

DECEMBER 13, 2023

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Lyle Fey, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, \*Jordan Nieuwsma, \*Trevor Huffaker, \*George Smith.

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

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes of the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve payment of general fund bills (\$31,539.30). Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

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

The tax levy report was reviewed—district's taxable valuation is \$9,897,866 which is close to the July estimated number. General fund mill levy is 67.18, building 1.52, sinking & interest 33.80 for a total of 102.50.

The second reading was held on the following policies: Visitors In The Schools; Visitors In The Schools Regulations. Motion by Litsey to approve the policies as written. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

The first reading was held on the following policies: Concussion Management Program; Concussion Management; Student Education Records and Privacy.

Motion by Ulmer to approve the Back to School Plan required for ESSER funding as presented by Mr. Schmidt. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt would like to have the Cognia team (5 teachers & both administrators) attend the Cognia conference April 23-24 in Bismarck. Cost for the conference and travel is estimated at \$3,500. The team consists of mostly new members that haven't been to a Cognia conference and he feels attendance would be beneficial for the effectiveness of the team. The district's Cognia program will be up for review in two years.

\*Jordan Nieuwsma entered the meeting at 6:32pm.

Mr. Schmidt's report: HA Thompson had to replace several blown fuses in the boiler—they will be installing a phase monitor that should prevent future problems. They also replaced the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade blower motor and will be providing an estimate on repair costs for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade room unit. Both of those units are newer ones. He explained the reason the building committee decided to remove replacing all of the HVAC units from the project was due to the fact that the newer units seem to be having more problems than the older ones. There are less parts involved in the old units & parts for the new units are harder to get.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Semester finals next week; 2) Currently scheduling for semester 2 classes; 3) Girls wrestling tournament expecting 270 participants.

\*Trevor Huffaker and George Smith entered the meeting at 6:51pm.

Trevor Huffaker outlined the project changes: 1) No renovation to the south restrooms; 2) Replace shower columns in the elementary locker rooms instead of installing individual shower stalls; 3) No quiet corner in the counselor room; 4) Old girls locker room—no demo

to create storage space, just install the double door; 5) Exterior—replacement of NE, NW entrance doors but leave the SE, SW and S entrance doors as alternates; 6) No tuckpointing, do that down the road; 7) No painting on the exterior of the building; 8) Scaled back window replacements—current windows may not be as efficient but are still in good shape; 9) No ADA door hardware or signage; 10) Replace HVAC in newly renovated areas but leave old units in the rest of the building; 11) Switched out some products like flooring and doors to different kinds that are still quality products but less cost; 12) Lighting improvements remain in newly renovated area and all hallways; 13) Electrical improvements remain in newly renovated area, new fire alarm clock system remains, replacing most electrical panels. He stated 85% of the original project is still intact.

Some discussion on the asbestos grant—total of \$350,000 available—we are 2<sup>nd</sup> from the bottom on the list for consideration. Process and required time frame for the grant would likely delay the asbestos abatement part of the project into late summer, which would then delay other parts of the project. Lighting grant is still pending.

Jordan Nieuwsma reviewed the bid numbers for the project from the 11/30 Re-Bid—the GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) is \$4,368,182. Additional costs not covered under the GMP are architect/engineer fees, furnishings & equipment, asbestos abatement, water line replacement and financial/legal fees. Estimate for those items brings the total project cost to \$5,024,254, which is \$174,254 over the \$4.85 million bond amount. Discussion that some of the numbers were figured high so may be some room there. He has also relayed to contractors to let him know if they are able to find any cost savings. The lighting grant is still pending so should be some help there. Jordan said all contractors must provide a list of employees that will be on the job & Consolidated Construction does background checks. They would expect to start in March/April with the new locker rooms and then once school is out, start on the front entrance/office and the rest of the project. They estimate completion by September/October.

Motion by Ulmer to approve the base bid for work scopes #1-#19, leaving out alternates #1-#6. Second by Schlepp. Discussion about the amount above bond dollars. Possibility of a Coal Development Trust Fund Loan at 2% through the state—those are designed for project costs over budget due to inflation. Mr. Schmidt gave an example--\$300,000 would be about \$18,000 per year for 20 years, which would amount to a couple of mills. He is currently working with some companies for furniture/equipment quotes. Jordan thought we'd have a better idea of cost management savings, lighting grant status, furniture costs, water line replacement in 6-8 weeks. The board can decide at that time if there's a need for a loan. Teresa Dockter stated \$243,330 of the bond money has been spent on architect fees and bond document fees—there is currently \$4,606,670 available. Roll call vote on the motion: Ulmer-yes, Schlepp-yes, Fey-yes, Jenner-yes, Litsey-yes; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$4,368,182. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve the \$74,890 base bid for asbestos abatement. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm. Motion by Jenner to adjourn, second by Litsey. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President

