

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
January 17, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Flex Space at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Paul Tighe, Kristina Nelsen, Tyler Kirkholm, Ryan Harris

Absent: Byron Hall and Aaron Reis

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Tom Coviello and District 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 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 Superintendent announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the Flex Space.

II. Roll Call – All members present except Members Reis and Hall.

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Harris to approve the absence of Member Reis. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Tighe, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Harris

The motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the absence of Member Hall. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Tighe, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Harris

The motion carried 4-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Nelsen to approve the agenda as presented. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Kirkholm, Nelsen, Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Annual Organizational Meeting

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for a nomination for the office of Board President. Member Kirkholm moved to accept and approve Tighe as the Board President for the 2024 calendar year. Harris seconded.

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for nominations for Vice President. Kirkholm moved to accept and approve Member Hall as the Board Vice President for the 2024 calendar year. Nelsen seconded.

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for nominations for the appointment of the office of Secretary. Kirkholm moved to appoint Nelsen as the Secretary for the 2024 calendar year. Harris seconded.

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for nominations for the appointment of the office of Treasurer. Harris moved to appoint Reis as the Treasurer for the 2024 calendar year. Nelsen seconded.

The Board of Education discussed and choose committee assignments:

- Americanism – Reis, Nelsen, Hall
- Budget and Finance – Harris, Tighe, Hall
- Building and Grounds – Kirkholm, Reis, Tighe
- Negotiations – Hall, Kirkholm, Tighe
- Transportation – Harris, Kirkholm, Nelsen

Code of Ethics Policy was reviewed by the Board.

Conflict of Interest Forms were distributed to members to fill out and return to Amy Brand.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the Minutes of the December 13th regular meeting.
- B. Approve claims and accounts from General Fund.
- C. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda.

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

Voting for: Kirkholm, Harris, Nelsen, Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

Member Hall arrived at 7:20 p.m.

VI. Discussion

- a. Superintendent Search. Shari Becker from the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) and Jack Moles and Fred Helmink from the Nebraska Rural Community School Association (NRCSA) presented on their roles in conducting a Superintendent search.

- b. Public comment. Mr. Cruickshank shared the policy that governs public comment at board meetings. The procedures for public comment were shared and the board discussed policy, procedure, current practice and procedures for this meeting and future meetings. A sentence will be added to the Time Limit section of Procedures for Public Comment which states, “At the discretion of the board, individual public comment times and total comment time may be extended”.
- c. Curriculum. Information was presented that was shared with certified and classified staff on January 2nd. Also shared was a summary of thoughts shared with staff by administration after listening sessions with staff. These sessions involved Language Arts staff, Social Studies staff, Health staff and any other staff that wanted to join in the sessions. A peer review process was discussed as well as continued discussions with staff.
- d. Facility addition update. Mr. Cruickshank shared an email with the board showing the last payment application and a copy of the substantial completion document. The retainage payment will not be released until the board is 100% satisfied with the work. The Building Fund balance and considerations to levy additional revenue in the 2024-2025 budget for the Building Fund beyond the \$448,300 needed to make the Lease-Purchase payment and QCPUF payment were discussed. Jeff Reed presented the board with an update with the HVAC issues.
- e. Daycare. Based on input from providers in the area, Mr. Cruickshank is going to reach out to DHHS to schedule a facility audit as the next step.
- f. Playground. There was nothing new to report from companies putting together plans to present to the board. A detailed rendering and cost options will be available at the next meeting.

VII. Discussion/action

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to approve NASB to conduct the search for the new superintendent. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

VIII. Action Items

A. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Harris to appoint the Dakota County Star as the newspaper of record for the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

B. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to appoint Perry, Guthery, Haase and Gessford as the legal firm representing the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

B. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Harris to approve First Community Bank as the primary financial institution for the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

D. Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Nelsen to approve the Athletic Director as the district's Non-discrimination/TitleIX Compliance Coordinator of the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

E. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to authorize the superintendent to apply for state and federal funds, including Title 1. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

F. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Nelsen to approve the resignation of Gregg Cruickshank, Superintendent, effective June 30, 2024. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

G. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to approve the Negotiated Agreement with the Homer Education Association. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

IX. Communication

- a. Administrator Reports. Principals Abbie Uhl and Tom Coviello reported CPR training was held on January 2, 2024 and eight additional staff members are now certified. The new scoreboards are in and a big thanks was given to Jeff Reed and Bill McPherran for their hard work on them. Both principals will be attending the Teacher Fair in Wayne on January 31st. We will have a Poverty Simulation on February 12 and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held February 7-8. Kevin Lein will be coming to speak to staff on January 31st.

Mrs. Uhl reported that Angela Abts will be coming several times through the end of March to work with students in Grades Kindergarten – 5th Grade on Enrichment activities. Grades 3-5 will be implementing a Homework Detention Policy starting January 8th and Advertising for our 4 year-old PK sign up was shared.

Mr. Coveillo thanked Dan Schmitt, Athletic Director, and the office staff for their hard work rescheduling all the activities with the bad weather. He also reported that quotes will be received to update the trophy cases in the front foyer. Homer will be hosting a Wrestling triangular on January 25th and he is beginning work on the Master Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Cruickshank reported on attendance and enrollment as of the end of December. Total enrollment is currently at 437. Four year-old PK has 15 this year. Sign-up for next year's Four year-old PK is 16. Sign-up started in December and until this year, the enrollment for Four year-old PK had been 22-30 students. Information was shared on changes to the entrance and exit procedures. Mr. Cruickshank had nothing new to report on schools leaving the Lewis and Clark Conference and the 2023-2024 Teacher Vacancy Survey conducted by the Nebraska Department of Education was shared. The new scoreboards look great and Mr. Cruickshank expressed his thanks to the following sponsors for their generosity. Earl Miller Construction, Fogarty Enterprises, Kirkholm Family Farms, Old Dane Golf Club, Bill and Jody Rohde, Tremayne Cattle Company, T-Rone Transport, Lauritsen Insurance and First Community Bank.

- b. Public Comment. Peggy TerWee provided comment to the Board regarding curriculum.

X. Closed session

Motion was made by Harris and seconded by Hall to go into closed session at 10:22 p.m. to discuss the bargaining strategy for determining classified staff wages and salaries for the protection of the public's interest and to discuss a personnel matter to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Harris to enter regular session at 10:54 p.m. On roll call the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

XI. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for the 14th of February 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

XII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to adjourn the meeting at 11:01p.m. on January 17, 2024. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2024.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Board Secretary

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