

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00pm in the conference room. Present: Lyle Fey, Corey Ulmer, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Jason Schmidt, Teresa Dockter, Chris Doane, Erich Kroh.

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

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes from the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$53,959.15) and bond fund bills (\$158,228.97). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

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

Building project: 1) Architect was here to do final punch list; 2) Drywall & caulkers are here; 3) Working on bathroom floors; 4) Tile people have a bit to finish; 5) Plumbers will be back after bathroom floors are done; 6) Bathroom partitions are scheduled for next week; 7) Electricians mostly done; 8) Will start on outside of the front entrance next week; 9) Remaining furniture should be in tomorrow; 10) AVI will be here tomorrow to finish door buzzer system; 11) Most of the weight room equipment has been moved to fitness room.

Mr. Schmidt said we have 2,000-4,000 pounds of copper wire from the project. He has been in contact with Gerdau from Jamestown—they pay \$2.20 per pound and school would have to haul it there. Willie Jangula would pay \$1.50 per pound and haul it there. Following discussion, Litsey said he would line up a trailer & haul the wire to Jamestown.

Ulmer and Litsey volunteered to be on the fitness center committee. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Doane will also be on the committee and will recruit two community members and a teacher as well.

The Pickle Ball board has requested a key so they can use the gym for pickle ball Wednesdays and Sundays during the winter months as they have in the past. Motion by Litsey to issue a key fob to the Pickle Ball Board that's programmed only for the days/hours they intend to play. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

H1-B visa—administrators and Mr. Alcala met with the organization they are working with. Mr. Alcala must apply for one more 3-year visa because the permanent green card application can take up to three years to process and he only has one year left on the current visa. The school's cost for the 3-year renewal is \$1,060 and Mr. Alcala has to stay at the Ashley school during the 3-year period. He must also apply for the permanent green card soon due to the lengthy time to process the application—school's cost for that is \$4,500. Once the green card is obtained, he could work anywhere in the U.S. he chooses, however the district does have the option to lock him into a period of years via contract if the district agrees to pay the school costs for the green card. One of the U.S. government requirements for the permanent green card is demonstrating the need for the position, so the school must advertise the opening through regular methods. Both administrators agreed Mr. Alcala is doing a great job and they would like him to stay at the Ashley school.

Motion by Ulmer to move forward with the three-year renewal and permanent green card applications. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. The board will discuss the period of years to contract when the green card application process begins.

G&R Controls company currently takes care of the HVAC for all the new rooms renovated during the building project. HA Thompson takes care of the rest of the rooms that were not renovated and currently the school pays a yearly fee for that maintenance contract. Mr. Schmidt was directed to check what the maintenance agreement would cost through G&R Controls for the entire building.

The Parkboard lease for the baseball field expires in December. The current lease was set up for 20 years at \$1 per year. NDSBA said the district cannot legally lease to another party for less than fair market value and should not lease for more than one year at a time. A Joint Power Agreement would allow the parties to jointly use the property with conditions set forth as they are now without any money exchanging hands. NDSBA can provide that document for \$200-\$300 and the same format can be used for similar situations. Motion by Schlepp to proceed with the agreement as recommended by NDSBA. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Matt Schlepp and Taylor Jenner have agreed to be co-assistant girls wrestling coaches. Pay will be \$170 per tournament and \$50 per dual match, with only one coach being paid per event, except for regional and state tournaments. Motion by Jenner to allow Amy Schlepp to declare a conflict of interest. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Litsey to approve the contracts for the two coaches, second by Ulmer. Fey, Jenner, Ulmer, Litsey-yes; Schlepp-abstain, motion carried.

President Fey stated the superintendent evaluation has been completed and Mr. Schmidt received satisfactory marks in all areas.

Staff Christmas party will be January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Elementary staff working on standards; 2) A new ELL student enrolled—school purchased an iPad for translation. Will have to be tested per state regulations; 3) Review of inquiries from Zeeland superintendent.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Continuing book study for PLC; 2) Staff discussed ideas to motivate students when taking state tests; 3) Winter sports are starting.

PK-12 Christmas concert will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Next meeting will be December 11, 2024 at 7:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

---

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

---

Lyle Fey, President

