

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 17, 2023  
6P.M.**

**PRESENT:** President Cory Robinson, Colette Kunkel, Jon Northrup, Debbie Meyer, Kim Tichy, Principal, Rob Luther, Principal, Zach Hasselbrink, Superintendent, Mickolyn Clapper, and Board Secretary, Julie McWhirter.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sue Atkinson

**I. Call to Order:** President Robinson called the May meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**II. Approval of Agenda:** Meyer moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**III. Approval of Consent Items:** Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$138,207.60 and minutes of the April 12, 2023 regular board meeting and of the April 27, 2023 special board meeting, as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**IV. Correspondence:** This week, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week by celebrating all district staff. Thank you to the PTO for celebrating each day with activities such as massages, lunch, and gift bags, etc. District admin also gave staff a late start day on a normal, professional development, late-start Monday. May is board appreciation month. Superintendent, Dr. Clapper thanked the board members for their commitment and support, recognizing the time it takes to volunteer for this position.

**V. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson shared information regarding an earlier email she sent to board members.

**VI. Business Items:**

**A. PRINCIPAL REPORTS:** Each month, principals, Rob Luther and Zach Hasselbrink, share activities during the past month.

Congratulations to Jill Halter. She will be the shared guidance counselor between Colfax-Mingo and Baxter Community Schools. Elementary has a new kindergarten teacher. Abbie Barr will begin teaching next school year. PE teachers, with the help of some secondary students hosted a field and track day for elementary students with 16 different activity stations. What is becoming an annual event for elementary students, the fishing trip to Quarry Springs in Colfax, did not disappoint. Parents, grandparents, siblings and staff were there to help. Invitations to 24 students, K-2, were sent for summer school, so far, half have committed to the summer program. Students raised over \$20,000 for Books for Fun from community and district supporters. Each elementary student will get at least five books to take home. Thank you community and district members for your very generous support!!! Elementary students reached their highest spring, FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) benchmarks with 74% proficiency since inception nine years ago. In the ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) testing, 71% of elementary students are reading proficient while 75% are math proficient. Mr. Hasselbrink is extremely proud of elementary students for their efforts and of teachers and paras for their support and commitment to the process.

Board member, Kim Tichy, mentioned how very successful she thought the elementary music concert was. Congratulations to Mrs. Bartholmey and elementary students on a great job!

Graduation week is in full swing and will wrap up with commencement ceremonies on Sunday. In order for all seniors to participate in the week long festivities and the state track meet, the normal Friday rehearsal, senior breakfast, cookout, and senior/staff ball game was held on Wednesday. This year's senior class is one of the largest graduating with 42. Mr. Luther commended this great group of students for their extra efforts throughout their senior year. Prior to the board meeting, Mr. Luther shared preliminary data on the secondary ISASP tests. Eighth graders were 100%, and sophomores were 94% proficient in English Language Arts. While the district received a "targeted" designation in special ed math and language last year, students made huge strides this year in those areas. Mr. Luther is very proud of the secondary students and staff in their concentrated efforts in taking the annual tests.

- B. PERSONNEL:** Meyer moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve a resignation from Whitney Boaz as PE teacher, as requested. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve contracts for Abbie Barr as kindergarten teacher; Jennifer Wisniowski as MS science teacher; Ryan Hermes as PE teacher, assistant HS football coach, and strength and conditioning coach; and Jeremy Moffit as secondary social studies teacher, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**Exempt Session as allowed by Chapter 21, Section 21.9, of the Code of Iowa for Employment Conditions Discussed:** Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to go into Exempt session at 7:39pm to discuss classified and administrative salaries. Motion carried (5y-0n). Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to go out of Exempt session at 8:40pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Northrup moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve a 3% wage increase for classified staff which includes paras, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, and secretaries; and a 2% increase for administration. Motion carried (5y-0n).

- C. 2023-24 28E AGREEMENTS:** Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the continuation of 28E agreements for next year with Nevada CSD for transportation director, GMG for human resources director, and the City of Baxter for SRO; and to continue to provide Colfax-Mingo with a librarian, PCM a librarian; and a new agreement to provide a librarian to Nevada, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- D. 2023-24 GAS AND DIESEL BIDS:** Tichy moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve the gas and diesel bids from New Century FS for the next fiscal year, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- E. 2023-24 BREAD AND MILK BIDS:** Kunkel moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the bread bids from Pan O Gold; and milk bids from Anderson & Erickson for the next fiscal year, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- F. OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Meyer moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve open enrollment in applications from Ami Paul and Joseph Paul, for their son, Wayne, from Colfax-Mingo; Chelsie Fields for her son, Aiden Beach, from Newton; Tessa Frahm and Benjamin Frahm, for their daughter, Kennedy, from Newton; Cody and Kacy Snyder, for their son, Weston, from Newton; Danielle and Ryan Tabor, for their son, Mason, from Newton; Briana Van Gorp, for her son, Kingston, from Newton; Hannah and Roy Williams, for their daughter, Laekyn, from Newton; Emily Schneider, for her son, Paul, from West Marshall; Meredith Hibbs for her daughter, Sydney, from Marshalltown; Keith and Sarah Pittman for their son, Caleb, from Newton; and Akila Payton for her daughter, Helina Thomas, from Newton for the 2023-24 school year, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**G. GROUNDS, FACILITIES, & TRANSPORTATION:** Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the Summer Projects list which includes but not limited to installation of a backflow preventer in the kitchen; installing fire alarm software to prevent false alarms; updating the track timing system in a shared expense with the Baxter Booster Club; and surfacing parking at Geise Park in a joint venture with the City of Baxter. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**H. BOARD POLICIES:** Northrup moved, seconded by Kunkel to select *Option 2* in the *Investments Board Policy*, waive the second reading and approve the following policies: *Board of Directors Conflict of Interest; Employee Conflict of Interest; Employee Record; Employee Records Regulation; Depository of Funds; Transfer of Funds; Financial Records; Debt Management; Investments; Gifts, Grants, Bequests; Student Activities Fund, Online Fundraising Campaigns Crowdfunding; Public Examinations of School District Records; Debt Management-Post Issuance Compliance Regulation for Tax-Exempt Obligations; and Expenditures for a Public Purpose-Use of Public Funds Regulation*, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

**I. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Dr. Clapper said administration continues to work on back to school plans for next school year which includes continuing the High Reliability School work. Custodial staff met with reps from Hillyard Inc., a leading cleaning and hygiene distributor, who is in a cooperative agreement with public schools through Heartland AEA. The reps provided guidance on how to be more efficient in custodial day to day operations as well as yearly tasks.

**VII. Adjournment:** Meyer moved, seconded by Tichy, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

The regular May board meeting minutes will be presented for approval at the regular June board meeting.

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Board President

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Date

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Board Secretary

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Date