

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
February 10, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Carrie Vanschoiack, Byron Hall, Tyler Kirkholm, Aaron Reis, Paul Tighe and Kristina Nelsen

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principal Seth Lembke & Board Secretary Trish Rohde

Visitors present: Several

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law

The meeting was duly called to order and the Chairperson announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the Library.

II. Roll Call – All members are present.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

Superintendent Cruickshank asked to add item B, Return to school plan to VII Action Items.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to approve the agenda as amended. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Hall, Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis

The motion carried 6-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 13th regular meeting and January 27th special meeting.

2. Approve claims and accounts and payroll expense from General Fund.

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to approve all Consent Agenda items.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall

The motion carried 6-0.

V. Communications

Superintendent Cruickshank reported enrollment is at 431. Seven applications have been received for the 4th grade teaching position. Interviews will be scheduled the week of February 22nd. The school is expected to receive \$190,000-\$195,000 for Cares 2/Covid 19 funding from the federal government. Staff is scheduled to receive the Covid vaccination on February 19th at school. There are currently 2 students learning from home and only 1 quarantined in the last 3 weeks. Homer School is currently projected to lose \$100,000 in state aid due to flat enrollment and valuation increased by 8.5%. The math curriculum is being reviewed as the Saxon series is being discontinued. The math committee will continue to meet, and more information will be shared at the March meeting. The books will be funded through the Depreciation Fund. Mr. Reed will share information in March or April with the board on a K-12 laptop refresh for the 2021-22 school year which can be funded using the Cares 2 funds.

Principal Lembke reported that 62 students have failing grades, 2 students are being home schooled and 2 are quarantined. The boys' and girls' basketball teams are doing great in conference tournaments. Conference speech was today, and the kids and coaches continue to do good work. Professional Development is shifting to PLC's and curriculum review. We currently have one or two 6th graders shadowing a 7th grader at a time to help transition to 7th grade.

Celebrations: 30 students qualified for Class C All State Band. College course enrollment is at an all-time high with 30 students participating.

Public Comment: None

VII. Discussion

- A. Building and Grounds: Letters of interest have been sent to construction firms and we are expecting 3-5 firms to submit a proposal. The building and grounds committee will open the proposals and select 3 to be interviewed. An inquiry was made about getting a larger mower with bat wings. Mr. Cruickshank will ask Bill to make inquiries on pricing.
- B. Alternative School information was shared with the board. The board feels this is needed due to the failing rate. Information will continue to be gathered and shared with the board. The implementation could possibly take place starting in 2022-23 school year.
- C. Craig Frerichs conducted our safety inspection with a walk through of the entire building, security plans and exit review. The safety committee will meet on PD day. The Emergency Operation Planning committee will host training on April 7th and 8th with new safety initiatives.
- D. The 2020-21 and 2021-22 calendars were reviewed. There are currently 4 instructional days that have been missed including March 10th speech meet. The board will decide at the March meeting if any snow days need to be made up. The 2021-22 school calendar was reviewed, and the committee is reviewing a 1:45 dismissal in place of the 2:15 dismissal to have extra PLC time.

VII. Action Items

A. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Reis to approve the hiring of Morgan Barner as the high school math teacher for the 2021-22 school year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Vanschoiack
The motion carried 6-0.

B. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Nelsen to allow the weight room to be open to the public as long as each person sanitizes after each use. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Vanschoiack, Nelsen
The motion carried 6-0.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Vanschoiack to go into closed session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the bargaining strategy with administration for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Moreover, to evaluate the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall
The motion carried 6-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to convene to open session at 8:43 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Vanschoiack
The motion carried 6-0.

X. Time/Date of next meeting

The next board meeting is set for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Kirkholm to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. on February 10, 2021.

Voting for: Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall, Vanschoiack, Nelsen
The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 10th day of February 2021.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

Dakota County School District #31R
a/k/a Homer Community School
BY: Paul Tighe, President