

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson, Tyler Akins, Ray Hauser, Ashley Kucera

- I. Call to Order:** Board President, Robinson called the regular November meeting to order at 6:01p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** Meyer moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- III. Approval of Consent Items:** Tichy moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$55,667.05 and minutes of the October 18, 2023 regular board meeting, as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- IV. Correspondence:** The district received a thank you from the family of Larry Schmidt.
- V. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson expanded on bullying and harassment in schools.
- VI. Business Items:**
 - A. PRINCIPAL REPORTS:** Each month, principals, Rob Luther and Zach Hasselbrink, share upcoming events or events from the past month.

Mr. Hasselbrink was very happy to report that elementary parent teacher conferences were attended by 98% of elementary parents. The goal is always 100% of parents attending the conferences. The resource fair held during the first evening of the conferences was a huge success. Mr. Hasselbrink thanked elementary guidance counselor, Amanda Hoffman, for organizing the fair. The following are vendors who attended: EFR (Employee & Family Resources), American Lung Association, CICS, NAMI, Your Life Iowa, Capstone, MICA, ISmile, Lions Club, Baxter Chamber of Commerce, Baxter Congregational Church, Baxter Rec, Hominy Ridge 4H, Jasper Co. Public Health (JCPH), Baxter CSD Food Service Director, and Bethany United Church of Christ. He also thanked the staff members who helped with the clean-up. The annual Veterans' Assembly organized by service veteran, Greg Christianson, was last week. Mr. Hasselbrink thanked Mr. Christianson for his tireless efforts each year for this great presentation. The BLT (Building Leadership Team) revisited the goals set for 2022-23 to discuss how many goals were met and to set 2023-24 building goals. Those goals met included increasing the number of students who meet proficiency in reading and math. Revisiting the goals also allowed for the team to adjust Tier I, II, and III interventions and supports according to student needs; and revitalize assessments. The annual Giving Tree has been established with the selection of 15 financially challenged, district families. Last month's CKH (Capturing Kids' Hearts) celebration was a glow stick party. This month's focus is on gratitude. Mr Hasselbrink shared some data from the recently released annual State-wide district report card with the Elementary building receiving an overall commendable status which is the highest designation received since the establishment of the report card. Mr. Hasselbrink is very proud of students and staff alike for the outstanding work put into this achievement.

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Mr. Luther delved into the State's district report card as it pertains to the secondary building which includes an overall commendable status with a score 3.5 points above the state average. The district also received a 64.75 score out of 100, and 15.35 points above the state's average, of students' perception of the building's learning environment. The high score indicates a positive perception of the school environment across all grades and constructs.

- B. IOWA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE:** Administrators and board members reviewed the district's "State Report Card" from the 2022-23 school year.
- C. SBRC APPLICATION 2023:** Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the administration's request to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for a modified supplemental amount (MSA) of \$15,541.60 for a slight increase in open enrolled out students, as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Roll Call:

AYES: Northrup, Meyer, Kunkel, Tichy, Robinson

NAYS: None

- D. K-12 LAU PLAN FOR SERVING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL):** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve the 2023-24 K-12 LAU Plan for ELL (English Language Learners), as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- E. TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP (TPRA) MOU:** Meyer moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve the TPRA MOU which officially agrees with William Penn University in the parameters set in this program, as recommend. This program allows our para-educators to use their working hours towards getting their teaching degree. The district is reimbursed for any tuition/fees and ½ of the para-educator's earnings during the time of getting their degree, for a period of three years, ending December 31, 2025. Currently, we have one para participating in the program. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- F. OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Tichy moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the open enrollment in applications from Eric and April Hartz for their son, Daide, to attend Baxter CSD in the 2024-25 school year, from Newton CSD; from Amanda Taylor for her son, Graham Breckenridge, from Newton CSD; from Adam and Tatum Kaldenberg for their sons, David and Weston, from Newton CSD; and from Charity Kaldenberg for her children, Juvia and Lucas, from Newton CSD, as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- G. FACILITIES/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION:** Board members requested an update from Dr. Clapper and the Maintenance Director on the progress of facility repairs from the hailstorm in May.
- H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Meyer moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve the overnight stay in Des Moines, Iowa on November 30 by the drill/dance team so that they may attend the State Drill Team Competition as requested. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Dr. Clapper shared information from athletic director, Dennis Vaughn that the admission for middle school events will change from \$2 to \$3 to coincide with the high school event admission changes. She also shared of the possibility of charging for streaming school events to compensate for the reduction of in person admission to the events. Admissions are a large portion of the resources that allow for extra-curricular events. The district is looking into solar options with current federal incentive programs for public schools. Board members, members-elect, the board secretary, and the superintendent will attend the annual school board convention hosted by IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards). Administration recently attended an

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ongoing training with Solution Tree in regards to leading PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) and school improvement. The district's SIAC committee recently met providing great feedback to district leaders.

Due to the timing of the winter break, the December school board meeting will be held on December 13 at 6pm.

- I. PERSONNEL:** Meyer moved, seconded, by Tichy, to approve the resignation from Kole Wilson as assistant high school softball coach, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- J.** Tichy moved, seconded by Kunkel, to approve Jared Nichols as a volunteer high school boys basketball coach, pending proper coaching licensure, as requested. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- K. EXEMPT SESSION (as allowed by *Iowa Code Chapter 21.9, Employment Conditions Discussed: To discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees not covered by the collective bargaining law*):** Northrup moved, seconded by Tichy, to enter into Exempt Session at 7:23pm as allowed by Iowa Code Chapter 21.9, Employment Conditions Discussed; to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees not covered by the collective bargaining law. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Roll Call:

AYES: Northrup, Meyer, Kunkel, Tichy, Robinson

NAYS: None

Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to come out of Exempt Session at 9:01pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Northrup moved, seconded by Meyer, to hire a full-time secondary principal with other possible duties for the 2024-25 school year, as recommended, as Mr. Luther plans to retire after the 23-24 school year. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Meyer moved, seconded by Tichy, to approve amending the business manager/board secretary's current contract, with agreement from the business manager/board secretary, to reduce the position to .8 FTE from at 1.0 FTE, effective January 1, 2024, returning to a 1.0 FTE position on July 1, 2024, as recommended as a budget reduction for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Tichy moved, seconded by Northrup, to approve amending the superintendent's current contract, with agreement from the superintendent, to reduce the position to .8 FTE from 1.0 FTE effective January 1, 2024, as recommended as a 2023-24 budget reduction, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

- VII. Adjournment:** Tichy moved, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried (5y-0n).

The regular November board meeting minutes will be presented for approval at the regular December board meeting.

Board President

Date

Board Secretary

Date