BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 15, 2021 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President, Denise McBride. Present: Denise McBride, Rod Cole, Tom Gross, Erin Ludwig, Curt Gottschalk and Ron Neyer. Bob Pasch was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Tom Gross read the Technology Board Goal.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to approve the agenda with no additions or deletions. Motion carried 6/0.

Denise McBride welcomed Julie Christensen and Veena Cole.

There was no scheduled Student & Staff Spotlight due to COVID.

There were no Board Business Presentations.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the February 15, 2021 board meeting and the Special Meeting Minutes of the March 1, 2021 special board meeting . Motion carried 6/0.

Bill Chilman presented the Board with the following correspondence: Letter from Leigha Compson of her intent to return this fall from her leave of absence, School Equity Caucus newsletters, updates from the house and senate fiscal agency and the Governor’s office regarding the proposed budget and other magazines/mail that was received throughout the month.

Erin Ludwig reported for the DSIT. They were given a small budget update. They received information regarding changes to the student hand books for next year that will allow for students to be able to make up for lost time due to Covid. They were told that the principals are working on teacher evaluations and IDP plans for probationary teachers. They were told about a reading and writing initiative in the elementary to increase reading and writing scores in the elementary. They were given an update about reading month and the plans in the elementary for reading month. They were reminded about the sex ed report and that it will be discussed next month.

Dan Boyer reported that the attendance rate is at about 75%. The success rate of online Aggies is not where he wants it but, he is making contacts and trying to get more engagement. Some kids are ahead of schedule and others are a little behind and some are quite a bit behind. Dan believes we will lose some students next year when we come back face to face as some students like the online option. Students like the ability to work and go to school. The HS office is getting quite a few calls about school of choice students coming next year. Dan discussed all normal year end events are scheduled, such as Prom, and graduation. The only thing not currently planned is baccalaureate. Graduation date is May 27, 2021 on the football field. If the weather is bad, graduation will be moved inside and have a limit of 4 tickets per family.

Jason Johnston reported kindergarten registration went great. There is a ton of interest in sending students to Beal next year. There are not many testing spots available after the first meeting to register kindergarteners. Jason was asked if anyone inquired if their child could register to be online instead of in person and no one asked for online. Jason talked about the reading and writing initiative they are working on in the elementary, they are creating a rubric based on the MStep rubric but modifying it. Jason also talked about the attendance difficulties in getting the students to meet the criteria required to mark the online students as present.

Rod Freeze reported he is working on getting next years budget to the admin team. Rod gave an update about bond sale and where we are in that process. The District will be required to use a paying agent for this bond sale. He is working with Baker Tilley on this. Rod talked about the difficulty in determining what to tell the financial advisor for a taxable value on the windmill given the current lawsuit between the windmill companies and taxing authorities to get taxable values reduced. Rod gave an update on the 3% FICA issue, all forms were due 3/15/2021 and he will start amending 941’s and W-2’s this week. Rod also notified the board that two bonds will be paid off in May. Rod Cole mentioned that Bob Pasch thought it might be a good idea to contact the people who were on the board when the bond issue passed just to say thank you and let them know the bonds are paid off.

Ben Eggenberger reported on cyber security concerns for the District. He talked about how the RESD has been working with a company that has looked at our site and all Districts in the RESD and is looking for potential problems. Our website was shut down last month for a few hours due to what appeared to be suspicious activity, that was corrected and we were up and running in a couple hours. Ben talked about Set Seg’s push to have districts tighten up security. He also reported seeing some damage taking place on the chromebooks, but nothing he would not expect to see. He is inventorying replacement parts and is repairing the devices as time allows.

Bill Chilman thanked everyone for their support of him while he has been laid up. He also reported we had between 90-95% participation from staff in the Covid vaccine. Bill also reported he hopes the strategic plan can be done by mid fall, if not by then, definitely by the end of the year. Bill reported spring break is May 25th to April 6th, he hopes our students and families will travel safely and all stay healthy. Bill also talked about his desire to get back to normal for next year.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Erin Ludwig to approve the February payments of bills as presented in detail in the board packet: General Fund payments of $645,717.60, Payroll Account payments of $1,420.84 Hot Lunch payments $18,694.25. Student Activity Account payments of $10,780.57, Athletic Fund payments of $198.34, Arbiter Sports payments of $2,905.35. Motion carried 6/0.

Bill Chilman reported that there was a prebid meeting for the bond project on March 11, 2021. We had quite a few trades here to do a walk through of the building and listen to Wolgast talk about the project. Bill also talked about a timing issue that came to our attention at the pre bid meeting. We have talked to Wolgast and the timing issue is corrected. The project is scheduled to take two summers instead of trying to get it all done this summer and causing a lot of problems this fall for our back to school scheduled date.

BCEF – Rod Freeze reported that SAT study sessions are happening every weekend either on Saturday morning or Sunday night. Attendance has not been good.

Bill Chilman reported that the sewer project is scheduled to be done this summer before our parking lot is scheduled to be tore out. The school attorney has been negotiating with the township attorney about the number of REU’s for the Districts operating costs. The District proposed that we should only be assessed 19 REU’s but the township has said no to that and we have been assessed 25.46 REU’s. The difference will cost us about $4,800 per year. The board would like admininstration to go back to Nottawa Township again and ask for a lower number of REU’s. Bill will contact the Township to get on the April 5th Township agenda.

Dan Boyer and Jason Johnston reported on their Extended COVID-19 Return to Learn Plans.

Superintendent Evaluation was moved into executive session.

Bill Chilman notified the board about Carrie Smith’s retirement and thanked her for her years of service at Beal City. Motion by Rod Cole and seconded by Ron Neyer to accept Carries retirement. Motion carried 6/0

Motion by Erin Ludwig, seconded by Rod Cole to approve the following coaching recommendations as presented: Scott Leppert – Middle School Girls Track, Rod Flaugher – Softball Volunteer Assistant, Shawn Licari – Softball Volunteer Assistant, Michael Bleise – Softball Volunteer Assistant, Dave McKenny – Baseball Volunteer assistant, Jess Spry – Track and Field Volunteer, Brian Locke – Track and Field Volunteer. Motion carried 6/0

The following coaches have been hired through PCMI: Matthew Gross – JV Baseball Coach, Kendra Licari – Middle School Boys Track Coach

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried 6/0.

Recording Secretary

Rod Freeze

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Denise McBride, President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Curt Gottschalk, Secretary