**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –April 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cale Rieger in the administration office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with all members present.

Sheree Downs was present to present a letter to the Board for consideration.

Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Shawna Blanka, seconded by Troy Hilt, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on March 9, 2023. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0317001 – 0317074 and on checks numbering 12180-12191 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 16484-16545 on First National Bank for a total of $339,203.84. c) The Cash Summary Report (including two transfers: $4,770.00 from General Fund to the At-Risk Fund and $30,047.00 from the General Fund to the Special Ed Fund)¸ the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of March 31, 2023. d) Gift offer was accepted from Stanion Wholesale Electric Co., Bill Keller in the amount of $15,000.00 for the repair and rework of the football scoreboard.

Audiences: Sheree Downs was present at the beginning of the meeting.

J.W. Milliken made the following motion: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss the individual students in order to protect their privacy under KOMA and that the open meeting shall resume at 7:20 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

The Scholarship Committee reported that they had met and made the recommended selections for one 2023 Alice Gillispie Academic Scholarship (2 this year) in the amount of $1,000 each (non-renewable) and the 2023 Walter and Lucille Stephenson Memorial Scholarships.

USD 297 will be requesting $6,000 from the Cheyenne County Community Foundation for scholarships as well as $4,440 for the purpose of new mulch for the elementary school playground and new footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, etc. for the junior high and high school, for a total request of $10,440.00. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve the request, it was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Superintendent Penka discussed some of the legislative issues coming down that might affect our district.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended to the Board the plan for filling certain positions at the elementary school. 1) Mark Penka to be the K-5 Principal/Superintendent for the 2023-24 school year. 2) Katisha Wiegers to the elementary school to be the full-time counselor and elementary school administrative assistant. 3) Rebecca Butler to be the Art/Music teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Salaries will be raised accordingly. After discussion Troy Hilt made a motion to approve these placements; seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended extending contracts for all of the certified staff members for the 2023-24 school year. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve all of the certified staff members returning; seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended extending contracts for all classified staff members for the 2023-24 school year. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve all of the classified staff members returning; seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

As discussed at the March meeting, by law (K.S.A. 72-5411), a school board must notify a teacher in writing on or before the third Friday in May (May 19th this year) if said teacher’s contract will not be renewed; and a teacher must notify the school board in writing on or before 14 days after the third Friday in May (June 2nd this year) if (s)he is resigning from their teaching contract.

Under personnel items, the hiring committee recommended Tara Garton for the high school Spanish teacher and middle school math teacher for the 2023-24 school year; also, Jonathan Butler for the assistant high school basketball coach. J.W. Milliken made a motion to approve the new hires; the motion was seconded by Troy Hilt and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that we have received resignations from the following: Brad Porubsky as the head girls’ high school basketball coach; Sydney Busse as the high school journalism/yearbook instructor, cross country and track coach; Tania Quintero as a paraprofessional; Karyn Vandenberg and an elementary school cook; and Laura Dietz from her junior high girls’ assistant basketball coach. Chris Hingst made a motion to accept the resignations, seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Under School-Improvement Process Superintendent Penka reported that KESA may be seeing some changes moving forward; changing to standards, still a working progress; Regional OVT; more emphasis on rigor.

No review of Board Policy.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:00 A.M**.**

At 8:44 a.m., Danielle McAtee moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT