

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
February 14, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Tyler Kirkholm, Aaron Reis, Paul Tighe, Ryan Harris and Kristina Nelsen

Absent: Byron Hall

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Tom Coviello & 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 was posted in the Library.

II. Roll Call – All members present except member Hall. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to excuse member Hall. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm

The motion carried 5-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for Discussion B to include Personnel with Finance. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to approve the agenda as amended.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm

The motion carried 5-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 17th regular meeting and the January 24th work session.

2. Approve claims and accounts and payroll expense from General Fund.

Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Reis to approve all Consent Agenda items.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Harris

The motion carried 5-0.

V. Communications

Principals Uhl and Coviello reported on an online tutoring program called Nebraska SMART. This will be free for families to utilize. Certified and classified staff as well as NHS students participated in the Poverty Simulation on February 12th. NAEP testing was discussed as well as the 100th day of school on February 6th.

Principal Uhl informed the board on different activities the Elementary Enrichment group is participating in as well as Elementary Student Council. Parent/Teacher conference results were discussed as well as the Daddy/Daughter dance on February 10th. Mrs. Uhl is hoping to do a Mother/Son dance later this spring. Kids Heart Challenge will be in March as well as grades 3-5 attending a NAIA game.

Principal Coviello discussed AQUESTT designation on the secondary end as well as a Blood Drive the Student Council is sponsoring on February 27th. Mr. Coviello is looking to change our digital device policy and presented a handout about with that would look like. Mrs. Vanschoiack will be offering WSC Teacher's Academy courses and Secondary Parent/Teacher Conference results were discussed. Sweetheart coronation was held on February 10th and he also shared Josue Munoz and Austin Pelster made it to State Wrestling.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that attendance is at 422 students. He will be following up with contacts regarding the feasibility of hosting a daycare facility at school; visits will be scheduled soon. EMC, the district's property/casualty/workcomp insurer) recently completed an on-site risk loss audit of the district's facilities. The had just one recommendation and spoke highly of the facility condition and Bill McPherran's job performance. A couple of options for a subwoofer addition to the sound system were presented by Jeff Reed. Transportation was discussed and more information will be shared at the March meeting. Ongoing issues with the new HVAC continue to be addressed with HCI, MTC and Morrissey Engineering. Mr. Cruickshank and Dan Schmitt attended the conference administrator meeting on February 14th to discuss the status of the conference membership. Several schools will be leaving the conference after this current school year or the next. Mr. Cruickshank and Dan Schmitt will be attending a Lewis and Clark reorganization meeting the end of February.

Public Comment: There was none.

VI. Closed Session

Motion was made by Reis seconded by Nelsen to go into closed session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategies for classified staff for the protection of the public's interest. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Kirkholm, Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen

The motion carried 5-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to convene to open session at 8:08 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm

The motion carried 5-0.

VII. Discussion

- A. Legislation. Information was shared from the NASB Legislative Forum Mr. Cruickshank attended on January 22nd. He provided information on all the key Bills for 2024.
- B. Personnel/Finance. Administration shared educational and financial considerations as it relates to the teaching vacancy created by Veronica Schmidt accepting the Elementary Guidance/Elementary Success Coordinator position. Pat Wright presented information to the board regarding the educational needs of our middle school students. The board advised administration to hire for another 5th grade teacher as well as a middle school teacher. Under current statute, state aid for the 2024-2025 school year is projected to increase from \$1,850,076 to \$2,008,739. This is an increase of \$158,663.
- C. Playground. Alex O'Dell from Tri-States SnapSports met with administration on February 13th to share renderings and cost options for the playground. Fundraising and grants were discussed as ways to help fund the project.
- D. Calendar 2023-24. Mr. Cruickshank shared the current school calendar and pointed out the six days school has not been in session due to the Natural Gas leak in November and weather days in January. The district will still meet the 1080 hour state requirements for instructional hours; days missed will be made up through Friday, May 24th. A final decision will be made at the March board meeting, taking into account possible additional cancelled days between now and the March 11th board meeting.
- E. Calendar 2024-2025. Mr. Cruickshank shared information and calendar options developed by the staff Calendar Committee. Different options were talked about and the board will approved an option at the March meeting.
- F. New superintendent contract. Information on options and wording for the contract for the new superintendent was discussed.
- G. Streaming board meetings. Administration has visited about the possibility of streaming board meetings. The board was in favor of this and Jeff Reed informed the board of different options to stream the meetings.

VIII. Action Items

- A. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to approve the hiring of Veronica Schmidt as the Elementary Success Coordination/Guidance Counselor. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Harris, Tighe
The motion carried 5-0.
- B. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Harris to approve the classified staff salary and benefits for the 2024-2025 school year as presented and discussed in closed session.
On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

IX. Closed Session

Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Nelsen to go into closed session at 9:54 p.m. to discuss the bargaining strategy for administrative salaries for the protection of the public interest and to discuss a personnel matter to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Kirkholm, Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen
The motion carried 5-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to convene to open session at 10:28 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Harris, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm
The motion carried 5-0.

X. Time/Date of next meeting

The next special board meetings will be Friday, February 23rd at 6:00, Wednesday, February 28th at 4:00 and Thursday, February 29th at 4:00. The next regular board meeting is set for Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m. on February 14, 2024. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Tighe, Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Harris
The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 14th day of February 2024.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

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