

February 2025 Regular Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025 7:00 PM
High School Media Center

as advertised in the *Pilot-Tribune/Enterprise* and on
fortcalhounschools.org

ROUTINE BUSINESS

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. There were 4 administrators and 3 visitors.
- Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws: So noted.
- Excused Absences: All members were present.
- Roll Call: Josh Christensen-Present, Tony Dowling-Present, Cassie Kelly-Present, Amanda Schrum-Present, Ryan Sevcik-Present, Ted Welchert-Present.
- Approval of Agenda: Motion by Schrum and seconded by Kelly to approve the agenda as presented. Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

REGULAR AGENDA

- Public Participation: There were no requests to address the board.
- Approval of Claims: Moved that the claims for February be approved in the amount of \$73,859.87 from the General Fund, \$300,000.00 from the Building Fund and \$195,833.50 from Savings & Depreciation. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green and Ted Welchert went through the bills as part of the process. This month's expenses were low. He explained bills from Carpenter Paper, and the Revolving Fund with numerous band and choir registrations. In Savings & Depreciation the major expense was for 450 new Chromebooks for grades 7-12 in anticipation of higher prices at the time of the regular replacement schedule. The Building Fund reflected another installment payment for the Wrestling Building. There was discussion about the rotation of the Chromebooks with it being every 3 years. With a use expectancy of about 6 years, the ones from the high school are cycled to the elementary school. Jr-Sr high students are able to take theirs in and out of the building and elementary students' devices "don't travel" which extends the life. The new ones are distributed every 3 years to 7-9, 10-12.
- Claim for Abe's Trash Service: Moved that the claim for Abe's Trash Service be approved in the amount of \$1,692.50. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Sevcik, Passed. Josh Christensen: Abstain, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea
- Consent Agenda: Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Mr. Green reiterated that the transportation reports now would be presented quarterly as was discussed in committee meetings and had just received an answer from DC West who doesn't present one. He is currently working with Taylor Oil and their switch to the schools' being in their Fleet program.

-Standing Committee Reports: Amanda Schrum reported that the American Civics Committee discussed policies as part of the annual review, an update on a change to our gasoline purchases through Taylor Oil, discussing and recommending the 2025-26 calendar, administrator contracts and classified staff salaries, an update on additional bleachers for the football field, new hires and appointing a board member to the Foundation board.

The Finance Committee also met and discussed the same topics concurring that the Transportation Report will now be quarterly. Tony Dowling will represent the Board of Education on the Foundation Board.

- Administrator Contracts

- Superintendent Contract: This motion was withdrawn as the Superintendent's contract was acted upon at the December meeting.

- High School Principal: Moved that the contract for Dr. Nick Wemhoff be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Sevcik, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Amanda Schrum said that the difference in percentages is not much monetarily adding the administrators are deserving but with teachers at 2.5% it needs to be fair. A history was given in the weekly report including an increase in their extra duty travel stipend. Anita Saalfield representing the FCEA says their organization supports the 3% increase as the administration is supportive and has been good for our schools. Amanda thanked her for the support. Josh Christensen thinks the 3% is fine with the numerous extra duties/time they put in and the district can manage it.

- Elementary School Principal: Moved that the contract for Mrs. Sara Horstman be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Sevcik, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

- Assistant Principal/AD: Moved that the contract for Mr. Jamie Schleifer be approved at a 3% increase as discussed and decided upon. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea

- Policy 3040 - School Safety and Security and Policy 3041 - Crisis Team Duties: Moved that the board of education waive first reading and pass on second reading Policy 3040 - School Safety and Security and Policy 3041 - Crisis Team Duties as reviewed and being recommended. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Christensen, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. This is part of the District's policy review. There are no changes but Mr. Green reminded them that after the Legislative session ends, there will be alot more to review.

- Resignation: Moved that the resignation of Shelby Kaup be accepted at the end of the 2024-25 school year. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. She has given us two fantastic years but her family and future are in Blair and she wants to be part of her community. We hate to loose her.

- Contracts of Employment

- 3rd Grade Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Cassidy Knust as a 3rd Grade teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea,

Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. She is a new grad from Concordia, played volleyball and is interested in coaching. She interviewed well showing confidence and calmness.

- 2nd Grade Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Christina Bowser as a 2nd Grade teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Kelly, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. Christina is a Fort Calhoun grad and has worked for us before. She has most recently been at St. Bernard's in Omaha for 7 years. We are excited to have her back.

- Elementary Art Teacher: Moved that the board of education extend a contract of employment to Ariel Connor as an Elementary Art Teacher beginning in 2025-26. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. There were 2 good candidates. Ariel has enthusiasm, very "Art", and is excited. She has worked with kids' art at the Joslyn, initiated art clubs and various extra activities that made her what she is and for us. The uncertainty of a room vs Art cart didn't phase her.

- Compensation for Classified Staff: Moved that the classified staff be granted raises not to exceed 2.5%. This motion, made by Schrum and seconded by Christensen, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. The 2.5% is standard procedure to follow teachers' increases. They do a great job and we thank them for their support.

- Approval of the 2025-26 Calendar: Moved that the calendar for 2025-26 be approved as presented and recommended. This motion, made by Kelly and seconded by Schrum, Passed. Josh Christensen: Yea, Tony Dowling: Yea, Cassie Kelly: Yea, Amanda Schrum: Yea, Ryan Sevcik: Yea, Ted Welchert: Yea. It is identical to this year with the exception that Easter moves so those days moved. It was reviewed and discussed with administrators, teachers and committees.

- Board Member Reports: Ryan Sevcik thanked the administrators and staff for their care in our schools and kids; Tony Dowling said the same and that the Unified program/games are awesome; Amanda Schrum congratulated the Girls Wrestling for their success as did Josh Christensen.

- Administrator Reports

Dr. Wemhoff: Reported on Parent-Teacher Conferences and teachers being available for parents of girls wrestlers, professional development with Janet Foss from ESU#3 who is wonderful and through MTSS is coaching our teachers on core values that will best serve our students, and Prom/Post Prom inviting the board to attend. He gave the schedule of what other grades will do for the day Juniors take the ACT, congratulated our spelling bee contestants who did well, and gave an overview of upcoming events that our students represent well.

Mrs. Horstman: Reported on student achievements including the spelling bee and the HAL project; upcoming and previous events; and preschool screening to identify kids to get them help. There was also professional development including TIP which will help staff from overidentifying special education needs in some areas, the UNL Leadership Words project, and the Nebraska Literacy Project which we joined to help with K-2 reading. The pilot programs for Science are completed so the decision will be made on the curriculum.

Mr. Schleifer: Reported on the Winter activities season with the administration supervising some 86 events accounting for about 75 hours per week not including travel. The Girls Wrestling Team qualified 5 for the State Tourney at Districts. The Boys Wrestling will also have districts with State for both being 2/18-22. A pep rally will be held on February 18th at 11:00 AM. Basketball subdistricts and districts are upcoming as are Dance and Cheer State. Unified Basketball has been a great experience for our kids who are having a great time. They have one last tournament to end the season. A big thank you to Delaney Bruening and Paul Wilson for taking the lead in this. Spring practices begin in March with the high school parents' meeting on Sunday 3/2 at 6:00 PM.

- Superintendent Report and Legislative Summary: Board Goals, Wrestling Building Update, Legislative Update: Mr. Green gave an overview of the board goals which will be reviewed in July; the final work being done on the Wrestling Building and that its very cool; and that most bills introduced are still in committee but noted those that could impact schools. LB303 deals with the levy and would be a benefit for Fort Calhoun; LB 89 which is still evolving; LB140 regarding electronic communications policies in schools which we already have; LB149 dealing with discipline for young students in grades K-2; and LB633 regarding option enrollment scholarship as it pertains to special education students. 633 would transfer the money a school would get for an option student to that student if denied for an IEP to use anywhere they would want to go. There was discussion about how our phone policy was going. A big- part was that students are communicating more. Parents are also doing a good job using other means of communication with their students and the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.