**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Cale Rieger in the administrative office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present. There was also a group of approximately 20 elementary school parents present.

Superintendent Penka had the following change to the agenda: move audiences to after Approval of Agenda. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve the agenda with the change presented; the motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Audiences: There was a group of 20 elementary school parents present to discuss the new curriculum being used in grades K-5. They voiced their concerns about content and age appropriateness. Reid Raile stayed for the duration of the meeting.

Items on the Consent Calendar were next considered. Following review of these items, Dustin Andrist moved, J.W. Milliken seconded, and it carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: 1) the minutes of the regular board meeting held on August 22, 2023. 2) The list of bills being paid numbering 16848-16903 on FNB Bank totaling $123,608.47. 3) The Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report - all as of August 31, 2023. 4) There were no gift offers.

Under Committee Reports, Superintendent Penka noted that we are still in need of a full-time cook and a full-time paraprofessional.

There was no old business.

Superintendent Penka reminded the Board that USD 297 has a policy in place indicating that teachers must supply the district office official transcripts prior to October 1st, for the additional hours to count toward advancement on the salary schedule for the current year.

The Board was informed of the new monthly Blue Cross-Blue Shield premium rates for the health-insurance group of school employees, effective with the new plan from November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024. Information received from BCBS indicates an average decrease of 3.46% in premiums. The school will continue to pay $470/month toward a single plan and $940/month toward any other type of plan.

Next, the Board was presented with Health Waivers for one of our bus drivers requiring two letters from physicians as to his ability to drive a school bus. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve the waivers; seconded by J. W. Miklliken and carried.

Next, under new business, Superintendent Penka discussed the financial ability of the district to increase the salaries of all contracted employees effective with the November 2023 payroll. Dustin Andrist made the following motion: Mr. President, I move to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4319 and to return to open session at 8:48 a.m. At 8:48 a.m. regular session resumed with Chris Hingst making a motion to return to executive session until 9:03 a.m. At 9:03 a.m. regular session resumed with Dustin Andrist making a motion to return to executive session until 9:18 a.m. At 9:18 a.m. regular session resumed.

Upon resuming regular session Dustin Andrist made a motion to raise the salary base to $40,000.00; and to approve all classified staff for raises as set out by Superintendent Penka, taking effect with the November payroll. The motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Following executive session, the board of education shared the consensus that the USD 297 K-5 building would continue to teach the Amplify curriculum, with the understanding that teachers would use their best discretion on screening the content that would be taught, taking into consideration the concerns shared by parents.

Next, Superintendent reviewed enrollment numbers with the Board. The official count day will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:00 a.m.**

At 9:27 a.m., Dustin Andrist moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT