**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – November 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Troy Hilt in the administrative office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present as well as High School Principal Delbert Schmidt. Visitors attending were Jessica Matthies, Shay Zweygardt and Lori Rieger.

Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the agenda with the following change: move Audiences to the top of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Jessica Matthies and Shay Zweygardt were present to discuss the need for a Daycare/Preschool/After School and Summer Programs. The request they presented was for USD 297 to budget for one payroll position and allow childcare to be built on the school property or create a preschool room in the grade school.

Next Lori Rieger, (Kindergarten teacher) was present to give her findings when preschool children reach the Kindergarten level. The children attending ABC Preschool and Headstart are getting the proper skills needed to excel when they reach Kindergarten.

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 October 10, 2024. b) The list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 1018001-1018077 and on checks numbering 17846-17857 on BANKWEST in the amount of $237,207.29 and checks numbering 17848-17902 on FNB Bank totaling $112,115.79 for a grand total of $349,323.08. c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer: $44,936.00 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 October 31, 2024. d) A gift offer of $1,000.00 was accepted from the Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation to be used for St. Francis National Honor Society Chapter, Morgan Sherlock heading it up.

Under Committee Reports Superintend Penka presented names of new employees: Kim McGinnis – Transportation Director starting 11/18/2024; Tania Quintero – District Clerk starting December 2, 2024; Marlin Queen – Director of Maintenance starting 11/18/24; Geronima Rocha-Zapada – Grade School maintenance starting 11/18/24; and Reighna Priest – Yearbook starting 11/18/24. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the new hires; seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Under Old Business, Superintendent Penka requested a special meeting be held on December 5, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. to discuss what should be done about the insurance for USD 297, he will have all the information by that time. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve the special meeting date and time; seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Next under new business, Superintendent Penka reported that there were 62 contract amendments returned for signature.

Next under new business, Clerk Neitzel discussed with the Board her reasoning to change banks used for payroll. J.W. Milliken made a motion to allow Clerk Neitzel make the decision since she is familiar with the process. The motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

The annual review of the USD 297 Emergency Management plan was discussed. J.W. Milliken made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Superintendent Penka reported that he has received three resignations: 1) Maria Duarte-Torres as a paraprofessional for the high school and elementary school; Trista Lauer from her position as Yearbook instructor; and Amy Morrow from her position as junior high assistant volleyball coach. J. W. Milliken made a motion to accept the resignations; seconded by Bruce Swihart and carried.

Superintendent Penka reported that information should be available at the December meeting for “Bike Across Kansas.”

Next, the Board discussed the request from Jessica Matthies and Shay Zweygardt. The Board agreed that there may be a need, however there are a lot more questions than answers. More research will be done and this subject will be discussed again at the December board meeting.

Principal Schmidt talked about plans with the National Honor Society. On October 23rd seniors were given the opportunity to attend “Apply Kansas”; 19 out of 22 students applied to 30 various schools. Good job!

Next, Principal Schmidt reported that he is still working on attendance and encouraging students to schedule more things before, during study hall, or at the end of the school day if possible.

Bruce Swihart reported that he has been driving the activity bus quite a bit. He wanted to commend the students on their behavior of being courteous and well behaved!!

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on December 12, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.

At 9:57 a.m., Shawna Blanka moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT