

Sioux County School Board of Education
District # 83-0500
Regular School Board Meeting
March 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.
SCHS FCS Room
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93425279141>

1. Meeting called to order by President Jud Skavdahl at 6:02 p.m.

2. Open Meetings Act

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Attendance:	Present
Lora Andersen	Yes
Joleen Falkenburg	Yes
Jess Holmgren	Yes
David Howell	Yes
Jud Skavdahl	Yes
Shon Whetham	No

5. Consent Agenda

- (1) Motion by Holmgren, seconded by Falkenburg to accept the consent agenda:
- (2) Reading of minutes from previous meeting
- (3) Agenda as presented
- (4) Excuse absent board members
- (5) Accept treasurer's report and approve the payment of the bills
- (6) Meeting Notice Publication Date: March 6, 2024

**On roll call vote: Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; David Howell-yes;
Jess Holmgren-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

6. Staff/Student Recognition - A Pat on the Back

HES Student of the Month- Jayden Harkless (Kindergarten) and Tilton Boone (5th grade).

Mrs. Dunn would like to recognize Kenna Lotton, Hunter Hughes, Gracyn Schaefer, Grace Holmgren, and Ross Boyd for their efforts during the written rounds of the spelling bee. They took the event very seriously, giving every word their utmost effort. They were also very patient with each other in waiting while other students worked to get the words spelled correctly. Finally, they were very gracious in congratulating one another when the winners were announced. In the years that I have been pronouncing words for the spelling bee, I have not had a group work this hard. I am very proud of them!

Mrs. Reisig would like to thank the high school boys for helping me put my classroom back together quickly, efficiently and in good spirit after the installation of the carpet. A specific shout out to Preston Kreman and Weston Schaefer for volunteering to move the classroom flag so I can view the clock. Finally, thank you to Dr. Gies for the carpet and Promethean board in my classroom. Students have been very intrigued and excited to work with the new board, as am I.

Dr. Gies would like to thank Mrs. Adams for organizing the community blood drive. Regional West Medical Center was very grateful with our community and school for donating blood which will be used throughout the Panhandle. It was fun to watch students react to their experience as first time donors.

Mrs. Cox would like to recognize Mrs. Nunn for being so helpful and kind during the spelling bee. She enjoys her students and she made me feel so welcome when we came up.

I also want to recognize one of our Chalk Butte students, Kingzlee Peltz. She just tried out for a traveling basketball team called the Lincoln Lasers and made the team. We are so proud of her!

7. Recognition of Visitors/Individuals Wishing to Address the Board

Dr. Gies, Mr. Swisher, Kerri Rempp, Jordan Johnson

8. Discussion and/or Reports

A.) Superintendent's Report

Construction Update- A construction team meeting was held on March 5 with Anderson Shaw, JEO architects and myself. The roof is being installed and nearly finished. The project is on schedule for completion in late July early August. The good weather is allowing the project to move right along.

Cyber Fraud

We were victims of cyber fraud. Our insurance company reimbursed us less the deductible \$4,737.20. The cyber fraud was a result of scammers submitting a request for two of our employees to have their paychecks deposited into a fake bank account. We filed a police report but were unable to track down the scammers. As a result we lost \$2,000 which is the deductible for the two incidents.

State Aid

We will receive \$163,960 in state aid next year. This is an increase of \$29,460. I also included other funding information for you to review. A3 depicts the amount we spend per child compared to other districts. A4 depicts the state aid comparison from 2023-24 to next school year.

Teacher Salaries

With 192 (72 yet to settle) districts and ESU's reporting on teacher salary negotiation settlements, we should finish in sixth place of offering the highest base salary in the state. On the average our teachers teach ten fewer days.

School Board Vacancies

The following people filed to fill the school board vacancies: Joleen Falkenburg, Jud Skavdahl, Lane Grote and Justin Harkless.

Letters of Intent to Return

Staff will be given Letters of Intent to Return on March 11. The letters must be returned on March 18. Contracts will be distributed in April.

Security First Feeding Hearts Canned Food Drive

The senior class was the SCHS winner in the Feeding Hearts Canned Food Drive. Grades 5-6 were the elementary winners. Both schools combined in donating 571 items. The classes received a pizza and root beer float party.

B.) Principal's Report

Mr. Swisher thanked Jess Holmgren for organizing the community junior wrestling club. Calendar of Events: Labor Auction will be held on March 21 at 5:00 pm. Quiz Bowl is March 18 at SCHS, Spring Concert is April 9.

C.) Board Report

Member Andersen thanked the members of the community who assisted and participated in the superintendent interviews.

Member Falkenburg offered an apology to Principal Swisher for not having him participate in the superintendent interviews.

D.) Discussion Items

Student Enrollment Projections

Mrs. Ellicott is retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Lambert has ten years of experience teaching kindergarten in Lusk. She would like to fill the Pk-K position. She has a master's degree in early childhood education but needs to be certified in preschool for the State of Nebraska. Dr. Gies informed the board he will be moving Mrs. Lambert to the Pk-K position and pay for her certification as we have done in the past for teachers who are willing to fill an open position. This leaves an opening for grades 5-6. Dr. Gies presented one option for the board to consider is to close Pink School and move Mrs. Skavdahl to the HES grade 5-6 position. The other option is to hire a grade 5-6 teacher for HES. The board directed Dr. Gies to advertise for two elementary teachers.

9. Business

A.) Motion by Andersen, seconded by Falkenburg to approve school board policies Community Relations 1000-1120 and Foster Care Student Transportation 5602.

**On roll call vote: Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes;
Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

B.) Motion by Howell, seconded by Falkenburg to approve raising the substitute teacher pay to \$150.00 per day.

**On roll call vote: Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes;
Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

C.) Motion by Skavdahl, seconded by Howell to approve technology/computer hardware purchases of \$16,000 for the 2024-25 school year.

**On roll call vote: David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent;
Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

D.) Motion by Holmgren, seconded by Howell to approve the resignation of Mrs. Ellicott at the end of the 2023-24 school year with regrets.

On roll call vote: Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

E.) Motion by Andersen, seconded by Falkenburg to approve the purchase of the Pk-8 social studies curriculum by Savvas Learning Company.

On roll call vote: Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

F.) Superintendent Contract: Discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the development of a contract to offer the incoming Superintendent of Schools.
I believe the discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel and to preserve the interests of the district in ongoing contract negotiations.

Is there a motion to move into closed session for this agenda item?

Motion by Falkenburg, seconded by Holmgren to move into closed session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the development of a contract to offer the incoming Superintendent of Schools. The discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel and to preserve the interests of the district in ongoing contract negotiations.

On roll call vote: Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent.

Motion Carried 5-0.

The President must now state the reason for the closed session immediately prior to going into the closed session. The board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the development of a contract to offer the incoming Superintendent of Schools. The discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel and to preserve the interests of the district in ongoing contract negotiations

Motion by Andersen, seconded by Howell to move out of closed session at 6:36 p.m.

On roll call vote: Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

F.) Motion by Andersen, seconded by Skavdahl to approve legal counsel to finalize the contract offered to the incoming Sioux County School Superintendent Liz Baker.

On roll call vote: Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

G.) The next item on the agenda is to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the letter of concern received by board members regarding District's policies and procedures related to the hearing of public comment, the processing of complaints and concerns, and the chain of command.

I believe it is appropriate to consider this matter in closed session in order to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel.

Is there a motion to move into closed session for this agenda item?

Motion by Howell, seconded by Andersen to move into closed session at 6:38 p.m. to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the letter of concern received by board members regarding District's policies and procedures related to the hearing of public comment, the processing of complaints and concerns, and the chain of command.

On roll call vote: David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

The President must now state the reason for the closed session immediately prior to going into the closed session. The board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the letter of concern received by board members regarding District's policies and procedures related to the hearing of public comment, the processing of complaints and concerns, and the chain of command.

Motion by Skavdahl, seconded by Howell to move out of closed session at 7:00 p.m.

On roll call vote: Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Holmgren, seconded by Andersen to approve school board policies Complaint Procedure 1020 and Public Participation at Board Meetings 8346 and 8346A with revisions and remove any conflicting or overlapping policies.

On roll call vote: Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent; Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes.

Motion Carried 5-0.

H.) The next item on the agenda is to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the District's response to pending litigation and consultation with legal counsel. Superintendent Gies, in your opinion, is the discussion of this matter in closed session necessary to prevent the unlawful disclosure of confidential student information and in order to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel? Yes

Is there a motion for the board to enter closed session to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the District's response to pending litigation and consultation with legal counsel in order to prevent the unlawful disclosure of confidential student information and in order to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel?

Motion by Howell, seconded by Holmgren to move into closed session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the pending litigation and consultation with legal counsel in order to prevent the unlawful disclosure of confidential student information and in order to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel.

**On roll call vote: David Howell-yes; Jud Skavdahl-yes; Shon Whetham-absent;
Lora Andersen-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Jess Holmgren-yes.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

The President must now state the reason for the closed session immediately prior to going into the closed session. The board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions with respect to the District's response to pending litigation and consultation with legal counsel in order to prevent the unlawful disclosure of confidential student information and in order to consider legal advice provided by the district's legal counsel.

Motion by Skavdahl, seconded by Falkenburg to move out of closed session at 7:32 p.m.

**On roll call vote: Shon Whetham-absent; Jess Holmgren-yes; David Howell-yes;
Jud Skavdahl-yes; Joleen Falkenburg-yes; Lora Andersen-yes.**

Motion Carried 5-0.

11. Next regular meeting is Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Motion by Howell, seconded by Falkenburg to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.