

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
February 16, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 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

Absent: Byron Hall – arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Casey Tremayne & 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 except Hall.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to approve the absence of Member Hall. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to approve the agenda as presented.

On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to approve all Consent Agenda items. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

## V. Communications

Principal Uhl reported that Professional Development was on Feb. 2, 9, 14, 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. They reviewed action plans, worked on Eureka, reviewed the curriculum for Social Studies and Heartland Counseling was present on the 14<sup>th</sup>. PT Conferences had an 89% attendance. NSCAS testing will be April 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Leadership team discussed possible updates to the Student Handbook for 2022-23. Dr. Seuss week will be February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup> with themed days and parents invited on the 4<sup>th</sup> to read with children. Twos Day will be on 2-22-2022 and students can dress in tutu, ties, or tube socks. They will have a dance party for PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade in the main gym. The Social Studies and Math curriculum was reviewed. There were 175 tickets used for Cone Park and the next event will be Nebraska Spring Game on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Principal Tremayne reported that all staff meetings will have an agenda so everyone is on the same page with communication. She had two student assemblies, so they hear expectations and changes from her. She had provided each student with a homeroom folder so they can track grades and goals. The number of morning tardiness is slowing down as offenders must serve a 30-minute detention. The Leadership team is reviewing homework policies and the handbook. Students are taking advantage of the college classes that are being offered. PT Conferences had a 41% attendance. A testing schedule is being worked on as well as the Master Schedule for 22-23. The IT/AG interviews went very well. Mr. Lambert will be a great addition to the school. Student Council has the opportunity to have lunch with Mrs. Tremayne to discuss student issues.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that attendance is at 429 students. The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of public bodies of Dakota County will meet on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let Mr. Cruickshank know by March 8<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend. The contract with ESU#1 has been signed and 50% of that expense is reimbursed back to the school. The NDE reviewed the school audit and a separate audit will take place due to us spending more than \$750,000 in federal funds. Trish will work with Mr. Weber from Porter and Company to complete the audit. The board reviewed the State Aid formula and how it is funded. They review the district needs vs the enrollment numbers to determine how much state aid you receive. On a range of 20 different schools, Homer has the lowest per pupil cost at \$11,760.21. The transportation program is being reviewed and First Student does now have enough drivers to run the 4<sup>th</sup> route. We will continue running a van on that route until the end of school.

Mr. Hall arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Public Comment: None

## VI. Discussion

- A. Facility projects: The HVAC project will be rebid as part of the building addition. The estimated cost of the project will be \$970,346 to \$1,069,346 in which we have \$354,195 of ESSERIII funds to use for this. The building project will begin taking bids on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will open the bids on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Morrissey Engineering came and toured the building last week.
- B. Policy – The board was provided with new policies regarding open meetings laws and the budget adoption process. The board will review the policies and vote on them at the March meeting.

## VII. Discussion/Action

- a. Sports additions and cooperatives: Mr. Watchorn provided the board with a handout showing the cost of mats and various supplies that will be needed to start the wrestling program. He had a total of 18 boys and 6 girls interested from high school, 5 boys and 9 girls interested from JH, and 19 boys and 14 girls interested from elementary. The mats are very easily moved so they will make wherever they can work for practice. They are talking to Bob Utemark and the Legion to see if they can rent space.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the addition of a wrestling program for the 2022-23 school year. On roll call voting, the board voted as follows:

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

Voting nay: Tighe

Motion carried 5-1.

The board discussed the swimming cooperative with SSC. The swimming season would be the same as the basketball and wrestling seasons. No transportation has been given to students in the past to coop with SSC.

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to approve a swimming cooperative with SSC for the 2022-23 school year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Abstaining: Nelsen

Motion carried 5-0.

- b. The board reviewed the 3 calendars options submitted by the calendar committee. The calendar committee recommended the calendar with the longer Christmas break. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Reis to approve the calendar as suggested from the calendar committee. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Kirkholm, Hall, Vanschoiack, Tighe, Nelsen Reis  
Motion carried 6-0.

### VIII. Action Items

A. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the resignation of Bill Chase. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

C. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to approve the hiring of Austin Lambert as the IT/AG teacher for the 2022-23 school year.

On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

### IX. Closed Session

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to go into closed session at 8:29 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 Vanschoiack and seconded by Hall to convene to open session at 9:42 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 Monday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Reis to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. on February 16, 2022.

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

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 16th day of February 2022.

ATTEST:  
Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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