**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –May 9, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Troy Hilt on the above date at 7:00 a.m., in the administration office with everyone present.

Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the agenda with one change, add under New Business (2) resignations. The motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Bruce Swihart, seconded by Shawna Blanka, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular board meeting on April 11, 2024. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0419001 – 0419076 and on checks numbering 12405-12418 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17375-17420 on FNB Bank for a total of $431,302.24. c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer: $32,743.00 from General Fund to the Special Ed Fund)¸ and the High School Activity Fund Report and Grade School Activity Fund Report – all as of April 30, 2024. d) The Board approved the following gift offers: 1) $500.00 from Mary Neitzel for the LeeRoy Neitzel Memorial Scholarship; 2) $423.87 from the St. Francis Booster Club for the purchase of solar lights on the high school flags.

No Audiences.

Committee Reports: The Hiring Committee recommended Jairo Rodriguez as a high school instructor and Ashley Cooper as the first grade teacher. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve these two new hires; seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Superintendent Penka reported on a couple of legislative issues currently being discussed. He will keep the board informed of any issues that may come up.

Next, Superintendent Penka recommended the following for the 2024-2025 school year:

 Susan Dinkel as the grade school principal, with Superintendent Penka overseeing her;

 Jairo Rodriguez as the business teacher and assistant high school football coach;

 Ashley Cooper as the first grade teacher; Katie Myers move to fourth grade;

 Trista Lauer as the yearbook instructor for 3/8 of the day as a long-term substitute;

 Amy Morrow as middle school volleyball coach.

Also, 19 Certified and 24 Classified contracts have been returned for signature.

Danielle McAtee made a motion to approve these new hires and returned contracts; the motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka reported that a resignation was received from Meghan Kinen resigning her position as the second grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Bruce Swihart made a motion to accept the resignation, seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried.

Superintendent Penka presented a bid from Howard’s Tri State Construction LLC to replace ceilings and lights in one room at the high school and one room at the grade school. Chris Hingst made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

The school’s Title I program was briefly reviewed. Shawna Blanka moved to approve the Title I program be continued in grades K-5 for the 2024-2025 school year with the employment of one licensed teacher, if USD 297 receives sufficient Title I funds to maintain the program. The motion was seconded by J. W. Milliken and carried.

Next, Superintendent Penka requested that the time spent on Transition to Teach (T2T) and Teacher Apprentice Program (TAP) count as experience time. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Danielle McAtee, and carried.

Superintendent Penka received consensus of the board to go ahead and order basketball uniforms for the junior high and high school boys’ and girls’ teams.

The Board was reminded that by law (K.S.A. 72-5411), a school board must notify a teacher in writing on or before the third Friday in May (May 17th this year) if said teacher’s contract will not be renewed; and a teacher must notify the school board in writing on or before 14 days after the third Friday in May (May 31st this year) if (s)he is resigning from their position.

Miscellaneous items discussed: Principal Morrow encouraged the board to visit the Industrial Arts classroom; new equipment was received through a Northwest Teach grant and has recently been installed. Also, Chris Hingst discussed getting some numbers put together to start rotating and replacing some of the bus fleet.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **June 13, 2024, at 7:00 A.M.**

At 8:05 a.m. Dustin Andrist moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

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