

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
June 11, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 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, Principal 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. 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.

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

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

The motion carried 5-0.

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: Hall, Kirkholm, Nelsen, Tighe, Harris

The motion carried 5-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the Minutes of the May 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

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

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

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

Motion carried 5-0.

V. Communication

a. Administrator reports

Principal Uhl reported on updates to the Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year as well as the Elementary Enrichment Coordinator position being available. Formal changes to the handbook will be available at the July meeting for approval.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that we ended the school year with a total enrollment of 436. Information was shared from the rural school's digital device survey.

b. Public Comment

There was none.

VI. Discussion

a. Roger Heck presented the District Property, Casualty, Work Comp Insurance renewal. He also shared the changes to the renewal and the 8% increase in total annual premium.

b. Superintendent Cruickshank provided policy revisions and new policies for the Board's consideration. Also discussed was the teacher evaluation policy (406.8). This policy needs to be revised based on changes to procedures. This will be addressed in July or August.

c. Superintendent Cruickshank informed the board that the natural gas line is now complete, and a follow-up meeting will be scheduled soon with the architects and engineers to address ongoing HVAC issues.

d. First Student's contract was shared. Several concerns were discussed, as well as different busing options. Conversations will be taking place with school staff and First Student in July to combine the Fiddler Creek van route with one of the three bus routes. Consideration for approval will be at the July meeting.

VII. Discussion/Action

Information was shared concerning the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the Nutrition Program which would allow all students to receive free meals. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> to enroll for a four-year commitment to participate. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to approve the district to participate in the CEP program for the next four years. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0

Discussion was held regarding splitting the boys and girls Wrestling programs and the need for an additional practice location due to growth of the program. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to approve the hiring of a Head and Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach and purchase an additional mat for the additional practice location. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding a softball co-op with Ponca. The program occurs during the Fall and would be a two year commitment per NSAA regulations. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to approve the district entering a co-op with Ponca for Girls Softball. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Hall, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm

Voting against: Harris

The motion carried 4-1.

VIII. Action

Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Harris to approve the premium, deductible and coverage for the District Property, Casualty and Work Comp Insurance policy. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

IX. Next Meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for July 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. on June 11, 2024.

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2024.

ATTEST:  
Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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