**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – February 13, 2025**

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. Tania Quintero, Principal Schmidt, Principal Dinkel, Jessica Matthies and Katisha Wiegers were also present.

Superintendent Penka made the following changes to the agenda; move Audiences to the top of the agenda and New Business add c 2) personnel hiring. J.W. Milliken made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Audiences: Jessica Matthies reviewed with the Board the St. Francis Educational Fund originally started by Carl Werner. The balance of the fund is $256,970.45 with an available balance in 2025 of $11,755.37 to be used for scholarships and other educational purposes determined. Each year, 5% of a three-year average balance of this fund is available for school use.

Katisha Wiegers was also present to visit with the board regarding her feelings on whether or not to have 6th graders participating in sports.

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Chris Hingst, seconded by J.W. Milliken, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on January 16, 2025. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0117001 – 0117082 and on checks numbering 18016-18110 on on FNB Bank in the total amount of $580,243.66. c) The Cash Summary Report, the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of January 31, 2025. d) There were two gift offers, 1) $500.00 to start a mini foundation in SFCHS by Kierra Penka and 2) $300.00 to go towards the purchase of high school wrestling mat, both given by the Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation.

Committee Reports: None

Under Old Business, there was much discussion concerning Junior High sports. The matter was tabled until the next meeting in March in order to come up with some solutions.

Under New Business, Superintendent Penka discussed the Needs Assessment for the 2025-2026 school year with the Board. Principal Schmidt and Principal Dinkel both went over their Reading and Math scores. Dustin Andrist made a motion to show in the minutes that these scores were reviewed, J.W. Milliken seconded the motion, and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that Governor Laura Kelly has made it accessible for WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who could not graduate from high school an opportunity to receive an honorary high school diploma through Operation Recognition. There is an application to fill out which will be in the District Clerk’s office if anyone is interested. Bruce Swihart made a motion to participate in this program, seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Under New Business, Superintendent Penka reported that we have a resignation from Kattie Aldaco, resigning her position as second grade teacher effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. A letter of resignation was also received from Kevin Trembly resigning his position as high school custodian effective February 3, 2025. Kevin was with USD 297 for 25 years. Chris Hingst made a motion to accept the resignation, seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Next, Gracie Parsons was recommended for the assistant junior high volleyball coach for the 2025-2026 season. Michael McGinnis has submitted his information to be a substitute route and activity bus driver. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the new hires, seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Next month Superintendent Penka will go over the possible purchase of TouchPros.

Next, Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve Tania Quintero to be added to the FNB Bank and The Bank checking accounts. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.,

The annual review of the St. Francis Educational Foundation Fund shows that $11,755.37 is available to spend this school year. This money will go towards $6,500 in scholarships, it was suggested to possibly hire someone to promote this fund using some of the available funds to do so. Superintendent Penka will contact some people that might be interested. J. W. Milliken made a motion to table this decision until the March meeting, motion seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka requested a 10-minute executive session to discuss nonelected personnel issues. Bruce Swihart 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 9:55 a.m.; motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried. At 9:55 a.m. Bruce Swihart made a motion to extend the executive session an additional five minutes; motion seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried. At 10:00 a.m. the board came out of executive session with no action being taken.

Contract offers and proposed reassignments (if any) for 2025-2026 can be acted-on at the regular meeting on March 12, 2025, or at the April 10, 2025, meeting if necessary.

Under miscellaneous Principal Schmidt went over his goals and expectations for the high school. Principal Dinkel visited with the board regarding her concerns for a grade school speech therapist. Principal Dinkel also discussed the Site Council for the grade school.

Also discussed was allowing home schooled student to attend school for their electives. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on **March 13, 2025, at 7:00 a.m.**

At 10:25 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT