

**Homer Community School District**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
7 P.M. – Library

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**Agenda**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda**
- 4. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the February 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, February 23<sup>rd</sup> work session, February 28<sup>th</sup> special meeting, and February 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting
  - b. Approve claims and accounts
  - c. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda.
- 5. Communication**
  - a. Administrator reports
  - b. Public Comment
- 6. Closed session**
  - a. Negotiations with the principals for 2024-25
- 7. Discussion**
  - a. Legislation/Legal
- 8. Discussion/action**
  - a. Playground
  - b. Calendar 2023-24
  - c. Calendar 2024-25
  - d. Digital device use
  - e. Gymnasium sound system enhancements
  - f. Principal compensation 2024-25
- 9. Action Items**
  - a. Certified staff employment
- 10. Next Meetings**
- 11. Adjournment**

**NOTICES:**

**COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT:** The Board of Education makes 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.

**CHANGES TO ORDER OF AGENDA:** The Board will generally follow the sequence of the published agenda, but may change the order of items when appropriate and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.

**PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Getting Started: When you have been recognized, please stand and state your name.

Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit your comments to 5 minutes or less. The total time allotted for Public Comment is 30 minutes. **At the discretion of the Board, individual comment time and total comment time may be extended.**

Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at a Board meeting.

General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

**RECORDING OF MEETINGS:** The recording of open sessions of Board of Education meetings by the public is permissible according to section 84-1412 (Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties) of Nebraska law. Any public body may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the recording of meetings. In accordance with section 84-1410, the recording of closed sessions is not permissible.

Board Policy 204.12 and Administrative Regulation 204.12R describe how members of the public may participate in Board of Education meetings and use recording devices. The recording of any part of Board of Education meetings is permissible, except for closed sessions. No recording, other than note taking, shall be done without informing the president in advance. The president has the right to control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION:** The Board may go into closed session for the protection of public interest or prevention of needless harm to an individual.

## **Annotated Agenda**

### **Communication**

Principal Report – **enclosed**

Superintendent Report – **enclosed**

- Enrollment and attendance information as of February 29th.
- Information on board meeting streaming across Nebraska. Jeff Reed will be available to share additional information and considerations.
- The agenda, and the email sent to the board and staff describing planning activities at the last Lewis and Clark Conference meeting.

### **Additional Information**

- Visits are scheduled this week with the health care inspector office and the fire marshal office to evaluate and audit the feasibility of hosting child care.
- Transportation update:  
\*I'll follow up with South Sioux City regarding their bid process. To a degree that will dictate next steps. There may be a presentation from 1<sup>st</sup> Student at the April meeting on a contract proposal for 2024-25 and beyond.
- Tyler, Byron, and Samantha Johnson are running for school board. The election is in November. Three seats are up for election every two (2) years. The term of office begins January 2025.
- Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> Jeff Reed and I had an on-site conversation with representatives from Morrissey Engineering, MTC (installers of the new HVAC), and Climate Control Specialists. Morrissey brought in their chief troubleshooter. It is a priority for them to fix the HVAC issues. Jeff will share more details at the meeting.
- The Nebraska Department of Education has a \$10million grant for school safety enhancements. Jeff Reed, Jeff Horner, Sgt. Fernau, Bill McPherran, and I are working on submitting a proposal to fully integrate the fire alarm system between the new addition and the old structure.

### **Public Comment**

### **Closed session**

- Review the information shared last month on compensation for the principals for 2024-25.

### **Discussion**

#### **Legislation/Legal**

- **Enclosed** are updates from Justin Knight that have been shared previously and will be discussed. I expect a whirlwind finish to the legislative session, with many pieces of legislation grouped together under a "Christmas Tree" bill.

## Discussion/Action

### Playground

- Mrs. Uhl, Ms. Murphy, Mrs. Heaton and I toured the Preschool playground with Alex O'Dell and discussed ideas to enhance that area. Alex will be present at the meeting.
- **Enclosed** is the information on a proposed update of the K – 5 playground and the Preschool playground.
- There is time for discussion regarding a timeline to move forward with the project, and considerations for funding (fundraising campaign, pursue grants, district resources, options for financing the project).

### Calendar 2023-24

- **Enclosed** is a copy.
- The weather has cooperated.
- The Board discussed a Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> end date at the February meeting. The 24<sup>th</sup> will be a noon dismissal with staff checkout to follow. **Motion needed to approve.**

### Calendar 2024-25

- Board input from the February meeting was shared with the Calendar Committee and the Staff Leadership Team. The Board discussion in February centered around possibly shortening the number of instructional days and possibly eliminating early outs on Wednesday.
- I put together the **enclosed calendar** which calls for an August 15<sup>th</sup> start date, reduces instructional days from 175 to 171, reduces certified staff contract days from 185 to 183, adds the equivalent of three (3) instructional days back by eliminating the early dismissals on Wednesday, provides three (3) days for make-up days at the end of the year, keeps the standard breaks from previous calendars, and ends the school year before Memorial Day. **Also, enclosed** is the email sent to the Board and staff.
- This calendar and a calendar keeping the early dismissals (August 15<sup>th</sup> start date) was discussed by the Calendar Committee and the Staff Leadership Team. By a 16-4 vote the enclosed calendar was recommended for approval by the Board.
- Also, Mrs. Uhl and Mr. Coviello met with Dr. Lefdal about keeping the early dismissals on Wednesdays or following the recommendation of the Calendar Committee and the Staff Leadership Team. They believe it best to follow the committees' recommendation for 2024-25.
- **Time for discussion and a motion to approve if the board chooses.**

### Digital device use

- Mr. Coviello will share procedures to limit the use of personal digital devices in grades 6-12. Also, he will share plans for sharing information with students and parents.
- Time for discussion of timeline for implementation and possible Board action to approve the procedures.

### Gymnasium sound system enhancements

- **Enclosed** is the quote shared by Jeff Reed last month. Time for further discussion. **Motion needed.**

### **Principal compensation 2024-25**

- Mrs. Uhl, a \$6000 increase in total package (4.41%). **Motion needed.**
- Mr. Coviello, a \$4000 increase in total package (2.67%). **Motion needed.**

### **Action**

#### **Certified staff employment**

- Dr. Joey Lefdal, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2024. Motion to approve.
- Aspen Bennier, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher. Motion to approve.

### **Next meeting**

### **Adjournment**