

AUGUST 9, 2023

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 8:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Corey Ulmer, Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, Jordan Nieuwsma*, Trevor Huffaker*, Doug Fuchs*. Amy Schlepp was absent.

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

Motion by Jenner to approve minutes of the July 12th meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$93,029.11) and bond \$ bill (\$157,649.36). Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

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

Uncollected taxes report from McIntosh County was reviewed.

Motion by Litsey to adopt the Certificate of Resolution for the Section 125 Premium Only Plan for the plan year ending 9/30/24. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Jordan Nieuwsma and Trevor Huffaker reviewed the bids for the building project. There were no bids received for HVAC or plumbing work—they would like to re-bid those and target additional contractors. There was 1 bid for the roof so they would like to re-bid that also with an alternate and different design to reduce costs. Currently the bids came in at \$1.1 million over the budget. They reviewed some options to consider to reduce costs. Expect work to begin after first semester. Motion by Ulmer to reject the bids for #2, #4, #15 scope of work and to re-bid #2, #4, #21, #22 scope of work. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Re-bids will have to be advertised for three weeks. Jordan and Trevor will meet with the building committee prior to September's meeting to discuss cost cutting options. Jordan Nieuwsma and Trevor Huffaker left the meeting at 8:56pm.

Public tax hearing will be held September 13, 2023 at 7:00pm in the library.

Bus route updates: Dan Girard will drive a mini-bus on the north/east rural route—will leave the bus at Ryan Brokaw's farm following the afternoon route. Additional stop on the west route so that means 6 students consistently. May have to use a mini-bus some days if there's extra riders, which could cause a problem with extra-curricular transportation. Could consider selling a big bus and getting another mini-bus, however those are currently 18 months out and about \$99,000.

Motion by Jenner to authorize Mr. Schmidt to complete and submit the annual compliance report. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulmer to approve the tuition waiver agreement for two Wishek students. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve contracts/hire notices as listed: Nick Bettenhausen-extended (\$246.14 per day,max 28 days), FFA advisor (\$1,225); Denise Martz-extended (\$310.22 per

day, max 7 days); Gerri Kroh-Asst cook (\$16/hr); Dan Girard-rural route driver (\$23.59 per trip). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt reported he's working on grants for lighting and asbestos removal.

New teachers are on track for licensing.

Budget revisions were reviewed as well as an updated certificate of levy (general fund - \$664,900, building fund-\$15,000, sinking & interest fund-\$334,500). *Doug Fuchs left the meeting at 9:21pm. Motion by Ulmer to approve the budget (\$2,944,315) and the certificate of levy as presented. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Reviewed Best In Class grant; 2) Inservice days 8/10 & 8/14, open house on 8/14; 3) Current enrollment is 135, 8 new students; 4) Two new AED machines were donated, will install one by small gym and replace the one by big gym.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Registration is finished; 2) Chuck Brandner has taken over as AD in Wishek; 3) Fall sports are in full swing, still need an elem BBB coach.

Next meeting will be September 13, 2023—public tax hearing at 7pm with regular meeting to follow. Motion by Jenner to adjourn, second by Litsey. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President