

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
October 11, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Tyler Kirkholm, Aaron Reis, Ryan Harris, Byron Hall, Kristina Nelsen, Paul Tighe

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Tom Coviello & 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.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

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

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

The motion carried 6-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the September 11th budget hearing, tax resolution hearing and regular meeting.

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

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to approve all Consent Agenda items.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

V. Closed Session

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Harris to enter closed session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

The board reconvened to public session.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to reconvene to regular session at 8:50 p.m. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

VI. Audiences

a. Bryan Flansburg, Senior Location Manager with 1st Student Transportation, addressed concerns regarding staffing, bus safety and consistency of service with the board.

b. Keely Purcell was not present at the meeting.

VII. Communications/Discussion

Public Comment: Several community members addressed the board with concerns regarding the Cultural Connections Grant. Miranda Estochen addressed the board to see if there was interest in the school working with the Village to establish a sidewalk from the football field into town. Several community members address concerns regarding the limited gym times for elementary teams to practice during the Fall and Winter months.

Both principals reported on a poverty simulation that will be taking place in February during Professional Development. Both principals will be attending the upcoming Student Teacher Fair at Wayne State College. They discussed mental health supports the district has in place and data that was reviewed at Professional Development on September 25th. KSB School Law will be talking to various groups about digital citizenship on December 12th.

Principal Uhl discussed different options for the Elementary to work on creating more authentic learning opportunities through guest speakers and assemblies to increase student background knowledge and vocabulary. Parent/Teacher conference percentages were shared as well as an overview of our Elementary Enrichment program, which is led by Mrs. Schmidt and Elementary Student Council, which is led by Mrs. Oldenburg. She also shared different opportunities for Elementary students coming up in October.

Principal Coviello reported our Fall sports seasons are winding down and the need to fill some coaching positions. Mr. Launsby will be taking students to County Government Day this month and he discussed MTSS (6th and 7th grade interventions) and stated a representative from Her Health will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parent/Teacher percentages were also shared.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported current attendance is at 427. He informed the board of new sponsorship for the digital scoreboards/message boards project and shared he visited with Sioux City Ford regarding the availability of a new nine passenger all wheel drive van. The earliest availability would be 2025, and more likely 2026. Mr. Cruickshank shared information on our latest safety audit and the annual financial audit was completed Tuesday.

VIII. Discussion

Facility Project: Problems continue to be worked out with the HVAC in the new additions. The back gym unit is completely operational. The architect will be back for a final walk through toward the end of October. Steve Harris Construction will install the sidewalk in front of the new additions. The cost is \$10,200 and other quotes were received from Tim Harris Construction and Barclay Construction.

IX. Discussion/Action items

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to approve the recommended language in the Option Enrollment Policy (502.2) to comply with LB 414. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to approve the board goals and priorities as presented and discussed. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

X. Closed Session

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to enter closed session at 11:20 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategies for certified teachers for the protection of the public's interest. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

The board reconvened to public session.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Reis to reconvene to regular session at 11:53 p.m. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

XI. Time/Date of next meeting

The next board meeting will be on November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

XII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m. on October 11, 2023. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 11th day of October 2023.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

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