

BUDGET HEARING BOARD MEETINGSeptember 5, 2019

The special board meeting of the District #90 Board of Education was called to order by President Trent Neal at 7:30 pm. Roll call of members present: Toni Powers, Chris Schultis, Lana Watson, Will Coffman, Luke Connell, & Trent Neal. Absent: None

President Neal noted that the open meetings law was posted in the room and asked if anyone was recording. No recordings. Legal notice of the meeting was posted at the customary sites on August 27, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA: Connell moved to approve consent agenda. Schultis second. Voting: Aye –Connell, Schultis, Watson, Powers, Coffman & Neal. Nay – None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Todd Ascherl spoke to the board about how much everyone’s taxes would go up if this school closes and we were absorbed by other school districts. Don Moore spoke to the board about how ranchers are losing money on every head of cattle they raise this year and that the board should not raise the budget when the cattle market is down. He also spoke about how the kids get a better education in Mullen than they do at Tryon and we need to close this school. He spoke about cost per pupil to educate our kids in McPherson Co. He spoke about how much we have increased the budget over the last 30+ years.

President Neal thanked the patrons for speaking and opened the discussion to the board. Powers spoke about how if we lose this school, we lose this community. We lose the fire department and EMS. She asked how many would like to wait an hour or more for a fire truck or EMT to show up in an emergency because that is how long it will take for some places depending on where they have to come from if Tryon is a ghost town. She explained that some things out of the boards control such as evaluations going up, cattle market, the state requiring more teachers and staff for these small schools just like they were a large school in Omaha or Lincoln, which we don’t need but are required to have and that the state does not send us back any state aid unlike what we used to receive 30+ years ago and even 10 years ago. Powers and Schultis spoke about how good of an education their children have got in McPherson Co and how well their children are doing in college and about how many successful kids we have had come from McPherson Co Schools.

Connell moved to close the budget hearing at 7:55 pm. Coffman second. Voting: Aye – Connell, Coffman, Powers, Watson, Schultis & Neal. Nay – none. Motion carried.