic Capacity. For the 2024-2025 school year, the board declares the following grade levels, programs, classes, and school buildings

to be at capacity such that no option applications into any of the following will be accepted:

- The Southern High School Alternative Education program is closed.

Other Standards. The school district shall not accept an option student when acceptance of the student:

- (a) Would increase the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff or contracting with outside entities to provide services to the student;
- (b) Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
- (c) Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
- (d) Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;
- (e) May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

After the above resolution was read, board member _____ moved for passage of the motion. Board member _____ seconded the motion. After discussion, and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of the motion: _____

The following members voted against the motion:
_____.

The following members did not vote:
_____.

Having been consented to by a majority of the voting members, the board president declared the motion to have been passed and adopted.

Dated _____.

President, Board of Education