

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00pm in the conference room. Present: Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Ross Litsey, Corey Ulmer, Amy Schlepp, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, Erich Kroh, \*Marlon Lippert and \*Doug Straus (via zoom).

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

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and the January 19<sup>th</sup> co-op meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve payment of general fund bills (\$51,413.50) and bond fund bill (\$186,108.16). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

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

Doug Straus from G&R Controls joined the meeting via zoom to review their proposal for an HVAC maintenance contract that would include the new system as well as the old system. Currently they service the new system installed with the renovation and HA Thompson services the old system that was not affected by the renovation. The cost for their proposal would be \$15,874. We currently pay HA Thompson \$11,400, which would probably decrease due to less equipment, however they would not service the new controls. Board members directed Mr. Schmidt to check with other schools that use G&R Controls. Any change would not take place until August, due to the current contract. Will revisit at next meeting. Mr. Straus left the meeting at 7:36pm.

HA Thompson provided a proposal to do a number of repairs at the school for \$12,500. Marlon Lippert stated there are a couple of the repairs that are definitely needed and some that could be put off. Discussion that if the board decides to switch providers, we may not want to move forward in case the new company doesn't want the same things done. One point that a new company may require certain things to be done prior to taking over. No action taken at this time. Marlon Lippert left the meeting at 7:58pm.

Building project: 1) Jeremy Winter will be back next week to go over punch list items with some of the contractors; 2) Lighting grant was submitted—would be \$24,000 if awarded; 3) Locker room showers still being discussed; 4) More cracks in the walls and tile appearing and will be addressed this summer.

The second reading was held on policy BA-BR1 (School Board Ethics Regulation). Motion by Jenner to approve the policy as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve the resignations of Kristie Morrison and Nick Bettenhausen effective at the end of the 24/25 school year. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Will begin advertising immediately.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the extra-curricular agreements for Eric Weisser-\$1,485 (elem bbb) and Chris Doane-\$4,950 (Head VB). Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously. Amounts will be adjusted following negotiations.

Motion by Ulmer to hold the annual election on June 3, 2025 from 11am-7pm and to authorize Teresa to hire the election officials. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously. Positions up this year are Ross Litsey (rural at large) and Lyle Fey (city).

Mr. Schmidt said he would like to hire Amy Liebel to help support the elementary teachers through various trainings for reading and math standards. She would provide 5 virtual PLC days and 4 in person meetings for an estimated cost of \$7,750. He feels it would help the teachers help students improve in those areas and bring scores up. Motion by Schlepp to authorize Mr. Schmidt to hire Amy Liebel for the training as outlined. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-16-10, the Ashley Education Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association, hereby requests that the Ashley School Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, recognizes as an appropriate negotiating unit all licensed personnel employed, or to be employed by the Board. Motion by Ulmer to grant said request. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey: Pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-16-10, the Board of Ashley School District recognizes the Ashley Education Association as the appropriate negotiating unit for all employees licensed to teach by the ESPB or approved to teach by the ESPB and employed primarily as classroom teachers. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt presented 25/26 calendar drafts and stated that the teachers voted for draft 1. Discussion on later start/end dates. Motion by Ulmer to approve draft 1 of the calendar for 25/26, with the reason being that it received the majority vote. Second by Litsey. Ulmer, Fey, Jenner, Litsey-yes; Schlepp-no. Motion carried. Start date will be 8/14/25 and end date 5/14/26. Graduation will be held on 5/17/26.

Motion by Jenner to hire Ann Bettenhausen for Drivers Education--\$1,600 for the classroom instruction and \$200 per student for B-T-W instruction. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

President Fey stated superintendent evaluations will be compiled and reported on at the next meeting.

South Border co-op meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup> in Ashley at 6pm.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Presented Lyle Fey with the NDSBA Legacy of Service Award in the Steadfast Commitment category for his 21 years of service to the Ashley School Board; 2) Continual problems with AVI (company that does door controls)—difficult to get someone out to troubleshoot issues, they don't show up as promised, very frustrating. Need additional key fobs for the fitness center—quote was \$851.72 for 100 fobs. Obtained a quote from DRN to switch all the door controls over to them--\$11,000; 3) Reading month activities planned for March and had a movie for the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school; 4) Working on elementary evaluations.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Juniors and Seniors took a field trip to the Capitol on 2/12; 2) Mathcounts competition was held on 2/12; 3) Upcoming: County spelling bee on 2/18, district GBB starts 2/14, district BBB end of month. Both girls and boys dual teams qualified for state wrestling. Region individual tournaments are this weekend.

Next meeting will be March 12, 2025 at 7:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Litsey. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President

