

MARCH 12, 2025

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

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda with four additions. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$41,654.93). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Schmidt reported that representatives from both G&R controls and HA Thompson had been on site to review maintenance contract options. G&R can do the maintenance on the old system as well as maintaining the new one—their quote for a one-year contract is \$15,874. References from other schools regarding G&R are excellent and all agree they are happy with their service. G&R does not think the \$12,000 in repairs proposed by HA Thompson are all needed at this point. There would be a cost involved in some of the repairs needed but no quote on that. HA Thompson can service the new system, but cannot do the maintenance on the controls for it. Cost for their one-year contract this year was \$11,400 and it expires in July—that would increase if they took over the new system as well, minus the controls. If the district chose HA Thompson, would still need a contract with G&R for the controls on the new system—that cost is unknown at this point. Discussion on all of the information provided. Motion by Ulmer to move forward with G&R Controls for the HVAC maintenance contract when the HA Thompson contract expires in July at a cost of \$15,874. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. All agreed to hold off on the repairs proposed by HA Thompson.

Request from the pickle ball league to use the big gym as well as the small gym—only 4 can play at once and they have up to 15 people at times, so there's a lot of wait time. Using both gyms would alleviate that. They would like to use floor tape to mark the court lines—Mr. Schmidt visited with Mr. Girard and he did not think the lines would interfere with his PE classes. Motion by Litsey to allow the pickle ball league to use the big gym, with Mr. Schmidt to determine if the floor tape could be used without damaging the wood floor finish. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Building project: 1) Jordan Nieuwsma sent information on a shower head for the locker rooms that could resolve the drainage problem; 2) Some cement pads on the roof will need replacement—some are worn out, which is allowing icicles to break through to the rubber membrane during the melting process; 3) Beams in the cafeteria have been painted; 4) Still

waiting on the coil for the study hall unit; 5) Ceiling tile people should be here next week to finish.

Pursuant to NDCC 15.1-16-11, the Ashley Education Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association, hereby requests that the Ashley School Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative of all licensed personnel employed, or to be employed, by the Board for the purpose of negotiating matters relating to terms and conditions of employment and employer-employee relations, including but not limited to salary, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. Evidence that the Association does represent the majority of licensed personnel included in the appropriate negotiating unit is attached in the form of a petition. The AEA presented a petition for recognition as the negotiating unit. Motion by Litsey pursuant to NDCC 15.1-16-11, the Ashley school board recognizes that the AEA submitted the petition for recognition including the 50% + 1 by the required due dates. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

The Ashley school board has investigated the petition filed by the AEA requesting that the association be recognized as the representative organization for the negotiating unit and has determined that the AEA does represent a majority of the teachers within the unit. The Board recognizes the AEA as the representative organization for a minimum of one year beginning March 12, 2025. Motion by Jenner to approve as presented. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the contract for Ann Bettenhausen to teach driver's ed (\$1600 classroom/\$200 per student BTW). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

South Border co-op meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Ashley. Agenda items were distributed.

Motion by Jenner to authorize the issuance of teacher contracts following the completion of negotiations. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve open enrollments for four South Dakota students. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Jenner and Litsey will be on the hiring committee. Motion by Jenner to authorize issuance of a contract to a candidate if the committee vote is unanimous. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Amanda Nitschke and Mr. Girard would like to offer swimming lessons in the fall for grades 3-6 during PE class. Would run grades 3&4 together and 5&6 together for 30 minutes twice a week for a period of 2-3 weeks. If there's parents that don't want their children to participate, those students would stay at school for other PE activities. Motion by Litsey to allow the swimming lessons, provided it's legally acceptable and there are no liability issues. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Election workers will be Charles Dockter, Jo Weisser, Pam McShane and Judy Haupt. Publishing of minutes will also be on the ballot as required by NDCC every two years. Ashley Tribune is currently the official designated newspaper and will continue to send minutes to India Bender for now. Minutes are published on the school website as well, however if the voters decide to publish the minutes at the June election and the Tribune is no longer an option, the board will have to designate another paper in a surrounding county.

Discussion on NDSBA recommended policy BAA-Employing Board Members. Reviewed information from NDSBA--ND Supreme Court has determined that "two offices or positions are incompatible when one has the power of appointment to the other or the power to remove the other, and if there are many potential conflicts of interest between the two, such as salary negotiations, supervision and control of duties and obligations to the public to exercise independent judgment." Rule of thumb in the past has been that a person could not be a member of the school board as well as be a paid employee of the district—would have to choose one or the other. However, a board member could volunteer their time to coach, drive bus, etc. if they choose to. Board members agreed they don't want to adopt the policy at this time.

Mr. Schmidt stated he has continuous problems with AVI not returning phone calls or emails and they still have not resolved the issue with the fitness center door scheduling. Mr. Doane lost the phone app to control the front door and they have not responded to requests to resolve that issue either. He would like to switch all the door systems & key fobs over to DRN—their quote is \$10,933.82. We will be receiving the lighting grant for \$24,000 so that could help cover the cost. Motion by Ulmer to make the switch from AVI to DRN for door access and key fobs per their quote. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Fitness Center committee is looking at purchasing equipment from Johnson's Commercial Fitness—waiting on a final quote but the goal is to spend \$24,000-\$25,000. Lions club approved a funding request for \$25,000; 2) Elementary reading month activities for March; 3) PT conferences-elementary 85% and high school about 14 families; 4) School has been initially approved for a Homeland Security Grant for \$55,000 to replace the back doors and if that is finalized, DRN would be doing the door access & key fob work for those; 5) Farm to School grant—applied for walk-in cooler, refrigerator and milk cooler, will see what's approved. McIntosh Co Health Unit also has \$1,166 in grant money for the kitchen to use.

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

Mr. Doane's report: 1) State Science Fair—4 qualifiers and 2 alternates; 2) Upcoming dates: Concert for grades 5-12 on 3/13, K-12 concert on 4/28, Acalympics on 3/18, baseball starts 3/17. Track, PWWR and elem VB already in full swing.

\*Tucker Meidinger, Chris Doane and Erich Kroh left the meeting at 8:53pm. Board recessed from 8:53-9pm.

Motion by Schlepp to move into executive session per NDCC 14-04-19.2 to discuss negotiations strategy. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned into executive session at 9:00pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:01pm with Jenner, Fey, Litsey, Schlepp, Schmidt and Dockter in attendance (Ulmer left the executive session at 10pm).

Next meeting will be April 9, 2025 at 8:00pm. Motion to adjourn by Jenner, second by Schlepp. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President

MARCH 25, 2025

The Ashley school board held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00am to discuss the special ed position. Present: Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Lyle Fey, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer (via zoom), Chris Doane, Jason Schmidt, Teresa Dockter, Breigh Schlepp, Tucker Meidinger, Janelle Ferderer, SCPSEU director (via zoom).

Mr. Schmidt reported that there were two candidates interviewed for the special ed position. One with 2 years of experience and one new to teaching. The committee was not unanimous on their decision, however discussed the idea of hiring both candidates. There is a need for extra help for students in grades 7-12. Seems that the transition from elementary to junior high can be tough for some and kids don't get as much extra help as they do in elementary. Adding both teachers would be beneficial to all students and would help improve the low test scores we have in some areas. Cost for next year would be about \$40,000 more. Motion by Schlepp to hire Sara Thyen as the special ed teacher and Alexis Kempf as high school special ed and intervention strategist. Second by Ulmer. After further discussion, Schlepp amended her motion to state that if one of the candidates doesn't accept, we'll continue to advertise for a para. Second to amendment by Ulmer. Schlepp, Ulmer, Fey, Jenner-yes, Litsey-no, motion carried.

Motion by Litsey to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 7:45am.

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

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Lyle Fey, President

