**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – October 13, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Troy Hilt in the administrative office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present, except Cale Rieger.

Superintendent Penka made the following additions to the agenda: 6) i. Personnel; 6) j. Community Childcare Group Home discussion. A motion was made by J.W. Milliken to approve the agenda with the two additions; seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Audiences: Stephane Workman was present to discuss with the Board the possibility of a Junior High Cheer Squad beginning in the winter 2022-2023 school year.

Items on the Consent Calendar were next considered. Following review of these items, Chris Hingst moved, Dustin Andrist seconded, and it carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: 1) the minutes of the regular Board meeting on September 8, 2022. 2) The list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0919001-0917070 and on checks numbering 12093-12107 on BANKWEST in the amount of $223,340.22 and checks numbering 16103-16192 on First National Bank totaling $634,864.21 for a grand total of $858,204.43. 3) The Cash Summary Report including the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report - all as of September 30, 2022. 4) One gift offer was approved from the Roland H. Hoffman Revocable Trust in the amount of $9,081.88 to be added to the Roland H. Hoffman Revocable Trust Scholarship fund.

There were no committee reports.

There was no old business.

The board received a summary of the official enrollment on September 20, 2022. Official 2022-2023 FTE enrollment in USD 297 is 304, which is an increase of 19 from the 2021-2022 FTE enrollment (285).

The board also received a summary of the KSHSAA Classifications for activities in 2022-2023. St. Francis is a Class 1A Division I school in the KSHSAA Classifications, with an enrollment of 82 students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Next under new business, Superintendent Penka gave the Board an update on Dr. Watson’s, Kansas Director of Education, visit to our district. Dr. Watson talked about initiatives the State board would be voting on.

Next, Superintendent informed the Board of the results of the 2022 Kansans Can Star Recognition Awards Program. These awards recognize the exceptional work Kansas districts are doing to reach the state’s vision for education – Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. USD 297 was presented with the following recognition for 2022:

 Social-Emotional Growth Copper

 Kindergarten Readiness Copper

 Academically Prepared for Graduation Copper

The board and administration reviewed the Audit Report for FY 2022 (and the accompanying management letter and governance letter) that had been completed by Adams & Brown. Danielle McAtee made a motion to approve the Audit Report for FY22, seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that we have three contract amendments to approve for additional college hours. Dustin Andrist moved to approve the contract amendments; motion was seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Superintendent Penka recommended raising the base salary by $1,000, certified staff will continue to take their steps as earned. Classified staff will get a pay increase at 2.35%. Chris Hingst made a motion to increase pay scale by $1,000 for certified staff and give classified staff a 2.35% increase, seconded by Dustin Andrist, and passed. This will be effective with the November payroll.

Next, the board discussed junior high cheerleading. It was agreed to let Stephane Workman go ahead and get the program up and going. Principal Morrow will prepare an outline of expectations for the year. Danielle McAtee made a motion to approve junior high cheerleading, seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka and the Board discussed going ahead and utilizing the Teacher Apprentice Program “TAP”. There was discussion on the size of the 2nd grade class and the need for a second teacher. In order to do what is absolutely best for the children J.W. Milliken made a motion to move Mrs. Megan Swihart into the 2nd grade teacher position and split the class, and move paraprofessional, Abby McWilliams into the At-Risk position. She is currently enrolled in the TAP program. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Superintendent Penka reported that Sidnee Crabtree has agreed to be the high school girls’ assistant basketball coach. A motion was made by Chris Hingst and seconded by Dustin Andrist to approve her as the assistant girls’ coach; motion carried.

Next, a discussion was held regarding the implementation of a Community Childcare Group Home. The proposal was prepared by the Cheyenne County Childcare Initiative. This topic was tabled until more information could be obtained from the districts Auditors and Kansas Department of Education.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:00 a.m.

At 9:20 a.m., J.W. Milliken moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT