

OCTOBER 14, 2020

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 8pm in the ITV room. Present: Lyle Fey, Kevin Nitschke, Ross Litsey, Amy Schlepp, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Jessica Schmidt, Brooke Kosiak*, Gwyn Schumacher. Kyle Thiery was absent.

Motion by Nitschke to approve the agenda with one deletion (Mr. Rotunda not able to attend).
Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nitschke to approve the minutes of the September 10th meeting as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$51,923.62). Second by Nitschke, motion carried unanimously.

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

Brooke Kosiak reviewed information on starting a South Border high school baseball program. She will present the same information when the co-op board meets. * Brooke Kosiak left the meeting at 8:26pm.

Motion by Nitschke to approve the contract for Eric Weisser to coach elementary BBB (\$900).
Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Lyle Fey is willing to rent a tractor to school for snow removal again this year at the same rate of \$23 per hour. Motion by Nitschke to allow Fey to declare a conflict of interest. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Litsey to rent the tractor from Lyle Fey at \$23/hour. Second by Nitschke, motion carried unanimously.

President Fey distributed superintendent evaluation forms--return date is November 6th.

Co-op meeting is scheduled for October 27th at 6:30pm in Ashley.

Mr. Schmidt stated the district has received several grants: 1) Lions Club \$6,000 for chromebooks and \$2,500 for sanitizer guns; 2) SRSB \$3743 for last year and \$3854 for this year--used for technology; 3) ESSR \$36,718 for technology; 4) Ed Corps \$58,000--this is CARES money the state has left but it can only be used for personnel and must be used by 12/31/20. Will use for Dawn Goehring salary and also teacher stipends that were paid in August. Area superintendents have set a stipend rate of \$225 per day, so would like to pay the teachers the additional \$75 per day for the summer stipends. Will pay them \$225 per day for super conference attendance. Also discussed \$40 per hour stipend for teachers offering extra help. Board members agreed teachers have an increased workload and administrators should use as much of the Ed Corps dollars as possible before 12/31/20; 5) Broadband \$583 to be used for internet connection.

Boiler insurance policy was discussed. Motion by Schlepp to approve the equipment breakdown policy quoted by MCB Insurance for \$770 for a \$1,500 deductible. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the tuition agreement for Hemi Vetsch to attend school in Zeeland. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt stated the board's original discussion was to let virtual learning students come back after first semester, however the administrators would like to let them return after 1st quarter if they want to. Motion by Nitschke to give virtual learners the option to return to face-to-face instruction after 1st quarter break if they so choose. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on mask wearing--governor has said that if a person is masked and all those around the person are also masked, then only the one who tests positive must quarantine. Mr. Schmidt stated there has been 32 students quarantined to date, however 2/3 of them were due to the community rather than the school. Will try more spacing as well as seating masked students together but social distanced from unmasked students to help with quarantine requirements. Board members agreed not to mandate, but highly recommend masks at this time. Mr. Schmidt will draft a letter to parents regarding masks and social distancing.

Superintendent's report: 1) FB game vs Lamoure has been cancelled; 2) McIntosh county is in the yellow status; 3) Three people attending the Law Seminar.

Principal's report: 1) Keeping in contact with virtual learning students; 2) Title/Exact Path help started following assessments; 3) First quarter ends 10/21--Parent/Teacher conferences will be virtual; 4) Region VB has been moved to 11/10, 12 & 14--both districts and regionals will be played at the higher seeded team site, rather than one site for all.

Next meeting will be November 9, 2020 at 7pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Nitschke. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

