

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
May 13, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Kristina Nelsen, Aaron Reis, Byron Hall and Ryan Harris

Absent: Paul Tighe and Tyler Kirkholm

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principal Tom Coviello 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 Vice President announced & 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 Members Tighe and Kirkholm.

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

Voting for: Hall, Nelsen, Harris, Reis

The motion carried 4-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

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

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the April 8th regular meeting.

2. Approve claims and accounts from General Fund.

3. 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 Consent Agenda items. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0.

V. Communications

A. Administrative Reports: Mr. Coviello reported on certified employee evaluations and changes to the Student Handbook for 2024-2025. He informed the board that there will be a presentation at the July board meeting regarding the Mental Health Institute. We have obtained a TeamMates book vending machine through the TeamMates READ Nebraska Grant which includes the vending machine and 300 free books. The Preschool/Senior Graduation hallway walk was held May 7th and the Dakota County Sheriff's Office held a K9 and Drone presentation for all students and staff on May 9th and a race car presentation was held on May 10th.

Elementary field trips are in full swing and 4 year old Preschool Graduation will be held on May 20th at 10:00 am. Angela Ford is the Elementary Summer School Coordinator which will be held June 10-28. This is offered to K-5 students and 36 students are scheduled to be in attendance. The Elementary Track Meet will be held on May 24th from 9:00-12:00.

The FAB Banquet was held on May 7th and we have seven qualifiers for State Track. Graduation was held on May 11th. District Golf was May 13th and the Athletic Banquet will be held May 14th.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that enrollment is at 437. He informed the board the two Cultural Connections positions will be fully funded for 2024-2025. Grant Coordinator Chris Stogdill said the positions for 2025-2026 could be funded anywhere from 0 – 25%. An HVAC update was given, and Mr. Cruickshank informed the board the proposal for the update to the fire alarm system was not funded through the school safety grant. Other than two paraprofessional positions, all staff are hired, and all contracts are turned in for the next school year. Policy updates will be shared at the June meeting.

B. Concern was brought to the board's attention regarding bus route road conditions, bus safety concerns and the possibility of adding a bus monitor on two of the routes

VI. Discussion

- a. Mr. Cruickshank shared notes on the new legislation prepared by School Attorney, Justin Knight.
- b. Information from a present and historical perspective was shared on revenues and expenditures.
- c. Information regarding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the Nutrition Program was discussed. The CEP allows schools that qualify to provide free lunch and breakfast to all students. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. More information will be available at the June meeting.
- d. Athletic Director, Dan Schmitt and Head Wrestling Coach, Josh Watchorn shared information on expected Wrestling participation numbers for 2024-25 and how that may impact practice space and staffing levels for coaches. It was decided to staff two additional wrestling coaches as well as purchase an additional wrestling mat.
- e. Information was shared regarding an invitation to co-op softball with Ponca. An interest survey will be done with our students and more information will be obtained from Ponca.

VII. Discussion/Action

- a. Information and concerns were shared and discussed regarding the transportation renewal with First Student. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Harris to approve the renewal proposal which includes incorporating new buses for the 2024-25 through 2026-27 school years with First Student. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Harris, Reis, Hall, Nelsen

The motion carried 4-0.

- b. Discussion was held regarding Playground equipment. The board discussed that now is not a financially feasible time for this project. Fundraising to help fund part of the project would help address the cost. This item will be discussed at a later date.

- c. Several proposals were shared and discussed regarding refreshing laptops for staff. Jeff Reed added additional details to the proposals. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve the Dell staff laptop refresh. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Harris to approve the licensing fees. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0

- d. Extended contract considerations for the Elementary Success Coordinator/Elementary Guidance Counselor position were discussed. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve ten additional days to the Elementary Success Coordinator/Elementary Guidance Counselor position. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0

- e. Discussion was held regarding Skills USA National Competition. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve travel to Atlanta, GA and the District will commit \$4,500 to the trip. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0

VIII. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. on May 13, 2024.

Voting for: Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Harris

The motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2024.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

Dakota County School District #31R
a/k/a Homer Community School
BY: Byron Hall, Vice President