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

The meeting was called to order by President Cale Rieger in the administration office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present except Danielle McAtee.

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

Audiences: Bruce Swihart was present to observe; Kyle Buffington was present to discuss the need for an addition wrestling coach; and Jessica Matthies and Carla Lampe were present to discuss with the Board the St. Francis Educational Foundation Fund, and how the School Board could use those funds.

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: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on November 9, 2023. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 1117001 – 1117080 and on checks numbering 12316-12328 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17028-17122 on FNB Bank for a total of $545,264.29. c) The Cash Summary Report, the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of November 30, 2023. d) the following gift offers were approved from FNB Bank: $14,883.07 for ½ of the Magley Memorial Scholarship and $41,428.31 for the Walter Stephenson Scholarship Trust.

Under Committee Reports, Superintendent Penka reported that the third grade aide position had been offered to an individual, but we have not heard back from her. We are still in need of a cook and the third grade aide position.

Under Old Business, after discussion, Shawna Blanka made a motion that a new girls’ assistant wrestling coach be hired, Garrett Brunk will fill this position. The motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and passed.

Under New Business, we had three contract amendments returned for signature. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the contract amendments, motion was seconded by Troy Hilt and carried.

Next under New Business, Superintendent Penka reported that he will be in the process of shopping for new property insurance. Rates have gone up significantly and other options need to be researched.

Next, Superintendent reviewed the Board policy updates that have been recommended by KASB. Dustin Andrist made a motion to accept the updates, seconded by Troy Hilt and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka requested a 15-minute executive session to discuss nonelected personnel issues. Chris Hingst made the following motion: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4319 and to return to open session at 8:15 a.m.; motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried. Bruce Swihart left the meeting and returned at 8:15 a.m.

A special thank you was extended to Cale Rieger for his eight years of service to USD 297 serving on the Board of Education.

Superintendent Penka will be registering himself and Bruce Swihart to attend the KASB New Board Member workshop scheduled for January 24, 2024, in Goodland.

Principal Morrow requested funds from the St. Francis Education Foundation Fund be used to purchase two new Apple computers for the Yearbook class. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Next, Dustin Andrist discussed with the board some of the concerns he has regarding bus maintenance.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.

At 8:57 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT