

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –May 8, 2025

Board President Troy Hilt called the meeting to order on the above date at 7:00 a.m., with all members present except J.W. Milliken and Traci Nietzel, District Clerk. Tania Quintero, Delbert Schmidt, Susan Dinkel, Aiden Meyer, Kary Meyer, and Sheree L. Wingo were also present.

Superintendent Penka had two changes to the agenda: move Audiences to the beginning of the agenda and, under new business, accept bids for summer projects. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Shawna Blanka seconded the motion, which carried with a vote of 5-0.

Aiden Meyer presented the options for graduating early to the board.

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Shawna Blanka, seconded by Chris Hingst, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular board meeting on April 10, 2025. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0418001 – 0418069, and on checks numbering 18228-18308 on FNB Bank for a total of \$339,123.40 c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer: \$16,325.00 from General Fund to the Special Ed Fund), and the High School Activity Fund Report and Grade School Activity Fund Report – all as of April 30, 2025. d) No gift offers.

Committee Reports: a) Scholarship Committee: Principal Delbert Schmidt presented some of the local scholarship winners to the board, who will be announced at graduation. Bruce Swihart made a motion to approve the scholarships; seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried with a vote of 5-0.

b) Next, a new policy for facility usage during the school day was discussed under Old Business. The weight room is off limits from 7:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. The track will be available to patrons during the school day if a class does not utilize it. Chris Hingst made a motion, seconded by Shawna Blanka. The motion passed 5-0.

Next, Bruce Swihart requested a 10-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel issues. Bruce Swihart made the following motion: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A 75-4319 and return to open session at 7:39 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried. The board returned to the open session and extended the executive session for five more minutes. They returned to the open session at 7:43; a motion was made to accept the resignations of Jerry Carter as a cook and Holly Hingst as the junior high head track coach. The motion was made by Chris Hingst, seconded by Shawna Blanka, and carried with a vote of 6-0. The second motion was made by Shawna Blanka and seconded by Danielle McAtee to not retain Ryan Agon as junior high track coach and high school football coach. The motion passed 5-0.

Under New Business, Superintendent Penka reported on several legislative issues currently being discussed. He will keep the board informed of any issues that may come up, but the base aid per pupil is increasing to \$5,615 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended the following for the 2024-2025 school year:

Kourtney Finley as an Elementary 3rd Grade teacher

Kelli Dankenbring as the Journalism teacher.

Scott Dankenbring as an assistant high school volleyball coach.

Katie Myers as the head high school volleyball coach

Jacob Church as junior high track coach.

Under new business, it was reported that 27 Certified and 30 Classified contracts have been returned for signature.

Danielle McAtee moved to approve these new hires and returned contracts; Chris Hingst seconded the motion, which was carried 5-0.

Superintendent Penka presented two bids: a) from Howard's Tri-State Construction LLC and b) from Daniel J. Wilkins. The bids were to replace the ceilings and lights in one room at the high school and one at the grade school. Danielle McAtee motioned to accept Howard's Tri-State Construction bid, which Shawna Blanka seconded. The vote passed 4-1, with Bruce Swihart voting against the motion.

The school's Title I program was reviewed. Bruce Swihart moved to approve continuing the Title I program in grades K-5 for the 2025-2026 school year, employing one licensed teacher if USD 297 receives sufficient Title I funds to maintain it. Chris Hingst seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Danielle McAtee then motioned to allow Aiden Meyer to accelerate graduation by taking a more aggressive schedule for the next two years. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and passed with a vote of 5-0

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **June 12, 2025, at 7:00 A.M.**

At 8:28 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting be adjourned; Danielle McAtee seconded the motion, and was carried.

CLERK

DATE

BOARD PRESIDENT