

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education

District Office

6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Monday, April 15, 2024

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Ed Mulholland.

Present: President Ed Mulholland, Joe Haverly (arrived at 6:38 p.m.), Secretary Brian Haselhorst, Judy Hutchinson, Tom Kinser, Vice President Mary Maxey and Treasurer Nan Schilling.

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchinson and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the Agenda as presented.

Discussion:
(none)

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Ms. Roxann Grenlund spoke to the Board to encourage transparency and to bring character and integrity back to the Board.

Mr. William Randall spoke to the Board about transparency and honesty. He also spoke in regards to the videos that are online being beneficial not only to the community but for the Board to go back to review.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schilling noted that she did meet with Stacey Corder and the numbers are looking better from her stand point. Having the report that shows the District is on track as far as percentages is very helpful.

Mr. Haselhorst brought up the issues that we have been having with our software in regards to our reports. He inquired if there is an update on obtaining a new system? Ms. Corder stated that she has already been looking into other programs. She and her team do have one that they are very interested in and she will be working to get a quote from that company.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Greenlee stated that the RFP's (Request for Proposal) for a new minivan and tractor will be posted in the paper. The goal is to have the recommendations at the May Board Meeting. The RFP for the life skills bathroom has been posted with a bid opening on May 9, 2024 that will also be presented at the May Board Meeting.

Dr. Greenlee noted that a call was received from Boone County in regards to calculation errors on our tax rate. Ms. Corder spoke with Mr. Newport at the County in regards to the 2022 tax levy where our aggregate base was miscalculated. He stated that we might see a change. Ms. Corder received the reports the next day the current Deputy Clerk's office. After reviewing the numbers and our Levy, she stated that our numbers are going to be fine. She also noted that after working with the County on a few of these items, our tax rate for this year is actually coming out at 6.31582%, which is lower than expected. Ms. Corder also spoke with Mr. Newport on this impact and asked questions that she knew the community would have in regards to the PEL Worksheet and his response was "Yes, Miss Bliss did not normally send that out in the past but hopefully that's something that would start coming out". Ms. Corder did let him know that Winnebago County does send that worksheet out.

Mrs. Schilling asked if the District did receive all of the funding that it was supposed to get? Per Ms. Corder, yes it did.

Mr. Haverly was concerned that at the previous Board Meeting, due to the large audience, he felt that many may have left thinking that with the Levy we increased taxes. Ms. Corder stated that is not the case and that the aim is to keep the tax rate at or lower than it has been and work with the Levy in that way.

It was stated that this entire situation is the County's calculation issue, not the District's. This did not just affect North Boone, but other taxing bodies within the County that overlap with Winnebago County.

Dr. Greenlee reminded both the Board and the Administrators that if they have not yet turned in their Statements of Economic Interest, please do so as soon as possible. If you would like to give them to Andrea Sowers, she can make sure that they get to the County on time.

Mr. Haselhorst did inquire as to which paper the RFP's are posted. They are posted in the Boone County Journal and they are also posted on the front page of the District website.

Mr. Haverly asked for clarification as to who writes the contracts for the RFP's. Dr. Greenlee stated that Greg Stahler is the one handling the RFP for the bathroom at the high school and Ms. Corder and Dr. Greenlee are handling the ones for the van and tractor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Mrs. Maxey stated that the Second Reading of Policies are included in today’s agenda for approval and it is the Committee’s recommendation that they be approved as presented.

Business Services Committee

Mrs. Hutchinson stated that the next Business Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2024.

Facility/Long Range Planning Committee

Mr. Haselhorst stated that the next Facility/Long Range Planning Committee’s next meeting date is to be determined.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

Mrs. Hutchinson stated that the next C.I.A. Committee Meeting will be held on May 8, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haverly to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – March 19, 2024
- B. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/ End Date
1. Certified - Hire				
UE	Stefani Zimmerman	6 th Grade Math Teacher	MA +32, Step 10	08/09/2024
HS	Nathan Negron	HS English Teacher	BA +0, Step 2	08/09/2024
District	Alexis Booth	Special Education Procedural Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)	Per NBEA schedule	08/12/2024
District	Heather Walsh	Elementary Summer School Admin	\$2,100.00 plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Jarrod Peterson	UE Summer School Admin	\$2,100.00 plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Allison Louis	MS Summer School Admin	\$2,100.00 plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Jeff Corn	HS Summer School Admin	\$2,100.00 plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Karise Tinberg	MS Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 14 days)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-7, 2024 and June 19-28, 2024
District	Marcy Wilson	MS Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 6 days)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 10-17, 2024
District	Taylor Anderson	MS Summer School Teacher	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3 -28, 2024

		(4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)		
District	Carol North	MS Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Lisa Falk-Kopala	Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Dawn Seipts	Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Becky Giesecke	Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Liz Saveley	Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Sarah Atayde	EL Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Lindsey Jackson	HS Summer School Teacher (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Verna Rentsch	HS Summer School Teacher (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Diana Vlase	HS Summer School Teacher (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
District	Drew Swenson	Elementary Summer School Teacher (4.0 hours/day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2-24
District	Brian Polky	MS Summer School Counselor (4.0 hours/ day for 5 days/week)	\$25.00/hour plus TRS	June 3-28, 2024
2. Certified - Resignation				
MS	Sandra Swenson	ESL Teacher	N/A	End of 2023/2024 School Year
MS	Brandon Mooney	PE Teacher	N/A	End of 2023/2024 School Year
3. Certified – FMLA				
UE	Matt Brinkmeyer	6 th Grade ELA Teacher	N/A	08/12/2024-08/23/2024

4. Certified - Transfer

PGE to MES	Courtney Zuidema	Social Worker	N/A	2024-2025 School Year
UE to PGE	Judy Lange	Social Worker	N/A	2024-2025 School Year
5. Certified - Recall				
CES/MES	Laura Blomquist	Intervention Teacher	Per NBEA schedule	08/12/2024
6. Non-Certified - Hire				
District	Lauren Dhamer	MS/UE Summer School Secretary (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Connie Cooke	MS Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Eve York	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days per week)	Per NBESS schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Karyn Caldwell	Elementary Summer School Secretary (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Amanda Richardson	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Taryn Christensen	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Megan Dennin	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Laurie Chudoba	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Amber Livdahl	Elementary Summer School Paraprofessional (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 3-28, 2024
District	Chris McKibben	Elementary Summer School Nurse (3.5 hours/day for 5 days/week)	Per NBESS Schedule	June 11-28, 2024
7. Non-Certified - Resignation				
District	Pasquina Cichon	Bus Aide	N/A	03/22/2024
8. Non-Certified – LOA				
PGE	Kerri Cekus	Paraprofessional	N/A	05/13/2024-05/24/2024
9. Extra-Curricular - Hire				

HS	Josh LaMere	Assistant Football Coach	Group II, Year 1	2024/2025 Season
10. Extra-Curricular - Resignation				
HS	Aaron Sullivan	Assistant Football Coach	N/A	03/31/2024

- C. 2024-2025 Consolidated District Plan
- D. Overnight Field Trip Request

Discussion:
(none)

The motion carried by unanimous roll call.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Finance Update

Ms. Corder presented a Finance Update for March 2024. In regards to revenue, the District is on target with revenue coming in as expected for the major areas. Grants are coming in as the money is being spent. We are on target for the remaining amount of funds that are expected for this year.

In regards to the expenses, we are currently at 75% expended for the year which is right on target. It is now the time to begin looking at each of our grants as we do the third quarter expenditure report to the State to see if there is anything that needs to be amended to make sure that we spend the funds that have been allocated to us in time. This is also the time that Ms. Corder would look into each area or section to verify where we are and then look overall by fund to see if there would be a need to do a District Budget Amendment which, at this time is looking like one will not be needed.

In regards to grants, Dr. Greenlee asked Ms. Corder to touch base on how she will be wrapping up the grants to make sure that they end up in this fiscal year. She stated that since the District works on a cash basis, normally only four expenditure reports are required to be sent to the State, however because all but one of our grants are reimbursable, Ms. Corder prefers to add a fifth expenditure report. In the beginning of June, after May is closed, she will do another report to include all expenses that were made in May. By doing this, there will only be one month of expenditures outstanding in which the funds will be received in the following fiscal year. This allows for the revenue and expenses to be closer in line at year end.

Discussion:

Mr. Haselhorst stated that he appreciates seeing this report and how it has been put together.

B. Second Reading and Approval of Policies

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson to approve the Second Reading of Policies as presented.

Discussion:

(none)

The motion carried by unanimous roll call.

C. Status of resolution of the HVAC issues and impact on Phase II

Dr. Greenlee stated that Mr. Stahler, the District's architect, and Mr. McCurdy, the engineer, have both been looking into the issues in regards to the univents and are present to provide an update.

Mr. McCurdy indicated the fundamental issues were that the option to start up the units was not purchased from Trane when the units were ordered. As a result, there were a handful of issues on these units including the outside air dampers being open when it was extremely cold which tripped the internal protection on the units to keep them from freezing. The other half of the issue that was encountered was some bad wall construction behind units which is also driving air into the units tripping the freeze protection.

Discussion:

- Is there documentation showing that we were offered startup services and that we declined? This would be included in part of the sale but Mr. McCurdy will look into this.
- It was mentioned when the units were purchased that there is the possibility of the unknown once the walls were opened to install the univents, why when the poor wall construction was discovered was nothing done about it prior to installation? This would have been something that Hartwig would have seen and should have brought to our attention.
- Who was overseeing Hartwig during the installation? Mr. Stahler and Mr. McCurdy were the ones to oversee the project and were out a few times to do a check.
- What would be the next phase in this process to get this resolved? There is a meeting set for Thursday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. with Dr. Greenlee, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Stahler, Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Kinser to begin discussing remedies and what needs to be done to rectify the situation.
- What is it going to take to fix this situation, how much will this cost and who will be held responsible for that cost as it shouldn't be on the District? Who is accountable? We will have our attorney review all of the documents.
- Will we be ready for the next school year? Yes.
- Who made the call to not have the start up service included? This is being looked into.
- Will this have an impact on Phase II? No. The equipment is completely different.

Dr. Greenlee will provide the Board with an update of the Thursday meeting on Friday. If necessary, a Facility/Long Range Planning Committee Meeting could be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

A. April 2024 Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchinson to approve the April 2024 bills as presented and was seconded by Mrs. Maxey.

Discussion:
(none)

The motion carried by unanimous roll call.

B. Approval of Auditor

Ms. Corder stated that the District went out to RFP for a new District Auditor. Two proposals were presented. The companies that did submit proposals were Sikish LLP and Benning Group, LLC. There are a couple of categories that are looked at which included; pricing, can they provide all of the services that we require, able to do an onsite audit, present for the audit presentation and experience in educational auditing and references. Both firms came with excellent references, can provide the services and do have the experience necessary. That comes down to pricing. Sikish LLP came in with a lower proposal. Ms. Corder has worked with both of the companies in the past and would highly recommend either of them.

A motion was made by Mr. Haverly to approve Sikich LLP as the new District Auditor and was seconded by Mrs. Maxey.

Discussion:
Mrs. Hutchinson asked if our current auditor submitted a proposal. Ms. Corder stated that they did indicate that they were putting together a proposal, however, none was received.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call.

C. Election of Board Treasurer

It has been policy, if the Board Treasurer is a board member, to have the position up for election every year. The floor was then opened for nominations for Board Treasurer.

Mrs. Hutchinson nominated Mrs. Schilling. No other nominations were made.

Discussion:
Mrs. Hutchinson feels that Mrs. Schilling has the background necessary to continue as the Board Treasurer and while she does push back on items, we need to have our eyes opened on some items and she does appreciate her knowledge.

Ayes: Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Schilling

Nays: Mr. Haselhorst, Mr. Haverly, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Maxey and Mr. Mulholland

The nomination fails by a 2-5 vote.

Mrs. Maxey made a motion to allow Dr. Greenlee and his admin team to bring forth a recommendation of an outside individual to preside as Board Treasurer to the May Board Meeting and was seconded by Mr. Haverly.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schilling asked what criteria will be used in searching for an individual? Mrs. Maxey would like to see a CPA recommended.

Ayes: Mr. Haselhorst, Mr. Haverly, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Maxey and Mr. Mulholland

Nays: Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Schilling

The motion passed with a 5-2 vote.

D. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year as presented and Mr. Haverly did second the motion.

Discussion:

Dr. Greenlee noted that some of the dates were adjusted to meet with state issued timelines for specific items.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call.

E. Board Action and Public Meetings

Mrs. Schilling stated that she is concerned that actions are being taken outside of a properly convened board meeting. Her concerns are stemming from documents that were produced in regards to a FOIA request where it is believed that actions are being taken and staff members are being directed to not attend board meetings. This topic was broached in the past but there really was no resolution which is the reason it is being brought to the Board's attention again. It was stated that the administration was instructed to not attend a board meeting, but at which meeting was this decided at? She stated that there needs to be transparency. She requested to know what the Board is going to do for holding meetings not in public and in an open manner. She was told that there was a board meeting and would like to know when and where this meeting was held.

Discussion:

Mr. Haverly stated that he believes that the Board Attorney said the Dr. Greenlee decides whether his admin attends the meetings or not. He believes that any meeting Mrs. Schilling may be referring to must be an executive session meeting but there have been no meetings held that he was made aware of. Also, as one of seven, he does feel that the meeting should have been taken offline as he was aghast at the behavior and the way that the admin team was spoken to and he was in full support of that not being online.

Mrs. Maxey is not sure why this was brought to the Board again. She was also in full support of the January meeting being taken down due to the way in which the admin team was spoken to. She stated that there have been no meetings that were held outside of the meetings that were scheduled.

Mr. Kinser reiterated that at the last meeting, the Board Attorney made it clear that it was up to Dr. Greenlee as to which meetings the admins are to attend. He also is not aware of a meeting taking place to discuss this issue. He stated that he is at the point where the accusations that come out and go to the public are not considered to be truthful at all. He understands what it takes for us to strive to be honest in our dealings with things such as a recording not being made due to human error. He believes what the attorney stated. He also wanted to state on the record that he is not aware of any meeting held outside of the ones scheduled.

Mr. Haselhorst stated that he is also not aware of any board meeting that has not been held publicly.

Mrs. Schilling noted that there are two issues here. One is the administrators not being at the February meeting and who directed that action. The second is the January 23rd meeting where the video was taken offline where financial information was being presented. This was then sent to the attorney for review. How is that not board action to decide to do so? Was this decided in the January 24th closed meeting that there is no recording of?

Mrs. Hutchinson asked if the recording was sent to the board attorney who didn't see a legal issue with it, why wasn't it put back online immediately?

Mr. Nemanich stated that while the situation was not ideal there were no legal concerns on his part.

Mr. Haverly inquired as to what information as being kept from the public in regards to the recording. Mrs. Schilling said that we were in the middle of a levy. Mr. Mulholland indicated that the levy was approved in December. Mrs. Schilling stated that the abatement was what was on the January agenda along with the audit documentation.

Lastly, Mr. Haverly stated his opinion that the Board needs to turn their focus back to maintaining a working relationship to make the District workings the priority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 7:45 p.m. by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haverly to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1).

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: Secretary Brian Haselhorst, Joe Haverly, Judy Hutchinson, Tom Kinser, Vice President Mary Maxey, President Ed Mulholland and Treasurer Nan Schilling. Also present: Dr. Greenlee.

A motion was made at 8:46 p.m. to resume Open Session by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Kinser. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

Present: Brian Haselhorst, Joe Haverly, Judy Hutchinson, Tom Kinser, Mary Maxey, Ed Mulholland and Nan Schilling.

RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Haselhorst and seconded by Mr. Kinser to approve the termination of employee 2024-415-A effective April 15, 2024.

Ayes: Mr. Haselhorst, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Maxey and Mr. Mulholland

Nays: Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Schilling.

The motion passed 4-3 with no abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

- A. FOIA Log
- B. Enrollment
- C. Student Activity Fund Reports

Announcements:

Mr. Mulholland asked that at next month's meeting a discussion should be had on whether or not to continue to video/live stream the meetings. Also, deciding what would constitute bringing a recording down so that there can be some consensus as this has not been discussed since 2018. Would this go to the Policy Committee first? No, a discussion should be had at the Board level first and then sent to the Policy Committee to put something together.

Mr. Mulholland would also like to have some discussion to amend some of the board agreements. He would like to share a couple of documents that he pulled in from a couple of other school districts and gather input to see whether there is anything that we might want to utilize in regards to our agreements as far as the group goes.

A review of the body of work from Greg Stahler and Mr. McCurdy was requested. With the issues that we are currently faced with, we need to look into how much money we have spent on them over the year. Should this go to the Facility Committee first? Yes as well as looking into utilizing the Design/Build Concept.

Mr. Kinser would like to review the Policy on FOIA requests and potential administrative changes. He would like some structured fees noted. Also, due to the frequency and depth of recent requests, would it be possible to hire someone to fulfill the requests as to not bury the District Office staff?

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Kinser to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. The motion was carried by unanimous voice call.

PRESIDENT _____

SECRETARY _____

APPROVED: