

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
6P.M.**

PRESENT: President Cory Robinson, Colette Kunkel, Jon Northrup, Kim Tichy, Superintendent, Mickolyn Clapper, Secondary Principal, Rob Luther, Elementary Principal, Zach Hasselbrink and Board Secretary, Julie McWhirter. Debbie Meyer was absent due to a prior commitment.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson

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

II. Approval of Agenda: Northrup moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (4y-0n).

III. Approval of Consent Items: Northrup moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$137,559.19 and minutes of the August 16, 2023 regular board, as presented. Motion carried (4y-0n).

IV. Correspondence: None.

V. Public Forum: Sue Atkinson shared more information regarding an email she previously shared with board members.

VI. Business Items:

A. Principals' Reports: Each month, principals, Rob Luther and Zach Hasselbrink share activities during the past month.

Over the summer, 19 elementary students took advantage of the opportunity to meet with elementary guidance counselor, Amanda Hoffman. Over a 10 day period, Mrs. Hoffman spent 40 hours with those students in an effort to continue building her relationship with them. The summer school program received 12 to 14 students on a consistent basis. Twenty students were invited to attend summer school. Over the six week period, most of those students maintained or improved their skills in phonics and reading. The recent braided bread fundraiser was a great success raising over \$4,000 to fund future projects and some field trips. With the recent purchase of a new mobile STEM cart, each elementary class gets to spend one uninterrupted week per semester working on STEM projects. The new elementary phonics curriculum has been implemented with teachers currently using it for diagnostics and awareness measures. New elementary teachers are doing an amazing job of getting familiarized with their positions and the systems already in place. The FAST math screening has just been completed with 76% of the students meeting the benchmarks with a few students left to test. While the threshold met is above the AEA's and Iowa Department of Ed's benchmarks, the goal set by our elementary teachers and admin is 80% meeting the benchmarks.

Northrup moved, seconded by Tichy to approve the annual out of state trip for FFA students and sponsor to attend the FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN, as requested. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Homecoming is next week with activities such as the BOLT Battles, the Spirit Walk, the coronation, dance, and of course, the homecoming football game. This year's theme is "Barbie Dream House". Extra-curricular, fall activities are seeing all-time highs in student participation, especially at the middle school level. Mr. Luther commented on how fantastic the culture of the new teachers is with them familiarizing themselves with their positions, staff, and systems. Secondary staff will put extra focus on math this year. The new math teacher, Fran DeVore is doing a great job.

- B. 2022-23 NUTRITION REPORT:** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the 2022-23 Nutrition Report, as presented. Motion carried Motion carried (4y-0n).
- C. 2023-24 BCSD Professional Learning Plan:** Dr. Anderson share the 2023-24 Professional Learning Plan and schedule.
- D. 28E AGREEMENT:** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the continuation of the 28e agreement with GMG CSD for the Human Resources Director, as requested. Motion carried Motion carried (4y-0n).
- E. APPROVE REQUEST FOR ALLOWABLE GROWTH AND SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR 2022-23 SPECIAL EDUCATION DEFICIT:** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the request for allowable growth and supplemental aid from the SBRC (School Budget Review Committee), for (\$45,290.74) for the 2022-23 school year due to the special education deficit, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).
Roll Call: Yeas: Northrup, Kunkel, Tichy, Robinson
Nays: None
- This deficit is a result of continuing to add 1:1 paras as a requirement and losing students qualified for Medicaid reimbursement due to graduation or moving.
- F. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT LAW FIRM:** Kunkel moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve the annual request to name Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., as the official law firm of the district, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).
- G. ANNUAL CITY-SCHOOL COLLABORATION MATCH OF \$5000:** Northrup moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the annual city-school collaboration match of \$5,000 to be utilized for future joint city-school projects, as recommended, on the condition that the City of Baxter commits the same. Motion carried (4y-0n).
- H. 2023-24 DISTRICT ENROLLMENT:** Dr. Clapper shared preliminary enrollment numbers with the board members with the official certified enrollment date of October 1.
- I. BUDGET OVERVIEW OF EXPENDITURES OVER LAST 5 YEARS:** Business Manager, Julie McWhirter, shared a five year history of district expenditures after a request from board members. The analysis showed a 41% increase in utilities, 23% increase in salaries and benefits, and 43% increase in discretionary spending such as instructional materials while a steady or decreasing tax rate was experienced.
- J. OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve open enrollment applications in from Brittney Humke for her son, Braxton, from Newton CSD; Danielle Bauer for her daughter, Raelianna, from Newton CSD; and Jen Winchell for her daughter, Kaylee, from Newton CSD, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).

K. PERSONNEL: Kunkel moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve a resignation from Dana Bucklin as assistant MS basketball coach, as requested. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Northrup moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve contracts for Andrea Berg as HS Student Council Sponsor; Kyle Teeselink as assistant HS boys wrestling coach; and Kassy Shanks and Stacia Vansice as Junior Class Co-sponsors, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).

L. REVIEW BOARD POLICIES 100-300s: Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the review of Board Policies 100-300's with any revisions, as recommended. This reading will serve as the second and final reading of the policies. Motion carried (4y-0n).

Board members will continue to review the additional board policies brought forth until next month's meeting.

M. FACILITIES, GROUNDS, AND TRANSPORTATION: Dr. Clapper updated everyone on the hail damage insurance claim after a couple of the board members, director of HVAC and maintenance, and Clapper walked around surveying the specific areas indicated by insurance adjusters.

N. BCSD EQUITY PLAN: Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel to approve the Baxter CSD Equity Plan, as recommended. Motion carried (4y-0n).

O. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: District administrators were honored to host Iowa State University Education Directors, professors and deans, and representatives from the University of Namibia in Africa. The visitors were very impressed with our district; specifically the modernized facilities, the operation of the extra-curricular programs, etc.

The Baxter Chamber is hoping to hold an outside vendor fall event in front of the school on October 28th. This will be at the same time the Library is holding their annual Halloween costume event.

The regular December school board meeting will be held on the second Wednesday, December 13, due to the timing of winter break.

Finally, the annual IASB Convention will be held November 15-17, 2023. Board members, the superintendent, and board secretary usually attend on Thursday of the event and follow it with a supper with spouses.

VII. Adjournment: Kunkel moved, seconded by Northrup, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Motion carried (4y-0n).

The regular September board meeting minutes will be presented for approval at the regular October board meeting.

Board President

Date

Board Secretary

Date