**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – January 16, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-President J.W. Milliken in the administration office on the above date at 7:00 a.m. with all members present except Troy Hilt and Danielle McAtee. Others present were Tania Quintero, Delbert Schmidt, Susan Dinkel and Jordi Wiegers.

Superintendent Penka had one change to the agenda: move Audiences to the top of the agenda. Dustin Andrist made a motion to approve the agenda with the change; the motion was seconded by Chris Hingst and carried.

Audiences: Jordi Wiegers was present to present to the Board her reasons for keeping 6th graders participating in sports.

Election of officers was next; Shawna Blanka made a motion to keep Troy Hilt as President and J. W. Milliken as Vice-President, 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 Chris Hingst, seconded by Shawna Blanka, and carried to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the regular Board meeting on December 12, 2024. b) A list of bills being paid on direct deposit slips numbering 1219001 – 1219080 and on checks numbering 12563-12587 on BANKWEST, and checks numbering 17988-18026 on FNB Bank for a total of $537,184.75. c) The Cash Summary Report (including one transfer; $23,977.00 from the General Fund to the Special Ed Fund), the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of December 31, 2024. d) No gift offers.

The Board considered appointment of members to three committees – the Meet-and-Confer Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Hiring Committee. Following brief discussion, Troy Hilt and Danielle McAtee were selected to serve on the Meet-and-Confer Committee; Bruce Swihart, Dustin Andrist, Principal Delbert Schmidt and Katisha Wiegers were selected to serve on the Scholarship Committee; and Superintendent Penka, Principal Schmidt, Shawna Blanka, and J. W. Milliken were selected to serve on the Hiring Committee with Bruce Swihart as a back-up for this committee.

Superintendent Penka updated the Board on legislative issues currently in discussion.

Under Old Business Superintendent Penka presented two bids from Dan Brenner Ford: one for a 2025 4-wheel Expedition for $54,650.00 and one for a 2023 Transit 350 Mid Roof Wagon 2WD for $77,650.00. After discussion Chris Hingst made a motion to purchase the 2025 Expedition; motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and passed. Superintendent Penka is going to obtain more bids for a transit bus to be discussed at February’s meeting.

Next, the board discussed sixth grade participation in sports. More feedback from parents is needed. This has been tabled until the February 2025 board meeting.

USD 297 is now running payroll through FNB Bank Cash Management program. Traci Neitzel is the administrator of the Cash Management program with Tania Quintero having full access to the program. Mack Elliott will be authorized for verification only. Shawna Blanka made a motion to approve Traci Neitzel, Tania Quintero, and Mack Elliott for the Cash Management program; seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

Cheylin Golf – No discussion or action taken.

At 8:03 a.m., Dustin Andrist made the following motion for a fifteen minute executive session: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel in order to protect their privacy pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and that the open meeting shall resume at 8:18 a.m. Shawna seconded the motion, and it carried. Principal Schmidt, Principal Dinkel, Tania Quintero, and Clerk Neitzel left the meeting, rejoining at 8:18 a.m.

Upon returning from executive session Dustin Andrist made a motion to extend Principal Schmidt and Principal Dinkel’s contracts for a two year term. Shawna Blanka seconded the motion, and it carried.

Superintendent Penka reported that our KESA plan was approved by the state board of education.

The next regular scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 13, 2025, at 7:00 a.m.

At 8:24 a.m., Chris Hingst moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dustin Andrist and carried.

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CLERK DATE BOARD PRESIDENT