

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp*, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tony Bender, Tucker Meidinger, Trevor Huffaker (EngTech) joined via zoom. Kyle Thiery was absent.

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

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the October 10th meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Notes from the November 3rd public meeting were reviewed.

*Amy Schlepp entered the meeting at 7:03pm. Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$31,199.51). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

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

Further discussion with Trevor Huffaker via zoom regarding projects being considered. Tax impact documents provided are based on 4.25%, however if the board did a bond referendum, that loan would be at 2% so tax impact would be lower. Current taxable valuation is about \$10,350,000 so a mill will generate more money than original projections. If the board chooses to pursue a referendum, there are several documents that need to be prepared ahead of the actual vote to move forward. Discussion on the role of a construction manager (about 4% of the project costs)—they do budgeting costs, majority of the bidding process, manage the subcontractors, assess risk factors & make sure to get the best contractors. Another benefit is there's a guaranteed maximum price built into the project using a 3% contingency which means the project won't go above that cost and if it's under that, those dollars come back to the district. It's about a 5-week process to advertise and hire a construction manager. Design/bid/build with the architect would be ok for the \$1.5 million project. Architect/engineer fees generally run about 7-8% of the project. If the board chooses to do a referendum, there would be a couple more public meetings. Trevor explained examples of fact sheets and FAQ documents from Washburn's referendum that could be distributed to patrons. He and his team will put together more detailed scope of work documents for each of the projects so the board can get a better picture of what each would entail. Tentative plan to have a special meeting next week to revisit the matter and make a decision. Trevor Huffaker disconnected the zoom meeting at 8:25pm.

President Fey stated the superintendent evaluation was complete and Mr. Schmidt received satisfactory marks in all areas.

Mr. Schmidt reported the wellness committee met to review the current policy and made some minor changes to a couple of areas. Motion by Schlepp to approve the updated wellness policy as presented. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Rafters in the bus shed ceiling where the team bus parks need to be reinforced—Tanner Meidinger will do the necessary repairs.

Christmas party will be December 3rd at the Legion.

President Fey and Supt. Schmidt reported on the meeting with legislators held on 10/26 in Edgeley.

New football scoreboard will cost \$16,000-\$17,000—will continue to research and check on sponsorships.

Superintendent's report: 1) Still a shortage of substitute busdrivers—administrators are driving quite a bit and missing meetings. May get to a point that a route doesn't run if a sub can't be found; 2) Continued shortage of substitute teachers—3 of our current subs have commitments for long-term subbing in other districts; 3) Discussed winter weather procedures for cancelling school/late starts.

Elementary Principal: 1) Explained the Book Blast program; 2) Parent-teacher conferences—94% elem parents, 40% 7-12 parents.

HS Principal: 1) PT conference—more Powerschool use among 7-12 parents so that may decrease the % of those who come; 2) Fall sports complete, winter sports are gearing up.

Next meeting will be December 14, 2022 at 7:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Litsey. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President