

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
January 13, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

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

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

Visitors present: None

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 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 Superintendent announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the Library.

II. Roll Call – All members present.

III. Annual Organizational Meeting

Superintendent Cruickshank asked for nominations for school board President. Kirkholm nominated Tighe for President and Reis seconded. Superintendent Cruickshank noted that the nominations cease. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to appoint Member Tighe as President for the school board. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Abstaining: Tighe

Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was turned over to President Tighe.

President Tighe asked for nominations for Vice President. Reis nominated Vanschoiack for Vice President and Nelsen seconded. President Tighe noted that the nominations cease. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to appoint

Member Vanschoiack as Vice President for the school board. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Abstaining: Vanschoiack

Motion carried 5-0.

President Tighe asked for nominations for Secretary. Kirkholm nominated Nelsen for Secretary and Vanschoiack seconded. President Tighe noted that the nominations cease. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to appoint Member Nelsen as Secretary for the school board. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Abstaining: Nelsen

Motion carried 5-0.

President Tighe asked for nominations for Treasurer. Vanschoiack nominated Reis for Treasurer and Nelsen seconded. President Tighe noted that the nominations cease. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to appoint Reis as Treasurer for the school board. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

Abstaining: Reis

Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

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

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

The motion carried 6-0.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 14th regular meeting and January 10th special meeting.

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

3. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda.

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

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

The motion carried 6-0.

VI. Communications

Principal Lembke reported that nine students are learning remotely. Four are due to covid quarantine. Staff continues to use best precautions concerning covid. The Little Priest Tribal College has 10 students enrolled in Public Speaking. We will be hosting a District Speech meet on March 10th. The building will need to be closed to students that day.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that total enrollment is at 429. The board was given a handout from our law firm regarding the top ten questions for the 2021 Legislative Session to review. The board was also provided with literature from Gov. Ricketts priority to limit school spending as it pertains to LB 1170. Homer is rated 12th out of 244 school districts for revenue from option enrollment 2020-21 students.

There was no public comment.

VII. Discussion

- A. The board of Education discussed and choose committee assignments:
 - Americanism – Reis, Nelsen, Hall
 - Budget and Finance – Vanschoiack, Tighe, Hall
 - Building and Grounds – Kirkholm, Reis, Tighe
 - Negotiations – Hall, Kirkholm, Tighe
 - Transportation – Vanschoiack, Kirkholm, Nelsen
- B. Code of Ethics Policy was reviewed by the Board.
- C. Conflict of Interest Forms were distributed to members to fill out and return to Trish Rohde.
- D. Building and Grounds Committee update is that four Architectural firms have toured the facility and 2 have met with Mr. Cruickshank on zoom. A Request for Proposal of Service will be sent out to the firms.
- E. Mr. Lembke presented the proposed Alternative School Program Plan to the board. The program is designed to assist students that are failing classes in the traditional school setting and not on target to graduate. This would be a location outside of the school but in proximity to the school. Students and parents would have to apply and be accepted to participate in the program. More research will be conducted. The board did ask to be informed monthly on the number of failing students.
- F. The school should get the Covid vaccine by February 1st. The 5th and 6th grade BB Girls would like to hold a tournament here at school. Masks will be required and tickets will be given to each team to limit attendance. The FFRCA leave of 10 paid days will be extended until the end of the school year.
- G. The board reviewed the 2020-21 and 2021-22 calendar start and end dates. The calendar committee will review the 2021-22 calendar.

VIII. Action Items

A. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to appoint the Dakota County Star as the newspaper of record for the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

B. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to appoint Perry, Guthery, Haase and Gessford as the legal firm representing the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

C. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to approve First Community Bank as the primary financial institution for the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

D. Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Vanschoiack to approve the superintendent as the district's Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator of the Homer Community School District. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

E. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Nelsen to authorize the superintendent to apply for state and federal funds including Title 1. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

F. No motion was needed on the Return to School Policy

G. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Reis to approve the resignation/retirement of a certified personnel. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

H. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Nelsen to approve Brian Ferris's request to participate in the early retirement and incentive program. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

IX. Closed session –personnel and negotiations

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Reis to go into closed session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss the collective bargaining strategies for certified teachers for the protection of the public's interest and to evaluate the job performance of a person to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual. On roll call the board voted as follows:

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

Member Vanschoiack left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to enter regular session at 10:08 p.m. On roll call the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

X. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular board meeting is set for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. on January 13, 2021.

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Board Secretary

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