

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

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:10 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

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

Absent: Ryan Harris

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl & 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 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 board members are present except Member Harris.

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

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

The motion carried 5-0.

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: Kirkholm, Hall, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen

The motion carried 5-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and August 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting.

2. Approve claims and accounts 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, Kirkholm, Hall, Reis

The motion carried 5-0.

V. Audience

VI. Communications/Discussion

A. Public Comment: Diana Hauk raised concerns about the safety of buses currently being used by First Student.

B. Reports

Principals Uhl and Coviello reported on Homecoming week and focuses for PK-12 Professional Development. Additional ideas were also discussed relating to KSB Law (SPED/504), poverty simulation, culture building, APL refresher and technology integration. Data will be reviewed on the September 25<sup>th</sup> PD day. Parent-Teacher Conference will be September 20 and 21. TeamMates mentor meetings began September 5<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Coviello, Mrs. Uhl, Mrs. Hightree-Sitzmann, Mrs. Delperdang and Mrs. Morgan will work on Cognia Continuous Improvement Planning. Testing and different trainings are underway in both the elementary and secondary.

Superintendent Cruickshank discussed enrollment and the terms for the new digital board for the main gym. He also discussed communication and media coverage regarding special education staffing and school funding. State school board convention information was shared with the board.

VII Discussion

A. Facilities Project update: Superintendent Cruickshank shared the latest pay application with at least one more to come. He also shared that 45 community members attended the open house on August 20<sup>th</sup> and the HVAC continues to be worked on in the new additions and back gym. Jeff Reed also shared information regarding the new HVAC system. Thoughts and considerations were shared regarding a sidewalk and the parking lot.

B. LB 414: Superintendent Cruickshank shared an overview of the legislation regarding change provisions relating to the enrollment option program.

VII. Discussion/Action Items

A. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Reis to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 Budget. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

B. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 Property Tax Request/Levy Resolution as presented. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

C. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to approve the Homer Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2025-2026 contract year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

- D. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to waive the second reading of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy (505.9). On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Hall, Reis, Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.
- E. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve Policies 505.9 and 604.16 (Artificial Intelligence Policy) as presented. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Hall, Kirkholm, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.
- F. The Board/District goals and priorities were discussed and will be approved at October's meeting.
- G. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve a stipend of \$3,000 to Jeff Reed for work related to the facility project to be paid out of the building fund. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Kirkholm, Hall, Tighe, Reis, Nelsen  
The motion carried 5-0.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to enter closed session at 9:15p.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: Kirkholm, Hall, Reis, Nelsen, Harris  
The motion carried 5-0.

The board reconvened to regular session.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Hall to enter regular session at 9:45p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Reis, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Hall, Tighe  
The motion carried 5-0.

IX. Time/Date of next meeting

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:47p.m. on September 11, 2023. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Hall, Kirkholm, Tighe, Reis  
The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 11th day of September 2023.

ATTEST:  
Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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