

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2024
6P.M.**

PRESENT: President Cory Robinson, Jon Northrup, Tyler Akins, Ashley Kucera, Ray Hauser, Principals, Rob Luther and Zach Hasselbrink, Superintendent, Mickolyn Clapper, and Board Secretary, Julie McWhirter

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Atkinson; Mayor Doug Bishop; City Councilperson, Steve Smith; Police Chief Bill Daggett

- I. Call to Order:** President Robinson called the January meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** Northrup moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- III. Approval of Consent Items:** Northrup moved, seconded by Kucera, to approve the payment of bills totaling \$151,972.24 and minutes of the December 13, 2023 board meeting as presented. Motion carried (5y-0n).
- IV. Correspondence:** None.
- V. Public Forum:** Sue Atkinson explained more about the previous email she sent to board members. Doug Bishop informed board members of an upcoming legislative breakfast. Doug would like to start a discussion involving State Street and making it one-way all of the time instead of just during the school day. We will add this topic to the agenda for the Joint City/School Work session.
- VI. Business Items:**
 - A. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS:** Each month, principals, Rob Luther and Zach Hasselbrink, share activities during the past month.

Fifth and sixth graders attended the annual JA Biztown learning experience, which allows students to participate in a real world simulation by operating banks, restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students discuss the importance of rights and responsibility in a community, basic understanding of free enterprise, and build money management skills through practical knowledge. The academic decathlon participants will soon attend regional competitions. Last year the participating students qualified for the state competition. This extra-curricular activity is the only extra-curricular activity for four of the six students. Thus underscoring the importance of having a variety of extra-curricular activities. Secondary students will attend the first semester awards assembly. Mr. Luther commended secondary guidance counselor, Travis Dee, on his continued efforts to bring diverse course offerings to students. Some of those courses are small business management, human relations management, advanced animal science, and introduction to law. These courses offer dual credits to those students taking the classes.

Mr. Hasselbrink reported that teachers have been utilizing virtual workdays during the snow days. They have been revisiting standards, taking care of housekeeping items, and updating documentation ensuring consistency and efficacy in their lessons. Recently, teachers participated in joint virtual professional learning sessions, collaborating with their counterparts at Colfax-Mingo CSD. Admin thanked Superintendent Dr. Clapper and Colfax-Mingo Superintendent, Mr. Tim Salmon for allowing the joint learning sessions. Leaders have

“Teaching for today and tomorrow, one student at a time.”

planned additional face-to-face collaboration with Colfax-Mingo in April. Kindergarten through fifth grades will be treated to an Iowa Wolves ball game because of their success in each student reading for 500 minutes. Teachers are putting screeners together for the upcoming FAST testing.

- B. SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN UPDATE:** Dr. Clapper gave board members an update on the Safety and Security Plan. Board members requested that this item be a continuing agenda item every quarter. The next board meeting scheduled for an update is in April.
- C. BAXTER JOINT CITY-SCHOOL WORK SESSION:** Board members have selected April 3 and March 26 as their first and second choices, respectively, for the annual joint city/school work session. City leaders will let us know which dates work best for them.
- D. ANNUAL BOARD WORK SESSION:** Dr. Clapper shared last year's agenda for the annual school board work session planned for March 4, and March 6, 5-9pm. She requested members contact her for any changes/additions/deletions to the agenda.
- E. OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Akins moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve an open enrollment in application from Nicklaus and Sara Tiedje for their daughter, Hallie, from Newton CSD, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Northrup moved, seconded by Kucera, to deny an open enrollment in application from Breanna and David Grider for their son, Sebastian, from Newton CSD, due to *appropriate special education program not being available*, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

- F. PERSONNEL:** Kucera moved, seconded by Akins, to approve a resignation from Kyle Teeselink as business instructor, as requested. Motion carried (5y-0n).

Kucera moved, seconded by Hauser, to approve a contract for Ian Thomson as assistant HS boys track coach, as recommended. Motion carried (5y-0n).

- G. FACILITIES, GROUNDS, AND TRANSPORTATION:** Business Manager, Julie McWhirter, updated board members on the financial status of the wellness center. McWhirter recommended assessing an annual maintenance fee to cardholders of the wellness center. This fee will be assessed on an annual basis; and will provide funding to upgrade the door security/access system, security camera installation, and repairs/upgrades to the existing equipment. The wellness center currently has ~\$2400 in wellness center donations and a donation submitted to BEDCO on behalf of the wellness center, which will also assist in the upgrades. While board members agree with the recommendations, they requested that the wellness center upgrades and recommended annual maintenance fee be added to the agenda of the joint city/school work session to be held in April. Additionally, McWhirter will work on a community survey informing them of the upgrades and maintenance fee if all of those groups responsible for the wellness center agree upon it. A July 1 date is the anticipated start date of the new maintenance fee if also agreed upon.
- H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Board members will delay a goal setting workshop until the new superintendent and secondary principal have been hired. Dr. Clapper shared the progress of the development of the 2024-25 district calendar. Dr. Clapper met with county law enforcement and superintendents to debrief on the Perry CSD shootings. Dr. Clapper congratulated curriculum and instruction director, Wendy Anderson, on her efforts to switch a joint in-person professional learning day with Colfax-Mingo CSD to a virtual learning day due to inclement weather. Some tentative dates shared with board members and admin:

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- Wednesday, February 21st-*Annual Board Facility Tour @ 4:30PM* (prior to regular board meeting)
- The annual Board Work Session is Monday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 6, 5-9pm.
- The March board meeting date changed to March 27 due to new budget regulations.
- The April board meeting is now on the normal meeting date, April 17, 2024.

- I. 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 Akins, to enter into Exempt Session at 7:53pm 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: Yeas: Northrup, Akins, Kucera, Hauser, Robinson

Nays: None

Akins moved, seconded by Kucera, to come out of Exempt Session at 9:33pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

- XI. Adjournment:** Northrup moved, seconded by Hauser, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:33pm. Motion carried (5y-0n).

The regular January board meetings minutes will be presented for approval at the regular February board meeting.

Board President

Date

Board Secretary

Date