

Homer Community School District
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 14th, 2024
7 P.M. – Library
AMENDED FEBRUARY 13TH

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 January 17th regular meeting and the January 24th work session
 - 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 classified staff for 2024-25

- 7. Discussion**
 - a. Legislation
 - b. Finance
 - c. Playground
 - d. Calendar 2023-24
 - e. Calendar 2024-25
 - f. New superintendent contract
 - g. Streaming board meetings

- 8. Action Items**
 - a. Certified staff employment
 - b. Classified staff compensation 2024-25

- 9. Closed session**
 - a. Negotiations with the principals for 2024-25
 - b. Personnel

- 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 January 31st.
- Follow-up on key contacts regarding the feasibility of hosting a daycare facility at school. Visits will be scheduled soon.
- EMC (district's property/casualty/work comp insurer) recently completed an on-site risk loss audit of the district's facilities. They haven't done one since Bill has been employed. From my experience in Iowa, EMC conducted these visits every third year. Only one recommendation speaks highly of the facility condition and Bill's job performance.
- A couple of options for a subwoofer addition to the sound system. Jeff Reed will fill in the details.

Additional Information

- Transportation update:
 - *The district in in the last year of a 3-year agreement with First Student.
 - *Communication has been initiated with J&J Bus Service and Harlow Bus Service. Both are based in South Dakota. J&J declined to bid for the service for the district. Harlow has not communicated interest.
 - *I've been in communication with South Sioux City. They may get a bid from Harlow; however they are likely to stay with First Student.
 - *More information will be shared at the March meeting.
- The ongoing issues with the new HVAC continue to be addressed with HCI, MTC, and Morrissey Engineering.
- Athletic Director Dan Schmitt and I are attending the conference administrator meeting on February 14th. The status of the conference membership will be discussed and an update will be shared with you at the meeting.
 - *Laurel CC, Hartington-Newcastle, and Plainview are leaving the conference after 2024-25.
 - *Other conferences have contacted Ponca and Wakefield about interest in joining their conference (Ponca – East Husker and Mid States, Wakefield – East Husker).

Public Comment

Closed session

- In closed session an updated spreadsheet will be shared reflecting a 5.5% increase in salary, the increase in health/dental insurance, and the adjustment to \$32 an hour for Facility Director Bill McPherran. To be acted upon by the board later in the meeting.

Discussion

Legislation

- A hard copy handout will be shared from the NASB Legislative Forum I attended on January 22nd. Bills of interest related to education, and Homer in particular, will be highlighted.

- One bill of particular interest regarding funding is LB 1316. This is tied into LB243 which was made law last year to limit property tax asking. LB 243 allows for a 3% increase in property tax asking over the prior year's asking by a majority vote of the board. A super majority (70%) may exceed the 3% up to a maximum of 7%. Any increase more than 7% must be approved by a 60% vote of the district's voting residents. LB 1316 would require any increase over 3% be approved by a 60% vote of the district's voting residents – eliminating the board's 3% to 7% increase authority.

Finance

- As shared in an email, under current statute, state aid for 2024-25 is projected to increase from \$1,850,076 to \$2,008,739 (+\$158,663).

Playground

- Alex O'Dell from Tri-States SnapSports is meeting with the administration on February 13th to share renderings and cost options for the playground.

Calendar 2023-24

- **Enclosed** is a copy.
- Days school has not been in session (6 days).

Natural Gas Leak	November 9 th
Weather related	January 8 th , 9 th , 12 th , 15 th , 16 th
- 10 a.m. starts (weather) January 10th, 17th, 19th, 22nd
- 1 p.m. dismissal (weather) January 18th
- The district will meet the 1080-hour state requirement for instructional hours.
- The decision on making up days is typically decided at the March board meeting.

Calendar 2024-25

- **Enclosed** is information and options developed by the staff Calendar Committee
- The board will approve an option at the March meeting.

New superintendent contract

- Paul said each board member should have received a packet of information on options and wording for the contract for the new superintendent. Bring the packet for review and discussion.

Streaming board meetings

- Last week a patron asked me about streaming board meetings. It is legal to do so. The administration has visited about the logistics. If Jeff Reed attends the meeting he can be involved in the discussion.

Action

Certified staff employment

- Veronica Schmidt, Elementary Success Coordinator/Guidance Counselor. Motion to approve.

Classified staff salary and benefits 2024-25

- Motion to approve as presented and discussed in closed session.

Closed session – information will be shared in the closed session.

Negotiations with the principals for 2024-25.

Personnel

Next meeting

Spring Break is Thursday, March 7th and Friday, March 8th. If the board chooses to meet on Monday, March 11th, I'll move my spring break days to Monday, March 4th and Tuesday, March 5th. I'll plan to work on the 7th and 8th to prepare for the meeting.

Adjournment