

OCTOBER 13, 2021

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 8:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter. Kyle Thiery was absent.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes of the September 8th meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve payment of general fund bills (\$74,175.46). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve all financial reports as presented. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve contracts for Eric Weisser—Elem BBB (\$1,050) and Jason Schmidt—Student Council (\$200). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Lyle Fey is willing to provide a front-wheel assist tractor for snow removal at a cost of \$25 per hour with a 30-hour minimum (\$750). Motion by Litsey to allow Lyle Fey to declare a conflict of interest. Second by Schlepp—Schlepp, Jenner, Litsey-yes, motion carried. Motion by Litsey to approve the tractor rental from Lyle Fey. Second by Jenner—Schlepp, Jenner, Litsey-yes, motion carried.

President Fey collected superintendent evaluations and will report at the November 10th meeting.

Discussion on staff email addresses being listed on the website—scams have happened in the past and scammers continue to try. Tried removing staff addresses a couple years ago but some parents complained about not being able to get ahold of teachers. Administration will continue to monitor and will look into the possibility of a blind email contact link on the website.

Supt. Schmidt provided information on the NFHS Network camera system—they would install 2 Pixellot cameras (gym and football field) for free. Would require a 5-year agreement. Subscriptions for fans are \$10.99 monthly or \$69.99 per year—school gets 10% of the monthly subscription fees and \$20 for each yearly subscription, however, if there are over 100 yearly subscriptions that rate increases to \$35. A third camera for the baseball field was quoted at \$2,500 but last year they were offering that for free. Motion by Litsey to go ahead with the camera system. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously. Board members agreed they won't take the third camera unless Mr. Schmidt can negotiate it for free.

Mr. Schmidt reported the park board is putting up bleachers at the baseball field.

The ND state auditor's office has notified us that our 2018/19 audit report is delinquent and the 2019/20 report has not been received. Harold Rotunda gathered the information for our 2020/21 audit but we have not yet received the report. The situation involves several schools.

Mr. Schmidt and Teresa have had conversations with Dan Cox at the state auditor's office and he states that Mr. Rotunda is not turning in the correct requested paperwork to support his audit reports and the state is not accepting any of his work. Mr. Rotunda has resubmitted working papers for our 18/19 audit, however Mr. Cox stated that if their office reviews it, they will reject it and we will be billed. The district will need to have the 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21 audits re-done. Teresa said she stopped payment on the \$2,400 check for the 19/20 audit. The \$1,900 check for the 18/19 audit has been cashed but Mr. Rotunda said he will return that fee. Mr. Schmidt obtained quotes from Nadine Julson from Wahpeton-\$6,000 per year for the three years needed; Merkel CPA from Ellendale quoted \$6,700-\$7,000 per year; He tried Rath & Mehrer but did not receive a call back from them. Motion by Schlepp to hire Nadine Julson to do the audits for the 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 school years and moving forward. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Schlepp to ask the state auditor's office to cease forward progress on the district's 18/19 delinquent school audit. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Schmidt stated that NDSBA will host a zoom meeting with superintendents, business managers and board presidents of all schools who have used Mr. Rotunda as an auditor in the last five years. He will wait to contact Harold until after that meeting just in case something has changed.

The board recessed from 9:06-9:09pm.

Superintendent's report: 1) Still looking for coaches for head girls wrestling and JHBBB; 2) Schools are running into foodservice supply shortages—we have had a few menu changes in the last month. It's a nationwide problem and is expected to get worse; 3) There's a roof leak in the hallway by the 5th/6th grade rooms—will get it checked; 4) Request from someone in Hague to send a bus over there for a student—board agreed it's not possible—suburban currently goes as far as Monsons and that would add 100 miles a day; 5) Would like to solicit donations to add on to the crow's nest—need a larger space for people working games, larger storage area, would be nice to add space for concessions and bathrooms so people wouldn't have to be in the school. Bathrooms could be shared with the baseball field.

Principal's report: 1) Started reader buddies again this year; 2) 10/20 is the end of first nine weeks—elementary will get report cards, 7-12 will get progress reports; 3) Newsletter has started again, will be done monthly; 4) Explained the Choice Ready program, which is an accountability tool for schools.

President Fey stated the next item on the agenda is an executive session to discuss a teacher's personal and confidential information, which is protected under federal and state law provisions. This item must be discussed in executive session because the school board will be discussing confidential medical information and personal information that is not part of the teacher's personnel file, is not an open record, and is specifically listed as exempt in the ND Century Code. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 44-04-18.1, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. section 12112, subsection (d)(3)(B) and subsection (4)(C). The topic or purpose of this executive session is for the board to discuss confidential records as related to the teacher and for the board to provide direction to administration in potential negotiations with the teacher.

Because this meeting is required to be closed in accordance with state and federal law regulations, at this time, we will convene in executive session.

The executive session will be recorded, and all members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. Any collective decision, collective commitment, or other final action by the governing body must occur after it reconvenes in an open meeting, unless final action is specifically required by law to be taken during the executive session.

We will now ask the members of the public who are attending the meeting to leave the room. We anticipate adjourning the executive session and reconvening the open portion of the meeting in 30-60 minutes.

The executive session began at 9:39pm and was attended by Lyle Fey, Amy Schlepp, Jordan Jenner, Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane and Teresa Dockter. The executive session was adjourned at 9:59pm and the regular meeting was reconvened. Since there were no members of the public in attendance at the regular meeting prior to executive session, there was no one to invite to return to the open meeting.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2021 at 7:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 10:04pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President