

OCTOBER 11, 2023

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 8:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer (via phone), Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, \*Jordan Nieuwsma, \*Trevor Huffaker, \*Tony Bender (8:02).

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

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

\*Tony Bender entered the meeting at 8:02pm.

Motion by Jenner to approve payment of general fund bills (\$29,997.90). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

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

Trevor Huffaker and Jordan Nieuwsma were present to discuss the building project—bids were about 1.2 million over budget. The building committee met a couple of times to review ideas to cut costs, however they were not able to get down to the referendum number. They did change the scope of some of the projects. The recommendation is to reject all of the original bids and rebid the entire project with the changes. They would like to see a 4-5 week bid process and do 2 pre-bid meetings to give contractors more options. They think rebidding now with more lead time and summer start will result in lower costs. Trevor outlined the changes in the scope of projects: 1) Remove window alternates; 2) Some demo work done by the district; 3) South HS restrooms as an alternate; 4) Counselor room—leave as is, no quiet room; 5) PK restroom—move to elementary side, simplifies plumbing; 6) New windows in secure front entrance but nowhere else; 7) Replace North, NE and NW entry doors and leave SE, SW and South entry doors as alternates; 8) New locker rooms—eliminate referee room; 9) Ballasted roofing; 10) HVAC—remove replacement of all units and district replace as needed; 11) Elementary locker rooms—nothing new except replace shower columns; 12) Replace main water line coming into building locally; 13) Lighting—shift some to alternates; 14) Different kinds of flooring materials. These are the main points—drawings updated to show the changes. Would advertise next week and have the bid opening on November 30<sup>th</sup> then would be ready to present at the December meeting. Motion by Jenner to reject all initial bids for the referendum project, second by Litsey. Roll call vote: Schlepp-yes, Fey-yes, Jenner-yes, Litsey-yes, Ulmer-yes; motion carried. Motion by Schlepp to move forward with rebids for the referendum project, second by Jenner. Roll call vote: Ulmer-yes, Litsey-yes, Jenner-yes, Fey-yes, Schlepp-yes; motion carried. Jordan Nieuwsma and Trevor Huffaker left the meeting at 8:52pm.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Lyle Fey is willing to rent his tractor to the school for snow removal at the same rate as last year (\$25/hour with \$750 minimum). Motion by Litsey to allow Fey to declare a conflict of interest. Second by Schlepp, motion carried with Fey abstaining. Motion by Schlepp to rent the tractor from Lyle Fey at the rate stated. Second by Litsey, motion carried with Fey abstaining.

President Fey directed board members to return their superintendent evaluations by 10/23.

Mr. Schmidt explained the need to update the School Meal Charge policy to comply with legislative changes. Motion by Schlepp to rescind the old school meal charge policy. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously. The first reading of the updated School Meal Charge policy was held.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) NWEA testing nearly complete; 2) Exploring options for progress monitoring; 3) Team bus needs steering repairs and minibus needs brake repairs; 4) Had a drain plugged on roof—taken care of; 5) Asked board members to bring their policy books to school office so they can be updated.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) NWEA testing complete; 2) Progress reports 10/18; 3) Thomas Haas was named KEM electric student of the month. Received \$100 to donate—he chose the music program; 4) FB playoff game in Ashley on 10/21; 5) District VB starts 10/27—South Border is #3; 6) 3-class VB system was approved, will start 2025.

Next meeting is November 8, 2023 at 7:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President