**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – September 12, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Troy Hilt in the administrative office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with everyone present. Principal Susan Dinkel and Principal Delbert Schmidt were also present.

Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by J. W. Milliken and carried.

Items on the Consent Calendar were next considered. Following review of these items, Chris Hingst moved, Dustin Andrist seconded, and it carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: 1) the minutes of the regular board meeting and the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing held on August 22, 2024. 2) The list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 0719030-0719039 , and on checks numbering 12499-12515 on BANKWEST in the amount of $64,591.73 and checks numbering 17699-17772 on FNB Bank totaling $176,851.23 for a total of $241,442.96. 3) The Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report - all as of August 31, 2024. 4) One gift offer was approved for $250.00 from the United Methodist Thrift Store for the purchase of Kleenex for the elementary school.

There were no audiences.

Under Committee Reports, Superintendent Penka reported that Dan Bowers has been hired to mow for the remaining of the mowing season. Bruce Swihart made a motion to approve the hire, seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Under old business Superintendent Penka reviewed the changes to the Licensed Staff Leave Agreement and Principal Schmidt reviewed the changes to the JH/HS cell phone policy. Chris Hingst made a motion to approve the changes, seconded by Shawna Blanka and carried.

Superintendent Penka reminded the Board that USD 297 has a policy in place indicating that teachers must supply the district office official transcripts prior to October 1st, for the additional hours to count toward advancement on the salary schedule for the current year.

The Board was informed of the new monthly Blue Cross-Blue Shield premium rates for the health-insurance group of school employees, effective with the new plan from November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025. Information received from BCBS indicates an average increase of 8.00% in premiums. The school will continue to pay $470/month toward a single plan and $940/month toward any other type of plan.

Next, the Board was presented with two resignations. 1) Garrett Sundstrom is resigning from his position as Transportation Director effective Friday, September 13, 2024. Mr. Sundstrom has been with the District for 24 years. 2) Traci Neitzel submitted her resignation as District Clerk effect October 31, 2025. Mrs. Neitzel will stay for a year to train the replacement that is hired. At her date of retirement she will have been with the district for 15 years. Shawna Blanka made a motion to accept the resignations, seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried.

Next, under new business, Superintendent Penka discussed the financial ability of the district to increase the salaries of all contracted employees effective with the November 2024 payroll. Bruce Swihart made the following motion, seconded by Chris Hingst and carried: Mr. President, I move to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4319 and to return to open session at 8:00 a.m. Principal Schmidt, Principal Dinkel and Clerk Neitzel left the meeting. At 8:00 a.m. regular session resumed with Dustin Andrist making a motion to return to executive session until 8:15 a.m., seconded by Christ Hingst and carried. At 8:15 a.m. regular session resumed with Principal Schmidt, Principal Dinkel and Clerk Neitzel returning to the meeting.

Upon resuming regular session Bruce Swihart made a motion to raise the salary base by $3,000.00; there was no second. Shawna Blanka made a motion to raise the salary base by $2,000.00; and to approve all classified staff for raises as set out by Superintendent Penka, taking effect with the November payroll. The motion was seconded by Danielle McAtee and carried with a vote of 5 to 1 in favor of the salary base increase of $2,000.

Next, Superintendent reviewed enrollment numbers with the Board. The official count day will be Friday, September 20, 2024

Superintendent Penka reported that the Bike Across Kansas (June 6 – June 14) people will be using the school facility one night during their ride

Many miscellaneous items were discussed: Mr. Schmidt reported that Sports in Kansas presented a Social Media program to all high school and junior high students. Mrs. Dinkel reported that there is a lot of exciting things going on in the grade school and she is very happy with the new teachers as well as all returning faculty.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.**

At 8:40 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by J.W. Milliken and carried

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT