

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
July 8, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, July 8, 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: Aaron Reis, Byron Hall, Tyler Kirkholm, Paul Tighe, and Kristina Nelsen.

Absent: Ryan Harris

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Lefdal, Principals Tom Coviello and Abbie Uhl 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 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. Opening the Meeting

A. 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. Publication of the Meeting was provided according to 84-1411.

B. District Mission Statement: The Homer Community School District provides a safe, supportive environment in which all students will develop skills, knowledge, and integrity essential for a successful future. This includes educating students to read with understanding, communicate clearly, solve problems effectively, think critically, and act responsibly.

C. Roll Call – All members are present except Member Harris.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to excuse Member Harris from the board meeting. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

II. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve the agenda as presented.

On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

III. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve the Minutes of the June 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
  - B. Approve the Minutes of the June 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting.
  - C. Approve claims and accounts payable and payroll expense from General Fund.
- Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve all Consent Agenda items.  
On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Hall, Kirkholm, Reis  
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Public Comment

Diana Hauck, bus driver with First Student, invited the board to attend a drive along on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Courthouse in Dakota City. County Commissioners will also be invited and all three bus routes will be driven.

V. Information Items: Reports

- A. Administrator reports: Revisions to the Teacher Evaluation Policy (406.08) were discussed as well as District, Elementary and Secondary changes to the Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B. Superintendent report: Dr. Lefdal informed the board that his first week with the District has gone well and gave dates he would be attending various workshops. Dr. Lefdal also discussed Sparq Data Solutions, which manages online board meeting agendas, paperless board meetings and document storage.
- C. Technology report: Jeff Reed informed the board the sound system is updated and staff devices are all in.
- D. Facility report: Continuous HVAC issues remain to occur..

VI. Discussion Items

- A. Policy update – second reading. Dr. Lefdal gave an overview of all policy revisions and new policies for the board’s consideration.
- B. Basketball court/playground. Budget limitations were discussed and Dr. Lefdal would like to see where the budget is at before we look at playground expenses. Different options were discussed, and this topic will be revisited at a later date.
- C. Substitute Teacher Pay. Dr. Lefdal recommended to keep our substitute teacher pay where it is for the 2024-2025 school year. This will be an action item at August’s meeting.

VII. Action Items

- A. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve the revised Teacher Evaluation Policy (406.8). On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.
- B. Discussion was held regarding different busing options. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the Transportation Service Agreement with First Student, Inc. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.
- C. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to not increase the busing fees for option enroll students for the 2024-2025 school year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Tighe  
The motion carried 5-0.

- D. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Hall to approve Dr. Joseph Lefdal authorization to apply for all state and federal funding, including Title 1 for 2024-2025 school year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall  
The motion carried 5-0.
- E. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the 2024-2025 membership with the Nebraska Community Schools Association (NRCSA). On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Reis, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm  
The motion carried 5-0.
- F. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to approve the service agreement with Porter and Company, CPA's, P.C. for the 2023-2024 District Audit. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall  
The motion carried 5-0.
- G. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to authorize Dr. Joseph Lefdal to be added as a signatory to all the District bank accounts. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall  
The motion carried 5-0.
- H. Discussion was held regarding reinstating the District's drug testing policy for students involved in extra-curricular activities and including it in the 2024-2025 Student Handbook. More information will be provided at next month's meeting.
- I. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to reaffirm bully prevention, appropriate relationships with students, multicultural, and citizenship policies. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall  
The motion carried 5-0.

VIII. Time/Date of next meetings

The next regular board meeting is set for Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7:00p.m.

IX. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. on July 8, 2024. On roll call vote the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2024.

ATTEST:  
Kristen Nelsen  
Secretary

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