

DECEMBER 14, 2022

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Kyle Thiery, Amy Schlepp, Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, Daniel Julson\* (via zoom) and Trevor Huffaker\* (via zoom).

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda with one addition. Second by Thiery, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the November 9<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> meetings as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve payment of general fund bills (\$36,339.26). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

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

Daniel Julson joined via zoom to review the 20/21 & 21/22 audit report. Motion by Jenner to approve the audit report. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. \*Daniel Julson left the meeting at 7:11pm.

Trevor Huffaker joined the meeting via zoom to discuss the proposed projects and procedures for a bond referendum. The maximum amount that can be proposed for the bond is \$4,850,000 based on the current taxable valuation of \$97,092,103. Motion by Thiery to adopt the Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds with a maximum amount of \$4,850,000. Second by Jenner—roll call vote: Thiery-yes, Schlepp-yes, Fey-yes, Jenner-yes, Litsey-yes; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to adopt the Resolution Calling a Special Election to Vote on the Question of Approving Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds. Second by Litsey—roll call vote: Thiery-yes, Schlepp-yes, Fey-yes, Jenner-yes, Litsey-yes; motion carried unanimously. Election will be held February 7, 2023 from 9am to 7pm.

Mr. Schmidt has made contact regarding the 2% state loan and explained that process—should have a good chance of getting the low interest loan if the referendum passes. Board members reviewed the FAQ sheet—will get that on the website along with the fact sheets, tax calculator, sample ballot, absentee ballot information, public meeting dates, election details. Trevor will get flyers printed that the district will send out prior to the January 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

Ad has been placed for hiring a Construction Manager for the projects—expect to do interviews and make a decision in mid-January so that would be ready to go if the referendum passes.

Discussion on the proposal from EngTech to provide pre-referendum services (\$7,500) and construction drawings for the library/fitness center part of the proposed projects (\$32,000). By starting on the drawings now, that project would be ready for bidding following the referendum and would be able to get started this summer. Motion by Jenner to proceed with EngTech's proposal for pre-referendum services and the construction drawings.

Second by Schlepp—roll call vote: Litsey-yes, Jenner-yes, Fey-yes, Schlepp-yes, Thiery-yes; motion carried unanimously. \*Trevor Huffaker left the meeting at 7:53pm.

Teresa Dockter explained Amazon is discontinuing the corporate line of credit so we will no longer be able to pay by invoice. She requested a permanent increase in the credit card limit of \$500 which would make the monthly line of credit \$1,500. She also requested authority to ask for a temporary increase in the credit limit to accommodate state wrestling ticket purchases in January & February. Motion by Litsey to permanently increase the credit card limit to \$1,500 and to authorize the temporary limit increase to purchase state wrestling tickets. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the back to school plan as Mr. Schmidt presented. Second by Thiery, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on a music co-op with Zeeland—it would allow Ashley students to participate in music festival competitions. Both schools would need to complete and submit an application to NDHSAA. Motion by Schlepp to enter into a music co-op with Zeeland with no salary dollars to the Zeeland school and parents would provide transportation to practices at no cost to the district. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

The Child Evangelism Fellowship group has requested the use of the building for one night for a program. Mr. Schmidt stated we have let other organizations use the building. The group will clarify that they are not affiliated with the school when advertising their event. Motion by Schlepp to approve the use of the building for the CEF group for one night at no cost. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt distributed four policies for review—the first reading will be in January.

Negotiations seminar is February 3<sup>rd</sup>—board will choose negotiators at the January meeting.

Superintendent's report: 1) MDU bill was \$2,600 more than last year at this time; 2) Provided negotiations document outlining the timeline—legislators made some changes last session.

Elementary Principal's report: 1) Many sick kids, extra sanitizing in the classrooms; 2) Christmas program was a success.

HS Principal's report: 1) Cannot track app access for Powerschool so that skews the information on how often grades are checked by parents & students; 2) Finals 12/21-12/22; 3) Girls wrestling quad on 12/16 & tournament on 12/17.

Next meeting will be January 11, 2023 at 7:00pm. Motion by Thiery to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President

