

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
November 14, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, November 14, 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, Tyler Kirkholm, Paul Tighe and Kristina Nelsen

Absent: Byron Hall and Aaron Reis

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl and Casey Tremayne & District Secretary Amy Brand

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 present except Byron Hall and Aaron Reis. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to excuse Members Hall and Reis from the meeting. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm, Vanschoiack

The motion carried 4-0.

III. Approval of Agenda and Changes to Agenda

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

Voting for: Vanschoiack, Nelsen, Tighe, Kirkholm

The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 12th 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 Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to approve all Consent Agenda items. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Voting for: Nelsen, Vanschoiack, Tighe, Kirkholm

The motion carried 4-0.

Member Hall arrived at 7:26 p.m.

V. Audiences

Cross Country team athletes and coaches - Coach Sasges thanked the board for their support and talked about their successful season and how bright their future looks as the team is very young. He commented how they have had a state medalist their first three years as a team. Coach Sasges also visited with the board about the possibility of taking the Cross Country team on a training/educational trip to Colorado Springs next summer. He is hoping for a cost-free trip for the students as they will be fundraising for most of the expenses. School vans would be needed for travel. The board will discuss and vote on this at December's meeting.

VI. Communications

a. Public Comment: None

b. Mrs. Uhl reported two elementary teachers have been attending a Science assessment series where they learn to construct and facilitate a professional development series that supports K-12 Science Teachers in understanding, developing and implementing 3-Dimensional assessment practices into classroom instruction. Mrs. Uhl will attend a KSB School Law Webinar in December and is also working on instructional rounds and attends a book study with the National Association of Elementary Principals. Angela Abts from the UNL Extension Office visited our Elementary Enrichment students with a fun project. Our TeamMates Chapter has five new matches for a total of 51. Mentor night will be during the home basketball games December 6th. Our Veteran's Day program was a huge success that was attended well by the community. Special thanks to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Nothdurft for all their hard work. Mrs. Uhl reported our school psychologist, guidance counselor, Heartland Counseling and Admin meet biweekly to discuss/identify students in need of mental health supports. We will participate school-wide in the Cardinal baskets program this year and Mrs. Uhl shared the Trunk or Treat was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this a great event for our elementary. The Elementary Christmas concert will be December 5th at 6:30 for grades Pk-3 and 7:15 for grades 4-6. Winter benchmark testing will be December 12-16.

Mrs. Tremayne reported on the current failing list and informed the board she recently had an assembly with 7-12 students and readdressed our cell phone and dress code policies and explained expectations and consequences. Jr. High just completed their first wrestling season and it was a success with 6 boys and 7 girls competing in three meets. High School wrestling, girls and boys basketball started November 14th. One Act starts competitions on November 14th with conference competition at Ponca. There will be a "Many Moccasins" school-wide presentation November 15th. Mrs. Tremayne talked about how she and Dan Schmitt are working on updating the activity banners in the main gym. Mrs. Tremayne and Mr. Horner attended a P2T (Pathways to Tomorrow) presentation in West Point at NECC. This is a great program and she will check if someone from the program can present to the board. Mrs. Tremayne visited with the board the possibility of Stacy Heald from Her Health coming to visit with our students (mainly middle school) about various subjects from media, drugs, alcohol, vaping and health and positive relationships. She will see if Mrs. Heald can present more information to the Board.

Mr. Cruickshank shared the Dakota County Levies for the 2022-2023 school year from the County Clerk's office and noted Homer is in very good shape. The Transit van we ordered in January of 2022 has not been produced yet. Discussed possibly

looking at a used van, which are scarce and more expensive than new. Homer Community Club will be hosting a Parade of Lights in December and would like to use the Football field parking lot for a staging area which was fine with the board. Mr. Cruickshank also reported we will be receiving a bit of an increase in State Aid for the next school year. Mr. Cruickshank presented a letter signed by several superintendents addressed to Commissioner Blomstedt regarding how NSCAS testing is not as good of a measure of growth as MAP testing is. Mrs. Uhl also commented on several points where Map testing is more effective than NSCAS. She would like to go back to MAP Growth. Mr. Cruickshank presented information on our Accreditation Review to staff on November 9th. A requirement of the Nebraska Department of Education is that every five years schools undergo a self-assessment of their educational program. We will be assembling an internal Engagement Review Team composed of the administration, two to three elementary teachers, two to three junior high/high school teachers, one K-12 specials teacher and school psych. This process will be completed by the end of March.

- c. Celebrations – Many celebrations were talked about in the Principal reports; it was noted student participation is very high right now which is very positive.

VII. Discussion

- a. Facility project update – Due to an elevation issue in front of the new additions, there is a possibility of making those areas a green space with landscaping, thus eliminating the sidewalk. Consideration is also being made to keep the parking procedures in place after construction is done. What we are currently doing is working very well and is safer than what we have done in the past. HCI will need generators at times over the winter months. They will provide the propane for the generators and will plug into our electrical.
- b. Safety review – Nebraska Department of Education. A Safety review was performed on September 22. This review showed to be very complementary to our school. Mr. Cruickshank will share the recommendations with the board.
- c. ESU #1 annual report – The ESU is essential for rural schools to provide services for students, staff and families. The review was shared and it was discussed how vital the ESU is to a school to function.
- d. Trophy Cases – Member Vanschoiack shared she has been approached by community members and coaches regarding the need to update our trophy cases. Discussed the need for more space for new activities to display trophies and awards as well as the need for updated record boards for our added sports. Different options were discussed regarding old trophies as well as the possibility of fundraising. A committee will be started to provide input as to how we will proceed with this.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to go into closed session at 8:36 p.m. to protect the reputation of an individual. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 5-0.

The board exited closed session.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Nelsen to go into regular session at 9:14 p.m.
On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Hall, Nelsen, Tighe, Vanschoiack, Kirkholm
The motion carried 5-0.

IX. Time/Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be on December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. January's regular meeting will be on January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. on November 14, 2022. On roll call vote the board voted as follows:
Voting for: Nelsen, Tighe, Vanschoiack, Kirkholm, Hall
The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 14th day of November 2022.

ATTEST:
Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

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