

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
September 9, 2024

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:49 p.m. on September 9, 2024 at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Present: Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Jennifer McConville, Jason Kloeping, Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Matt Springer, Tara Fries, and Sydney Mousel.

Absent: None

Visitors: Jason Meyers, Rick McConville, Buck Haag, Natalie and Derek Meyers, Les Roggenkamp.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by Teter, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Kloeping, Brooks, McConville, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. 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 Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by McConville, seconded by O'dea, to approve the minutes of the August 12th, 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Ayes: Kloeping, Brooks, McConville, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Kloeping, to approve the 2024-2025 budget with consideration for the following funds: General, Depreciation, Employee Benefit, Contingency, Activities, Special Building, School Nutrition, Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking, Cooperative, and Student Fee. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloeping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by Teter, to approve the district property tax request for the 2024-2025 school fiscal year. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloeping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Kloeping, to approve the updated student handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloeping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to approve the revision on Policy 5062. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloeping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by Kloeping, to approve the school's new mission statement. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloeping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported we have transitioned from paper copies of our newsletter to an electronic format. This change is intended to increase efficiency and reduce paper waste, though we continue to offer paper copies for those who prefer them. Additionally, the south door of the gymnasium has been successfully repaired, enhancing both security and accessibility for all gym activities. In terms of facility improvements, we have added extra rock from Paulson's to our parking lots. This upgrade aims to improve the condition and safety of the parking areas. Lastly, the junior class recently hosted a fundraiser by serving hot dogs at the Husker football game. This event was a great success, helping to support their fundraising goals while also engaging with the community.

Principal Springer reported an important issue regarding our 12-passenger vans. We have recently discovered that these vans are not compliant with current regulations due to a lack of proper certification. Although the vans were converted by the manufacturer after purchase, they did not receive the required certification sticker on the door. This issue has come to our attention, and it appears that similar concerns are being identified across the state. In response, we have temporarily removed these vans from service. They will not be used for transporting students until we have resolved the certification issue and ensured full compliance with all safety regulations.

Principal Fries reported the successful startup of MAPS and DIBBLES testing, which are key assessments for monitoring student progress. In addition to these academic activities, we recently attended a pep rally that included all students. The event was a significant success, providing an opportunity for students to participate in various fun activities. Overall, the pep rally was not only enjoyable but also a valuable experience for the students, highlighting the importance of school traditions and student engagement.

Moved by O'dea, seconded by Mconville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, McConville, Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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, October 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.