

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
December 13, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Ryan Harris, Kristina Nelsen, Byron Hall & Paul Tighe

Absent: Aaron Reis and Tyler Kirkholm

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Tom Coviello and Board Secretary Amy Brand

Visitors present: Several

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law

The meeting was duly called to order and the Chairperson announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the Library.

II. Roll Call – All members are present except members Reis and Kirkholm. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Harris to excuse Members Reis and Kirkholm from the meeting. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Harris, Hall

The motion carried 4-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to the Agenda

Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Hall to approve the agenda as presented.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Hall, Harris, Nelsen and Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

Member Kirkholm arrived at 7:06 p.m.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

2. Approve claims and accounts from General Fund.

3. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Kirkholm to approve all Consent Agenda items. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Tighe, Kirkholm, Nelsen and Hall

The motion carried 5-0.

V. Audiences

a. Austin Lambert gave Industrial Tech updates, and the board toured the Industrial Tech space.

b. Dan Caskey addressed the board with concerns regarding curriculum.

VI. Communications/Discussion

a. Public Comment. Several community members provided comment.

b. Reports

Principals Uhl and Coviello thanks the music teachers for all their hard work on organizing the Christmas Concerts. They had a great turnout for all concerts. Cardinal Baskets were discussed as well as a Digital Citizenship presentation that was held by KSB Law. The presentation was provided by the Cultural Connections Grant. There will be a TeamMates event on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Christmas Acres and Wells Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor in LeMars. Winter benchmark testing schedule was reviewed as well as the NCSA Principal convention both attended recently. The Nebraska Educational Profile for 2022-2023 was shared.

Mrs. Uhl informed the board of a fun night the Elementary Student Council is organizing on December 15<sup>th</sup> as well as different learning experience the Elementary Enrichment program are engaging in. Angela Abts has come to present to the group during their lunch and learn sessions. Mrs. Schmidt also took a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Wayne State College to take part in the ESU Science Olympiad. Mrs. Uhl also visited with the board about SCALE (Scalability, Capacity and Learning Engagement). Grades 3-5 homework detention program will be implemented and led by Ms. Steffen.

Mr. Coviello discussed the Student Council and NHS are teaming up to do a school wide food drive and the 12 days of Christmas. He noted we hosted our first ever wrestling dual and our One-Act Team was Conference Runner-Up. The Dance Team recently held a breakfast with Santa for elementary students to attend.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported on enrollment, attendance and student mobility as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. Quotes were reviewed to refurbish the trophy cases. A summary of the minutes of the last Lewis and Clark Conference executive board meeting were discussed. The school will receive a \$5,000 donation from the Kirkholm family in 2024 through the America's Farmers Grow Rural Communities, offered by the Bayer Fund. The program will be discontinued after 2024. The digital video boards will not be able to be installed over Christmas break so a new time will be scheduled when gym space is available for the two day installation. The new van is with Terry Kampfe getting an exterior wrap similar to the last van purchased.

VII. Discussion

- a. Daycare. Mr. Cruickshank shared the business plan and lease agreement between the Sutherland School District and Ladybug Daycare. Mrs. Uhl and Mr. Cruickshank conferenced with the elementary principal at Sutherland. It is important to identify a licensed provider who wants to expand into the facility, identifying a space and scheduling a school visit with the Department of Health and Human Services.
- b. Playground. Two vendors are working on proposals. Information was shared by the Tekamah-Herman superintendent on their playground project.
- c. Audit 2022-2023. Mr. Cruickshank shared a portion of the audit which included highlights and the most relevant information. The audit will be on the agenda for approval in January.
- d. Facility update. Issues continue with the heating and air conditioning and Jeff Reed provided an update. The custodial/storage area in the preschool hallway will have old duct work taken out over Christmas break. The issue with the “nuisance gas” is being addressed and gas valves are being replaced as needed. MTC will fix deficiencies in duct work over Christmas break. All this work is under warranty because it is new construction.
- e. Business services software. A proposal was shared from Software Unlimited. Amy Brand shared the benefits of converting to a new accounting software with the board.
- f. Election information. Member positions up for election in November 2024 are seats held by Hall, Kirkholm and Reis. Mr. Cruickshank will provide registration packets to those who wish to run.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to enter closed session at 9:15p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategies for certified teachers and a personnel matter for the protection of the public’s interest. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Hall, Harris and Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to enter regular session at 10:32p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Kirkholm, Tighe, Nelsen, Hall and Harris  
The motion carried 5-0.

IX. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Harris to adjourn the meeting at 10:33p.m. on December 13, 2024. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Nelsen, Hall, Kirkholm and Tighe  
The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:  
Kristine Nelsen  
Secretary

Dakota County School District #31R  
a/k/a Homer Community School  
BY: Paul Tighe, President