**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –March 7, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Troy Hilt in the administration office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present. Tom Smull and Jessica Matthies were present for a check presentation to the Board.

Superintendent Penka made one change to the agenda; add under New Business a) 2) Resignations. J.W. Milliken made a motion to approve the agenda with the one addition; 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 Chris Hingst, seconded by Bruce Swihart, to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on February 8, 2024. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0216001 – 0216083 and on checks numbering 12355-12367 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17230-17278 on FNB Bank for a total of $312,659.11. c) The Cash Summary Report, the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of February 29, 2024. d) No gift offers.

Audiences: Justin Lohr was present to observe.

Principal Morrow and Shayla Orten will have the necessary scholarship information ready for the scholarship committee sometime later this month or the beginning of April. We will contact the scholarship committee members with a meeting day and time.

The Hiring Committee will have recommendations for 3rd grade teacher, 4th grade teacher, grade school SPED director, high school principal, and assistant golf coach under Personnel Items.

Under Old Business, Superintendent Penka discussed some of the legislative issues regarding schools.

Next, Superintendent Penka requested a 30 minute executive session. J.W. Milliken made the following motion; seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss the performance of individual staff members in order to protect their privacy pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and that the open meeting shall resume at 7:51 a.m. At 7:51 a.m. Dustin Andrist made a motion for an additional 10 minutes of executive session; seconded by Danielle McAtee, and carried. The meeting resumed at 8:01 a.m.

At this time under New Business, Superintendent Penka discussed some of the staffing needs at this time. We have the following vacant positions: High School Journalism.

The Board was reminded that by law (K.S.A. 72-5411, as amended), a school board must notify a teacher in writing on or before the third Friday in May (May 17th 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 (May 31st this year) if (s)he is resigning from their teaching contract.

Contract offers and proposed reassignments (if any) for the 2024-2025 school year can be acted-on at the regular meeting on April 11, 2024, or at the May 9, 2024, meeting if necessary.

Next Superintendent Penka presented the proposed Coaching Policy for the Grade School: “USD 297 encourages faculty to coach extracurricular activities and feels that this is vital to the student’s success. Remembering that any activity is considered extracurricular and should never be prioritized over classroom instruction. All JH/HS teachers can coach junior or senior high students, but due to scheduling conflicts, GS teachers will only be allowed to coach high school sports since practice time will not interfere with core instructional time”. Bruce Swihart made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka presented a revised version of the 2024-2025 school calendar. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve the revised calendar, seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Next, under New Business, under personnel items, the hiring committee recommended Adam Guthmiller for 3rd grade teacher; Kyrian Keely for 4th grade/5th grade ELA/Social Studies teacher; Amy Christensen for Grade School Special Education Director; Delbert Schmidt for High School Principal; and Brady Dinkel for assistant golf coach. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve these new hires; motion seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that we have received a resignation from Jacob Butler as high school cook. Chris Hingst made a motion to accept the resignation; seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka made a recommendation that we move away from the current “NO NUT” policy. A motion was made by J.W. Milliken to cancel this policy; seconded by Bruce Swihart and carried.

Next, USD 297 approved a Resolution – Approval of Waiver for bus driver, Bruce Swihart. A motion was made by Chris Hingst to approve the waiver; seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Superintendent Penka reported on the KESA Committee’s recent meeting. The regional meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024.

It was the consensus of the Board to give permission to Superintendent Penka to seek bids to replace the remaining sewer lines this summer.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on April 11, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.

At 8:26 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT