

March 20, 2024

The Ashey school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00pm in the ITV room. Present: Corey Ulmer, *Amy Schlepp, Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Ross Litsey, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, Dan Girard, *Kristi Bender, *Wendy Bichler, Jessica Schmidt, *Breigh Schlepp, *Teresa Thiery, *Kyle Thiery, Kathy Klemetsrud, Eric Kroh. *Trevor Huffaker, *Jordan Nieuwsma and *George Smith joined via zoom.

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

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the February 13th, February 26th and March 4th meetings as written. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$39,789.61) and bond fund bill (\$4,660.48). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

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

*Amy Schlepp entered the meeting at 7:08pm. Trevor Huffaker, George Smith and Jordan Nieuwsma presented a 3-D walk through of the building renovations and answered questions about the project. *Trevor, George and Jordan left the meeting at 7:45pm.

Wendy Bichler, Jessica Schmidt, Breigh Schlepp and Teresa Thiery presented their idea for summer school. They stated over the last few years, they've noticed summer regression in the reading and math areas. They conducted a survey—24 parents responded with 25 kids possibly attending. There is a state program that pays \$800 per student, however they must meet 9 hours a week for 6 weeks as well as other criteria that would have to be met. The teachers are proposing running it without state involvement at \$75 per student per week, 6 hours a week for 4 weeks (2 in June and 2 in July). Parents would only pay for the weeks the student attends. There were some families indicating they would need financial assistance. The teachers intend to make a request to the Lions for help, as well as inquiring if anyone is interested in sponsoring a child. Motion by Ulmer to approve the summer learning program as proposed. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve Pam McShane, Wanda Delzer, Judy Haupt and Charles Dockter as election workers at \$15 per hour. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

*Wendy Bichler, Kristi Bender, Kyle & Teresa Thiery left the meeting at 8:10pm.

Motion by Schlepp to accept Rachel Baker's resignation from the music position, effective at the end of the school year. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Schmidt will advertise.

Motion by Jenner to approve the following contracts:

Joseph Alcala--\$47,200

Kristi Bender--\$61,000

Nick Bettenhausen--\$47,200

Wendy Bichler--\$50,400

Brenda Dohn--\$47,200
Dan Girard--\$61,000
Kelsi Lippert--\$47,600
Denise Martz--\$58,800
Tucker Meidinger--\$48,800
Kristie Morrison--\$60,100
Rachel Rueb--\$47,600
Sara Sathre--\$54,800
Breigh Schlepp--\$48,800
Jessica Schmidt--\$57,600
Teresa Thiery--\$47,600
Eric Weisser--\$52,500
Chris Doane--\$83,500 (24/25), \$87,675 (25/26)
Jason Schmidt--\$112,600 (24/25), 118,300 (25/26) supt, \$6,505 (24/25), \$6,830 (25/26) elem principal
Ann Bettenhausen—Driver’s Ed \$1,500 classroom & \$200 per student BTW
Extra-curricular agreements returned:
Nick Bettenhausen--\$1,350 (FFA)
Chris Doane--\$6,505 (24/25), \$6,830 (25/26) (AD)
Dan Girard--\$350 (Cognia)
Kelsi Lippert--\$475 (student council), \$350 (Cognia)
Tucker Meidinger--\$1,500 (Science Fair)
Sara Sathre--\$350 (Cognia)
Breigh Schlepp--\$350 (Cognia)
Jessica Schmidt--\$350 (Cognia)
Matt Schlepp--\$1,050 (PWWR)
Second to motion by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

The second reading of the following policies was held: Federal Fiscal Compliance; Federal Fund Expenditures & Inventory Requirements; District Personnel Time and Effort. Motion by Ulmer to approve the policies as written. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

The first reading was held on the following policies: Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment; Criteria For Considering Third Party Student Surveys And Research; Student Transfer & Withdrawal Records.

President Fey stated the superintendent evaluation was complete on February 23rd and Mr. Schmidt received satisfactory marks in all areas. Motion by Schlepp to approve the superintendent evaluation. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt said a long term planning meeting is required every even year and will be in May right before the regular meeting. Co-op meeting is March 25th at 6:30pm in Wishek. Call if any questions on the agenda items.

Discussion on busing—Larry Schauer will not return for his rural route next year and it’s unlikely we’ll fill that position with a certified driver. If we are able to find a non-certified driver for a

minibus, we would have to purchase another one. Mr. Schmidt has a contact who thought he could find a low-mileage minibus for about \$45,000. New ones are \$90,000 with an 18-month wait time.

*Breigh Schlepp left the meeting at 8:15pm.

Mr. Schmidt stated the west route will require a minibus next school year as well. He suggested the board consider an increase in the pay rate for a minibus on a rural route. Also discussed incentive to attract a certified busdriver for the other rural route, as there is a cost to get the CDL with busdriver endorsement with the new regulations. Following discussion, motion by Litsey to reimburse the driver the cost of obtaining a CDL with busdriving endorsement as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost year one, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost year two, and the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost year three, provided the driver is employed by the Ashley school district for three years. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Litsey to pay \$40 per trip for driving a minibus on a rural bus route beginning with the 24/25 school year. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Additional discussion on how sub busdrivers are paid—Mr. Schmidt will gather some information for next meeting.

Ancillary staff increases were tabled until the April meeting.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Ashley Chamber of Commerce will have businesses and groups speak at their next meeting about what they're doing. Mr. Schmidt will attend and speak on behalf of the school, will ask FFA and FBLA as well; 2) Music concert is April 4th—there will be a silent auction for the Paulsrud family as well; 3) There will be a Sky Warn training on May 1st at the school at 7pm; 4) June meeting was originally scheduled for June 24th but he now has a conflict so requested a change of date. Agreed it will be June 12th at 8pm and then the election canvassing meeting will be June 24th at 7am; 5) Mr. & Mrs. Schmidt and Trevor were invited to Washington DC to meet with legislators to tell his story and advocate for money for AED machines and training for schools/staff. It will be May 21-24 and includes an evening program and a full day with legislators. He is requesting to use professional days instead of vacation days for the trip, since he will be advocating on behalf of schools. Board members granted the request.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) State science fair qualified 3 junior high students, 2 senior high students and 2 alternates; 2) Baseball and track have started, golf will start early April.

Next meeting will be April 10, 2024 at 8pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

