

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7pm in the ITV room. Present: Kyle Thiery, Amy Schlepp, Lyle Fey, Kevin Nitschke, Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Don Paulsrud, *Sabrina Hornung.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda with two additions. Second by Thiery, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve the minutes of the January 13th meeting as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$23,825.69). Second by Thiery, motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Schlepp to recognize the Ashley Education Association as the representative organization for the negotiating unit of licensed classroom teachers employed by the Ashley school district. Second by Nitschke, motion carried unanimously.

*Sabrina Hornung entered the meeting at 7:10pm.

Motion by Schlepp to hold the school board election on June 1st from 11am-7pm. Second by Thiery, motion carried unanimously. The filing deadline will be March 29th. Kevin Nitschke's (rural at large) term is up this year.

Discussion on FFCRA leave which allows employees 10 days Covid leave, rather than using their personal sick leave. Federal law for the leave expired on 12/31/20, however many school boards have chosen to extend the leave. Mr. Schmidt stated we've had a total of 16.25 days at full pay and 2 days at 2/3 pay used at this point, so fairly minimal. Motion by Schlepp to extend the FFCRA leave to the end of the 20/21 school year. Second by Nitschke, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt reported the Covid committee met recently and recommended keeping all procedures as they are. Discussion that the main goal is to keep kids in school and everything has been working well so far with very few cases in our school. Consensus of the committee was not to change anything. Board members agreed with that recommendation.

Chris Goldade requested use of the small gym for next year's 4H archery practice during the months of December-May. Mr. Schmidt was directed to check on liability and board will discuss again at the next meeting.

President Fey distributed superintendent evaluation forms and asked they be returned to him by March 4th.

Final exam exemption for grades 9-12 was discussed--Mr. Doane explained some students asked if it was a possibility so he visited with teachers and they came up with guidelines.

- 1) Students with an A in the class; 2) Tardy less than 4 times for all classes; 3) Have not missed more than 21 periods (3 days) unless they have a written note (note from

doctor's office, note from admissions for college visits, receipt from DOT for driver license/permit, note from parent for funeral). Exemption does not apply to any weighted classes. Will do a trial run this spring and see how it goes.

The second reading was held on the following policies: Parent and Family Engagement; Records Retention.

Co-op meeting will be March 15, 2021 at 6pm in Wishek--agenda items should be given to Mr. Schmidt.

Motion by Thiery to approve the 2021/22 school calendar as presented. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously. Start date will be August 18, 2021 and graduation will be May 15, 2022.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the contract for Ann Bettenhausen to teach driver's ed (\$1,300 for classroom and \$30/hour for B-T-W instruction). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt has asked teachers for input on summer projects and asked board members to contact him if there's anything they would like addressed.

Superintendent's report: 1) Board negotiators--will appoint them next month; 2) Additional ESSR/CARES money expected--estimate is \$142,000--legislators will decide what it can be spent on. Time frame will be longer than the last round so this year's end balance shouldn't be a concern; 3) Elementary volleyball & elementary wrestling will start soon--Ashley's elementary wrestling tournament will be March 18th; 4) Baseball scheduling is done, uniforms and equipment has been ordered.

Principal's report: 1) Chamber of Commerce named Jessica Schmidt as Educator of the Year; 2) Will have activities for March reading month; 3) Students have completed the engagement survey; 4) Virtual students doing fairly well, some struggle with it but most doing ok.

Next meeting will be March 10, 2021 at 7pm. Motion to adjourn by Schlepp, second by Thiery. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

