

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
November 9, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Present: Byron Hall, Tyler Kirkholm, Aaron Reis, Paul Tighe, Carrie Vanschoiack 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 is posted in the Library.

II. Roll Call – All members are present.

III. 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: Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Reis, Hall

The motion carried 6-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 12th meeting.

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

Motion was made by Reis 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, Hall, Vanschoiack

The motion carried 6-0.

V. Audiences

Grant Lander thanked the board for the opportunity to participate in Cross Country. He stated that he won the district meet and finished 5<sup>th</sup> at State competition. Mr. Sasges spoke on behalf of the entire team and JH team in also thanking the board for allowing Cross Country to come to Homer.

Rex Schultze, an attorney with Perry Law Firm, attended the meeting by zoom and reviewed the Construction considerations with the board. He estimated the entire cost to be about \$300 per square foot for the 4500 square feet project. The project tentatively could consist of restrooms on the Elementary side of the building and either renovation of the existing building or adding on a couple rooms for updated science rooms. He explained the necessity of hiring an Architect for an estimated cost of \$160,000 to assist with the project. He told the board that financially the district is setting very good with \$972,000 in building fund and another \$300,000 anticipated in tax revenue this year. If the school decides to borrow any funds, then a Tax Anticipation Note would be the best option. You can borrow up to 70% of the project for up to 2 years. Mr. Schultze instructed the board to post information regarding the Construction Project on the website to keep the public informed. Mr. Schultze would assist with the RFP process required due to the project being over \$100,000. This would be a Design/Bid/Build project. The design team selected will assist with the timeline for the start and completion of the project.

## VI. Communications

- a. Public Comment: None
- b. Mr. Lembke reported that he was very pleased with how Homecoming went even with the changes due to Covid. The reverse parade was very well attended. Fall sports are completed and One Act is in full dress attire for competitions. They are doing Matilda. We currently have 9 remote learners by choice and 13 quarantine students using remote learning.

Mr. Cruickshank reported that current enrollment is at 428 students. The NRCSA and ESUCC have jointed forces on developing a resource guide for remote learning. The group meets weekly and hope to have the resource guide available in December. The head negotiators met in October and the entire negotiation committee will be meeting in November. The EHA insurance rates will increase 2.96%. The 3 incumbent board members were elected to serve another term. If anyone want to enroll for the 2020 State Education Conference, please let Mr. Cruickshank know.

- c. Celebrations – Grant Lander placed 5<sup>th</sup> at State Cross Country.

## VII. Discussion

- a. Building and Grounds – The board will search for an Architect to assist with the construction project. They will pick 2 or 3 firms to interview to choose the best company.
- b. Covid update: There will be no live Christmas performances at night. The concerts will be performed and recorded during the day to be shared with family and friends. 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders will perform on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and the PK – 6<sup>th</sup> graders will perform on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The Veteran program will also be virtual on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The NSAA is recommending limited occupancy for winter sports so we will possibly be issuing tickets for each player to give out in order to attend the sport. We will be contacting the local County Health Department for more information. As of Friday, November 6, the district is aware of six staff and 12 students that have tested positive for Covid since August 13<sup>th</sup>. Of those 18 positive tests, only one student can be traced back to transmission at school. Mr. Lembke will be contacting the parents of the students that are doing remote learning by choice as the students' grades are showing that they are not engaged in learning. A letter will be sent to parents that the students will need to return to school to improve grades.

- c. The Audit for 2019-20 is being worked between Trish, NDE, Porter and Company to be submitted. The auditor found no deficiencies with the school district.

VIII. Action Items

a. Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to approve the District/Board Goals and Activities as presented. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

b. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Hall to approve the second reading of Policy #402.15 Staff Conduct with Students, Policy # 404.02 Employee Injury on the Job, Policy #404.13 School Closure Under Extraordinary Circumstances and Policy #503.04 Addressing Barriers to Attendance. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

IX. Closed Session

Motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Reis to go into closed session at 10:10 p.m. to discuss a student matter to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded Reis to go into regular session at 11:39 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

X. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be on December 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Vanschoiack to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m. on November 9, 2020. On roll call vote the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 9th day of November 2020.

ATTEST:  
Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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