

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – January 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-President Troy Hilt in the administration office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with all members present except J. W. Milliken. Others present were Scott Houtman, Garrett Sundstrom, and Will Arthur.

Superintendent Penka had two changes to the agenda: move Audiences and Old Business to the top of the agenda. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes; the motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Scott Houtman, Cheyenne County Clerk, was present to swear in the newly elected school board members: Bruce Swihart, Troy Hilt and Shawna Blanka. J.W. Milliken will go to the Clerk's office to be sworn in.

Audiences: Will Arthur with Empower Financial Group was present to present to the Board a benefits program for the full time employees. More information will be gathered and a decision will be made at next month's meeting.

Next, under Old Business, Garrett Sundstrom was present to give an update on the activity buses. After discussion, Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve the purchase of a supplemental heater for the Big Indian activity bus with 109,000 BTU's to be installed this summer. The other Indian Bus may need a fuel tank replacement. The motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Election of officers was next; Shawna Blanka made a motion to nominate Troy Hilt for President and Danielle McAtee made a motion to nominate J. W. Milliken as Vice-President, the motions were seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Chris Hingst, seconded by Danielle McAtee, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on December 14, 2023. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 1219001 – 1219081 and on checks numbering 12329-12340 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17123-17182 on FNB Bank for a total of \$366,995.93. c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer; \$47,022.00 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 December 31, 2023. d) There was a gift offer from SFCHS Wrestling Club for the purchase of speakers for the wrestling room in the amount of \$959.82; and \$2,500.00 from Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation for the purchase of Yearbook equipment. e) Effective January 1, 2024, the federal mileage rate increased to 67 cents per mile.

The Board considered appointment of members to three committees – the Meet-and-Confer Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Hiring Committee. Following brief discussion, Troy Hilt and Chris Hingst were selected to serve on the Meet-and-Confer Committee; Superintendent Penka, Principal David Morrow, Danielle McAtee, and Dustin Andrist were selected to serve on the Scholarship Committee; and Superintendent Penka, Principal Morrow, Shawna Blanka, and

J. W. Milliken were selected to serve on the Hiring Committee with Bruce Swihart as a back-up for this committee. Chris Hingst moved to approve these committee appointments; the motion was seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Superintendent Penka updated the Board on legislative issues currently in discussion.

Mr. Morrow presented to the Board a preliminary fundraising policy to be considered by the Board; there is more to be added to said policy; tabled for further review. The PRELIMINARY POLICY follows:

Guidelines for SFCHS Fundraisers

Drafted in January, 2024

As USD 297 staff who are trying to raise funds for your respective activities, it is essential to reflect on two very important facts as you plan your efforts:

#1. The messages, both explicit and implicit, that are conveyed by your fundraising efforts affect the school. Your fundraising campaign may unintentionally give an incorrect impression to those you are asking for money about the school's ability or willingness to pay for things. Such incorrect messaging can negatively impact not only the school's reputation but also the reputation of your program and those in charge of it.

#2. The same people from whom you may be asking for money have been solicited many times already by other entities. By the time you begin your fundraising efforts, businesses and individuals have typically already been hit up by someone else asking for money for other things.

Below are some basic rules that all school groups planning to do fundraisers will be expected to abide by. Every coach, advisor, or teacher must know and abide by these rules.

- #1. Every fundraiser, no matter how large or small, must get prior approval from the building principal. To get this approval, one must present to the junior/senior high school principal all pertinent information related to your fundraiser, including the following::
- All messaging (images, text on letters/Facebook posts/) that apply to the fundraiser.
 - The goal of your fundraiser. What do you intend to buy or fund that the school will not pay for?
 - How is the fundraiser going to be carried out? (door to door, selling goods or services, soliciting individuals)
- #2. If this fundraiser is related to a KSHSAA-sanctioned activity, the appropriate KSHSAA guidelines must be studied to guarantee compliance and strictly adhered to.

Under New Business, Superintendent reported the following resignations: David Morrow is resigning from his position as high school principal, that he has held for 11 years, and being reassigned to grades 10-12 English teacher. Jacqueline Allen is retiring from her position as 10-12 English teacher that she has had for 11 years. Jeff Olofson is retiring from his position as high school science teacher that he has held for 45 years. Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael is retiring from his position as junior high social studies teacher, Hoagie has been with USD 297 for 38 years. Amy Morrow is being reassigned to the junior high social studies position for the 2024-2025 school year. Jaydenn Porubsky, 4th grade teacher has resigned her position. All of the resignations are effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. A motion was made by Bruce Swihart to accept the resignations and reassignments; motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

At 9:11 a.m., Dustin Andrist made the following motion for a fifteen minute executive session: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel in order to protect their privacy pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and that the open meeting shall resume at 9:26 a.m. Chris Hingst seconded the motion, and it carried. Principal Morrow, Superintendent Penka and Clerk Neitzel left the meeting, rejoining at 9:11 a.m.

Upon returning from executive session Dustin Andrist made a motion to extend Superintendent Penka's contract for a two year term. Katisha Wieggers, Administrative Assistant contract, will be extended one year. Chris Hingst seconded the motion, and it carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended ShayLinn Zwegardt as a high school track assistant coach. A motion was made by Bruce Swihart and seconded by Dustin Andrist to approve the recommendation and carried.

A KASB Introduction to Boardmanship will be held in Goodland on January 24, 2024. Bruce Swihart and Mark Penka will be attending.

The next regular scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 8, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.

At 9:55 a.m., Danielle McAtee moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

CLERK

DATE

BOARD PRESIDENT