

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on February 13, 2024 at 7:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Corey Ulmer, Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, \*Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Dan Girard, \*Erich Kroh (7:02).

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

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

\*Ross Litsey entered the meeting at 7:04pm. Motion by Ulmer to approve payment of general fund bills (\$37,979.94). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

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

Building project—Received contract for asbestos abatement, Mr. Schmidt confirmed amount is what was approved in December. Expect to start first or second week of March with cardio/elementary computer lab/weight room. Starting February 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be biweekly meetings between Mr. Schmidt, architect and construction manager. There's one issue with a subcontractor—construction manager is negotiating to get it resolved.

Motion by Schlepp to hold the school board election on June 11, 2024 from 9am-7pm at the Ashley school and authorize Teresa Dockter to hire the poll workers. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously. One rural at large position (Jordan Jenner) is up for election and the filing deadline will be April 8<sup>th</sup> by 4pm.

Brenda Dohn has obtained her teaching license so a contract has been offered. Motion by Jenner to approve the contract for Brenda Dohn, effective February 1, 2024 for the remaining 70 days of the 23/24 school year (\$17,228.46). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

The second reading was held on the following policies: School Board Ethics; Board Member Internet and Social Media Use; Executive Session; Data Protection & Security Breaches. Motion by Schlepp to approve the policies as written. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

The first reading was held on the following policies: District Personnel Time and Effort; Federal Fiscal Compliance; Federal Fund Expenditures & Inventory Requirements.

Motion by Ulmer to approve the 24/25 school calendar as presented. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Start date will be 8/15/24 and last day of school 5/15/25. Graduation will be on Saturday, 5/17/25 to avoid conflicting with Wishek's graduation date.

Motion by Ulmer to authorize issuance of teacher contracts for 24/25 as well as in-house extra-curricular contracts. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Issue date will be March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Jenner to hire Ann Bettenhausen to teach Driver's Ed for \$1,500 classroom (\$150 increase) and \$200 per student for BTW (same rate as last year). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt discussed requirements of the four-year old program: 1) Students must be age four by August 1 of the school year; 2) Curriculum is aligned with the ND early learning standards birth to kindergarten; 3) Mrs. Bender holds 10 hours of family engagement

workshops each school year. Motion by Litsey to approve the four-year old program for the 24/25 & 25/26 school years. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt was contacted by a rural water representative regarding a right-of-way easement for them to install a master meter by the road on the north side of the football field. He explained they will bore in the ditch by the golf course/football field to bring the line into Ashley. They are willing to give a \$500 donation to the school for allowing the easement. Motion by Jenner to approve the easement and allow Mr. Schmidt to sign the necessary documents. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Brent Ulmer will rent a couple of 40-foot containers to school for \$140 per month per container to use for storage during the building project. Mr. Schmidt checked with the city and we are a commercial area so it would be allowed. Motion by Schlepp to rent 1-2 storage containers during the renovation project. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Co-op meeting will be held March 25, 2024 in Wishek. Board members should contact Mr. Doane with agenda items.

Discussion on a new crow's nest—Mr. Schmidt stated the parkboard would pay half the cost of putting up a larger crow's nest with bathrooms and a concessions area. Would be used for football, baseball and parkboard summer baseball programs. He has someone looking into a possible matching grant. Motion by Jenner to authorize Mr. Schmidt to move forward with a grant application for a possible new crow's nest. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Marco Stone donated the 'Keepers of the Lost Cities' series to the library; 2) Received insurance payment for the boiler damage during the electrical outages caused by the ice storm in December; 3) Did not get the BC/BS grant for the fitness center, looking into another option. Other grant updates: Submitted a library grant requesting \$5,100 for furniture; Will continue with BIC grant for PK program (\$30,000); Possibility of a grant from CHS for library furniture; Will write Homeland Security grant for replacement of remaining outside doors not included in renovation and for the card readers for all doors; Lighting grant still pending; Opportunities Inc may give some money for the fitness center; 4) Elementary has implemented the Amira program for reading; 5) Teacher evaluations are being completed; 6) Received Valuations Northwest inventory reports; 6) Jeremy St. Aubin is opening the school Tuesday & Thursday evenings in February for adults to walk/work out.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Attended principal conference—very good information on AI; 2) Elijah Cole took 2<sup>nd</sup> at county spelling bee and qualified for the state spelling bee; 3) Region science fair 3/11 & acalympics on 3/12; 4) Working on 24/25 schedule, will be combining 7-12 music; 5) Will be putting handbook committee together—2 parents, 2 teachers, 2 students, administrators and 2 board members; 6) Elementary VB, PWWR, BBB districts start next week.

Next meeting will be March 20, 2024 at 7pm. Motion by Jenner to move into executive session per NDCC 44-04-19.2 to discuss administrative negotiations. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:53pm.

Regular meeting was reconvened at 9:44pm with all board members and Teresa Dockter present. Motion by Jenner to adjourn, second by Schlepp. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:44pm.

-----  
Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

-----  
Lyle Fey, President

