**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –April 11, 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 all members present except Shawna Blanka.

Superintendent Penka made a couple of additions to the agenda: move Audiences to the top after approval of agenda and, add 6) New Business, g) NWK Library System representative. Danielle McAtee made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes; the motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Audiences: Jessica Matthies, Erin Guthmiller, Brianna Waters, MacKenzie Lampe, Kayla Bosen and Danielle McAtee were present representing Little Tribe Daycare. They were present to present their proposal to maintain a relationship with USD 297. It was the consensus of the USD 297 Board to approve their proposal. As of July 1, 2024 Erin Guthmiller of Western State Bank will take over the duties of paying bills and handling payroll for the daycare.

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 March 7, 2024. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0317001 – 0317073 and on checks numbering 12368-12383 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17286-17374 on First National Bank for a total of $369,812.23. c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer: $32,019.00 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 March 31, 2024. d) There were no gift offers.

Dustin Andrist made the following motion: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss the individual students in order to protect their privacy under KOMA and that the open meeting shall resume at 7:47 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Bruce Swihart and carried.

The Scholarship Committee reported that they had met and made the recommended selections for the 2024 Alice Gillispie Academic Scholarship and the 2024 Walter and Lucille Stephenson Memorial Scholarship.

Superintendent Penka discussed some of the potential legislative issues that might affect our district.

Next, Superintendent Penka discussed with the Board salary plans for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Superintendent Penka recommended moving Katisha Wiegers to the high school to be the full time counselor for the 2024-2025 school year. J.W. Milliken made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended extending contracts for all of the certified staff members for the 2024-25 school year. Bruce Swihart made a motion to approve all of the certified staff members returning; seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Chris Hingst made the following motion: 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 8:42 a.m. in the board room. The motion was seconded by Danielle McAtee, and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended extending contracts for all classified and coaching staff members for the 2024-25 school year. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve all of the classified and coaching staff members returning; seconded by J. W. Milliken and carried.

As discussed at the March meeting, by law (K.S.A. 72-5411), 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.

Under personnel items, the hiring committee recommended Brady Dinkel for the Head JH boys’ football coach for the 2024-25 school year: also, Donna Boucher for the full-time cook position. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the new hires; the motion was seconded by Bruce Swihart and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that we have received resignations from the following: Sidnee Crabtree as the assistant girls’ high school basketball coach; and Shayla Orten from her position as High School Counselor. Dustin Andrist made a motion to accept the resignations, seconded by Bruce Swihart and carried.

Three contracts were returned for signature.

Next, Chris Hingst made a motion to appoint Nancy Wolraven to serve as representative to the Northwest Kansas Library System Full Board; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Principal Morrow reviewed with the board a report on ACT Scores throughout the years.

Next, Superintendent Penka discussed a letter received from Lacey Grogan regarding the number of “extra riders” on the activity bus trips. After discussion it was the consensus of the board to put together some guidelines, mainly getting prior permission from the high school principal before they can ride.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00 A.M**.**

At 9:45 a.m., J. W. Milliken moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT