

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

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, June 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: Paul Tighe, Byron Hall, Kristina Nelsen, Ryan Harris and Tyler Kirkholm

Absent: Aaron Reis

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, 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 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 Reis and Kirkholm.

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

Voting for: Hall, Harris, Nelsen, Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

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

Voting for: Hall, Harris, Nelsen, Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to 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, Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe

The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the May 15th regular meeting.

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

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

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Nelsen, Tighe, Hall
Motion carried 4-0.

V. Audience and Discussion

A. Austin Lambert, Industrial Technology Teacher, visited with the board about the proposed moving, adding HVAC system and electrical in the Welding Lab. The proposed upgrade will enhance the learning environment, improve safety and optimize the efficiency of the STS (Skilled and Technical Sciences) program for the benefit of our students.

Member Kirkholm arrived at 7:20 p.m.

B. Bill McPherran, Facilities Coordinator, provided the board with a facility addition update. Construction is going very well and on schedule. The shatter proof window film is being installed on all windows. Options will be looked at to repair or replace the North goal post which was damaged in a storm. Bill informed the board that Grant Lander is doing a great job keeping up with the grounds. A tour was given of the facility project.

C. Jeff Reed, Technology Coordinator, gave a technology update to the board. He is looking into new electronic score boards for the main gym. Updating security cameras was also discussed.

VI. Communications/Discussion

Principal Uhl briefly reported on the Student Handbook, which will be discussed later in the meeting. Veronica Schmidt will be the new Elementary Enrichment Coordinator and different assessments were discussed.

Superintendent Cruickshank discussed the Senior Exit Survey. The feedback received from the survey showed positive information in every area. Reinstating mandatory drug testing was discussed and more conversations will be held with all coaches and activity sponsors when staff arrive back in the fall. 36 students graduated in May and 14 PreK students are enrolled in the Fall. An enrollment decline is likely for 2023-2024. The playground project will be a priority to pursue further during the next school year and assembly was started on the new van on June 12th. Superintendent Cruickshank also reported all teachers have been hired for the 2023-2024 school year.

B. Public comment: None

VII. Closed Session

Superintendent Cruickshank stated negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year could be discussed in open session and the consensus of the board was agreeable. Hiring bonuses and different incentive strategies were discussed for new hires and current staff. Superintendent Cruickshank shared what other area schools are doing in this area as well as sub pay.

VIII. Discussion

A. Accreditation report. This report is prepared by the external evaluation team who was on-site for one day. The report shows a summary of the self-review conducted by our internal accreditation team and findings of the external evaluation team. Three recommendations were made, and we will continue to have conversations regarding the accreditation.

- B. Legislation update. Superintendent Cruickshank gave a summary of the education legislation most impacting Homer for the 2023-2024 school year and going forward. He will let the board know at a later date how these changes would impact Homer School.
- C. Student Handbook 2023-2024 and Master Schedule 2023-2024. Principal's Uhl and Coviello reported they are not making significant changes to the handbook but are reworking it into three sections which will be Elementary, Secondary and District. Mr. Coviello added a discipline matrix to the High School section and will implement LOP (loss of privileges). If a student is on the LOP list, they will lose extracurricular privileges such as games, dances, etc.
- Administration has been working on the master schedule for next year. 7th and 8th grade students will have exploratory classes and all 6th and 7th grade students will have PE every day and be required to take band or chorus. Mrs. Uhl also shared the elementary schedule.
- D. Wellness Policy. Every school district needs to review their Wellness Policy every three years. The Board reviewed the policy and it will be submitted to NDE by July 30th.

IX. Discussion/Action

- A. Information was presented and discussed regarding the stipend for the Head Coach position for Speech and One Act.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to approve a change of 7% of BA salary for the Speech Head Coach and a change 6% of BA salary for the One Act Head Coach. The Assistant Speech Coach stipend will be 5% of BA salary and 4% of BA salary for Assistant One Act. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

- B. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Hall to approve the purchase of welding environmental ventilation. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

X. Action

Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Hall approve the resignation of Megan Schiltz. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

XI. Closed Session

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Kirkholm to go into closed session at 10:54p.m. to discuss a personnel matter to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The board reconvened to regular session.

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to convene to regular session at 11:09 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Hall, Harris, Nelsen
The motion carried 5-0.

XII. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Harris to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. on June 13, 2023.

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

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