

Board of Education Meeting  
Southwest Public Schools  
District 179  
May 13, 2024

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on May 13, 2024 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Brooke Brooks, Duane Teter, John O'Dea, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principal Tara Fries, Principal Matt Springer, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Jason Kloepping and Jennifer McConville.

Visitors: Emma Rasmussen.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to excuse absent board members, Jason Kloepping and Jennifer McConville. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Neseth, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Kloepping. Motion carried.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank Bartley Branch, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley, and published in the McCook Gazette newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 board meeting. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Teter, Brooks, O'Dea, and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Kloepping. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Tasha Martin arrived at the meeting after the Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors timeframe, but she was allowed to address the Board regarding an issue of meeting graduation requirements.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the resignation of Mary Jo Overton at the end of the 2023-2024 school year with thanks for her service to the district. Superintendent Billeter informed the Board that Policy 4056 would need to be reviewed. Ayes: Teter, Neseth, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to approve a contract with Sasha Burton as a second grade instructor for the 2024-2025 school term. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Neseth, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Kloepping. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Brooks, to approve a contract with Rudy Kennedy as an Industrial Technology instructor. Documents for a Career Education permit have been filed. Ayes: Teter, O'Dea, Brooks, and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Brooks, to approve a three-year contract with Forward CPA, LLC to perform the annual school audit. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Kloepping. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the quote from Gov.Connection for 73 Chromebooks for the scheduled laptops replacement for Grades 3, 7 and 10 at a cost of \$23,184.80 for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: Neseth, O'Dea, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the quote from Creative Sites for additional rubber mulch and plastic borders for the new elementary playground equipment at a cost of \$5,083.00. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and Kloepping. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed the Mark Potter mental health awareness presentation, Teacher Appreciation Week activities, the status of the playground equipment installation, staff surveys, completion of the addendas and non-certified staff work agreements, the installation of the window proof for the commons area at the junior-senior high school being paid by the Southwest Foundation, board member completion of the superintendent evaluation, and plans for the staff inservice on May 17. John O'Dea asked for Board and administrative comments regarding a Board Committee to conduct employee exit interviews.

Principal Fries informed the Board of Teacher Appreciation Week activities and the elementary student activities for the final week of the 2023-2024 year. She also discussed the preschool and daycare plans for the 2024-2025 school year.

Principal Springer reported on the junior-senior high semester test incentive program, update of the ESU Credit Recovery program, early dismissal program for senior students for the first and second semesters of the 2024-2025 school year, and plans for a gas and diesel contract with Ag Valley for the next school year.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Ayes: Teter, Neseth, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Kloepping and McConville. Motion carried.