

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

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:10 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, Kristina Nelsen, Tyler Kirkholm, Paul Tighe and Aaron Reis

Administration present: Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, Principals Abbie Uhl & Seth Lembke and 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 Nelsen seconded by Vanschoiack to approve the agenda as presented. On roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

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

The motion carried 6-0.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and August 30th special 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: Hall, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Vanschoiack, Tighe, Reis

The motion carried 6-0.

V. Communications/Discussion

Public Comment: Members of the audience addressed the board regarding the week of Homecoming and the Cross Country and Band students that will miss the activities due to the Conference Cross Country meet in Bloomfield.

Principal Uhl reported that there have been 4 positive cases of Covid on the elementary side. The Eureka program is more difficult for students and is an adjustment. Staff will be meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps that need to be taken. The 9/11 Pep rally was a huge success thanks to the cheerleaders and Mrs. Olson. After school tutoring has begun with 14 students and 4 teachers. Elementary students will have a HOCO Blast for homecoming with more details to follow. Teammates currently have 48 matches and will be hosting a tailgate on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the football game to recognize mentors and mentees at halftime.

Principal Lembke reported that 21 students are on the failing list. There have been 2 positive cases of Covid. Students can make up assignments according to the number of days missed plus one with a cap of 10 days. Parent Teacher conferences will be different this year. Parents will sign up for a time to meet with the student's advisor and then can also meet with the individual teachers if they choose. There are 44 students taking 53 college classes. The colleges involved are Northeast CC, Little Priest and Wayne State.

Superintendent Cruickshank reported that enrollment is at 435 for the 2021-22 school year. The administrative team is working with Heartland Counseling and the School Psychologist to set up Mental Health Services and Support. There are federal resources to fund the project and will target individual and group consultations. The new tailgate concession area is a great addition to the football field and track. Thanks to Steve Harris Construction for donating the labor for the cement pad, Jesse Tremayne for putting the picnic tables together, and the HIWAY group for the \$4,100 donation that was used to fund part of the project.

Celebrations: Mrs. Olson and the cheerleaders did a phenomenal job with the Pep Rally and 9/11 Commemoration.

## VI Discussion

- A. Facilities Project update: The administrative team met with Matt Erion on how to utilize all the building space effectively. We have the interest rate for the lease-purchase locked in at .85%. Mr. Cruickshank attended the Facilities and Construction conference in Kearney last week.
- B. ACE/Cultural Connections Grant will host a parent meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the program and activity development. Homer has 62 Native American students. The board for the program consists of 2 parents, 3 superintendents, the grant writer and grant coordinator. The two areas identified by the board for development are transportation and academic support.
- C. Transportation – We are currently running 3 bus routes and a van route. The bus routes are completed in 1 hour 5 minutes or less. First Student is continuing to recruit drivers. The van route cost us around \$60 per day vs the bus route for \$312.45. There is consideration to purchase an extra vehicle as a one-time purchase from Depreciation fund gained from the savings by reducing one bus route.
- D. Covid Leave – The board discussed the Covid leave as there is no mandated leave this year from the government. The board decided to continue with a 10 Covid day leave for any employee that contracts Covid.
- E. The Board/District Goals and Activities were discussed and reviewed by the board. The board redefined the student achievement and opportunity goals and the changes to the goals will be reviewed next month and approved.

VII. Action Items

- A. Motion was made by Kirkholm and seconded by Reis to adopt the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Nelsen, Kirkholm, Vanschoiack, Tighe, Reis, Hall  
The motion carried 6-0.
- B. The total tax asking was \$3,568,010 for 2020-21 and the tax asking for 2021-22 is \$3,524,540 which is a \$43,740 reduction from 2020-21.  
Motion was made by Reis and seconded by Kirkholm to adopt the proposed 2021-2022 Property Tax Request/Levy Resolution as presented. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Kirkholm, Vanschoiack, Tighe, Reis, Hall, Nelsen  
The motion carried 6-0.
- C. Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to approve the Homer Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2023-2024 contract year. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:  
Voting for: Vanschoiack, Tighe, Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Kirkholm  
The motion carried 6-0.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to enter closed session at 8:42 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: Tighe, Reis, Hall, Nelsen, Kirkholm, Vanschoiack  
The motion carried 6-0.

The board reconvened to regular session.

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to enter regular session at 8:48 p.m. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

IX. Time/Date of next meeting

The next board meeting will be on October 11, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Vanschoiack and seconded by Nelsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. on September 13, 2021. On roll call vote, the board voted as follows:

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

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Dated this 13th day of September 2021.

ATTEST:  
Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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