

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE PLATTE-GEDDES SCHOOL
DISTRICT #11-5 BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020**

President J. Sondgeroth called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Platte-Geddes School District #11-5 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020, in the Library at the Platte-Geddes Elementary School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Jess Sondgeroth, Heather VanDerWerff, Duke Starr, Roxi Summerville, Dennis DeBoer, Ross Van Zee, Ross Varilek

Members absent: None

Others present: Superintendent Joel Bailey, Business Manager Kathy Holter, Secondary Principal Patrick Frederick, Elementary Principal Jennifer Knecht, Darren DeNeui, Donna Nelson, Joni Willoughby, Randal Brumbaugh, Frank Cutler, Marla Tegethoff, and Jason Huizenga

Additions or deletions to this agenda

The following item was added to the printed agenda: Approve Co-Head Junior High Track Coach Positions

Approve agenda

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer approving the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Motion D. Starr, seconded R. Van Zee approving the following consent agenda:

- Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020
- Authorize Payment of Claims for March 20, 2020
- Approve Report of Cash Transactions dated 02/29/2020

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Participation

None

Routine Business

Good News Report

Congratulations to the following sophomore students who will be inducted into the PG National Honor Society on Monday Night: Addyson Boltjes, Collin Engebretson, Caden Foxley, Grayson Hanson, Jayden Johnson, Cade Nachtigal, Kaori Nachtigal, Jackson Neuman, Ashton Summerville, and Chase Varilek,

Mrs. DeHaan and Mrs. Hanson took the 8th grade girls to MTI for the women in science event on Tuesday. The girls were engaged in many different STEM activities. They learned about various stem careers while having a great time.

Physics students built taskbot robots and are learning how to program them in preparation to their Walk the Dawg finale.

Congratulations to Abby Vanden Berge for being selected at the Touchstone Scholar of the Week.

Claire Maydew was chosen from the 170 singers at the Elementary Honors Choir to perform a song in sign language. According to Ms. Nelson, she did an amazing job and represented the district very well.

Congratulations to the KWLPG Wrestling team on qualifying ten wrestlers for the individual tournament and team dual tournament. The team placed third in the dual tournament. Individual placers included: Chase Varilek-5th, Kasen Konstanz-6th, Wyatt Talbot-3rd, Spencer Hanson-2nd, Levi Nightingale-6th. KWLPG placed 7th in the Individual-Team division.

Supt. Bailey congratulated the boys basketball team for winning Region 6 and advancing to the State Basketball Tournament in Aberdeen next week.

Superintendent Report

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met recently to review the five-year Capital Outlay Plan, current contracts, and future projects. Projects scheduled for the summer include: track resurfacing, repairs to the concrete/track on the elementary playground, repairing the steps on the north side of the elementary, and removal of old heat registers at the elementary. Wrestling room discussions have also occurred.

The 2020 Legislature passed Senate Bill 197 which authorizes a voluntary abandoned tank removal project. The SDDENR will remove tanks that qualify and the Petroleum Release Compensation Fund will pay for the removal of any necessary environmental cleanup. Tank removal is free of charge to the district. Through this program, a 10,000 gallon tank located below the ground on the north side of the high school will be removed this summer. The only expense to the district will be some concrete repair once the project is completed.

Supt. Bailey met with Wildlife Conservation Officer, Jeff Martin, on February 26 to discuss the possibility of adding the Hunt Safe for Schools program into the district's curriculum. The emphasis on the course will be on gun safety and responsibility. Preliminary thoughts of the administration are to incorporate the program into the middle school physical education curriculum, however the option will be explored further before a decision is made.

Last month, Supt. Bailey mentioned that he had been approached by a farmer/rancher wanting to donate beef to the school. After further research, implementing the Farm to School program seems like a viable option. A meeting to discuss the program and what it all involves will take place in the near future.

During the National Superintendent's Conference, Supt. Bailey attended a session about a lawsuit that has been filed against the Juul Company. The district has an opportunity to sign onto the suit in hopes of receiving reimbursement for administrative costs for vaping mitigation. However, School Attorney Rodney Freeman did not feel that we would have much to gain by joining the lawsuit.

Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services was awarded a USDA Rural Development Grant, which will allow students to receive Telehealth Counseling Services. The program will also provide resources to teachers and school counselors. The district will receive a Telehealth communication package that is valued at \$3,477.99.

Supt. Bailey will be meeting with a few home school families next week to discuss a home school partnership. His intent is to develop an understanding of how the district can assist them in providing educational opportunities of their children. The Verification of Ed. Structure forms have been submitted to the Department of Education with junior high and high school cyber schools added. The next step is to develop a communication plan to share this opportunity for students outside of the district.

After much thought and discussion, the administration is recommending that the district proceed with only one, K-12, vocal teacher. The music program is not being cut as every Platte-Geddes student will still have the opportunity to participate in music. If after one year it is determined that the caseload is too large for one person, the topic will be revisited and advertised.

One of the districts involved in the sharing of the instructional coach has decided to pursue other avenues. With the Shared Services Agreement now down to three schools, the cost of the agreement for the Platte-Geddes School would be much more than the Small Rural Schools Achievement Grant would cover. Supt. Bailey recommended that other avenues be pursued as well.

The district was informed that Thrive Nutrition Service's School Breakfast and Lunch Program will be dissolving at the end of the school year. Fortunately, we are at the end of our five-year contract with Thrive and are in the process of soliciting a vendor for next year. The district was also informed that the employees who run the food service program will be done working at the end of next week. It is Thrive's responsibility to staff the kitchen fulfill the contract through the end of the year.

The district will hold a surplus auction on Friday, June 19 in conjunction with the city and possibly the county. The sale will be held in the elementary north parking lot.

The district has received a plethora of information on the coronavirus from Platte Health Center and other sources. The district is in the process of creating a plan on how to handle the situation if there was an outbreak. Programs like Google Classroom and Black Board provide the option of educating students at home. More information regarding these programs will be shared once available.

Secondary Principal Report

The National Honor Society will be conducting their induction ceremony on March 16th in the Lyric Theatre at 7:30 p.m. There will be ten new members inducted. Mr. Frederick congratulated the new members and acknowledged them for their hard work.

On March 13th an all school assembly with State Trooper Shane Johnson and Deanna Johnson and DCI Special Agent Kendra Russell was presented to around 100 parents, staff members, and stakeholders. It was a very informative presentation that was well attended.

FFA Week was a big success. Staff and students participated in the Ag Olympics activities, the dress up days, and the drive your tractor to school day. Mr. Frederick thanked Ms. Sauber and her students for all of their work in making the week a success.

Mr. Frederick will be out of the office March 24th through the 27th attending the World Classrooms Washington, D.C. trip with approximately 30 Platte-Geddes students and various parents. Mr. Andy Van Essen will also be in attendance on this educational adventure and opportunity.

The Smarter Balanced Testing is scheduled to take place on April 21-23.

Elementary Principal Report

The district received a \$2,000.00 donation from the Doric Lodge #93 Masons to be given for student school lunches. Mrs. Knecht thanked them for their generosity.

Thirty-four students in grades 2-5 will be representing the school in Armour at the Prairie Reader Competition held on March 31. Mrs. Martha Patzlaff, Mrs. Phyllis Daum, and Mrs. Denise Nachtigal were thanked for working with and coaching the students.

The district will be holding the annual Kindergarten Registration and Screening on Monday, March 30th at the elementary school. Children who will be five years old by September 1, 2020 are invited to attend. This screening is reserved for students planning to attend kindergarten or half-day kindergarten at Platte-Geddes Elementary next fall.

Quarter 3 ended on March 6, 2020. Report cards will be sent home with all students in grades K-5 on Friday, March 13.

Mrs. Knecht and several other Special Education teachers planned to attend the SD State SPED Conference in Sioux Falls next week. However, the conference has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mrs. Knecht and Mrs. Konechne have been working together on information that will be sent to parents concerning the COVID-19 issue.

Business Manager Report

Five candidates are running for the two open positions on the school board. Candidates include: Jess Sondgeroth, Duke Starr, Tracy Harrington, Stephanie Leader, and Randal Brumbaugh. The joint city/school board election will be held on Tuesday, April 14th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Building in Platte and also the American Legion Building in Geddes.

Per SDCL 13-7-12, the board must appoint the Election Board. K. Holter is recommending the following:

Platte Site: Shirley Johnson, Anita Crosby, Jody Ringling, Glenda VanderPol

Geddes Site: Colleen Jaeger, Monica VanderPol, Sandy Gant

The NAFIS Conference in Washington D.C. that was scheduled for March 14-18 has been cancelled due to the ever-evolving situation regarding the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. As always, the President's budget request eliminates the Federal Property Program, which is the program that the district receives its funding. NAFIS strongly opposes the elimination of the Impact Aid Federal Property program and will urge Congress to reject the proposal and instead increase funding.

Food Service Management Company RFP's have been sent to vendors and also will be advertised in the Platte Enterprise, Charles Mix County News, and Argus Leader. Deadline for submission of proposal is May 1st.

Core Educational Coop Report

R. Van Zee reported on the Core Educational Cooperative meeting.

Mid Central Educational Coop Report

R. Summerville reported on a recent Mid Central Cooperative meeting.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures and Consideration of Waivers

None

First Reading Section C Policies, General School Administration

The board of education gave first reading to Section C Policies, General School Administration.

First Reading Section B Policies, Amending BFC, BFCA, BFF and Deleting BF, BFB, and BFG

The board of education gave first reading to the amended policies BFC, BFCA, and BFF. These amended policies incorporated the information that was contained in BF, BFB, and BFG making them unnecessary.

Approve Audit Quote from Schoenfish & Co., Inc.

Motion R. Varilek, seconded H. VanDerWerff approving the quote from Schoenfish & Co., Inc. to perform an audit of the 2019-2020 records in the amount of \$8,300.00. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Offer Contracts to Certified Staff

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer offering contracts to all certified staff for the 2020-2021 school term. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mid Central Educational Cooperative Legal Representation

The Mid Central Coop Board would like every member district to decide if they should continue to be represented by Swier Law Firm or look for other legal representation. Board Chair Pamela Haukaas has had several conversations with Rodney Freeman and Ryland Deinert concerning this matter. Mr. Freeman could represent MCEC going forward, but would be unable to assist with any lawsuits due to conflict of interest. Mr. Deinert does not have a conflict of interest and is willing to assist in cleaning up all of the back legal entanglements. The options for legal representation include:

- Maintain relationship with Mr. Swier's office for everything
- Maintain Mr. Swier's office to finish all legal matters and secure Mr. Freeman as attorney going forward
- Retain Mr. Deinert as attorney for all work, previous and going forward
- Retain Mr. Deinert to finish out previous lawsuits and secure Mr. Freeman going forward

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer to approve retaining Mr. Deinert as legal counsel for all previous, current, and future issues. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Appoint Members to Service on Local Boards of Equalization

Ross Van Zee (Platte) and Duke Starr (Geddes) were appointed to serve on the Local Boards of Equalization. Both boards will meet on Monday, March 16th with times to be determined.

First Reading 2020-2021 School Calendar

The Board of Education gave first reading to the proposed 2020-2021 school calendar.

National Conference Request

Ms. Sara Kraft and Mrs. Denise Mushitz have requested to attend the National Conference for Teachers of English in Denver, CO from November 19-22. They have prepared a proposal which includes conference information and estimated cost. Motion R. Varilek, seconded R. Summerville approving Ms. Sara Kraft and Mrs. Denise Mushitz's request to attend the National Conference in Denver, CO at an estimated cost of \$2,500.00. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Cheer/Dance Cooperative

Discussions began last school year about the possibility of opening our cheer/dance program with Dakota Christian. Due to the timing of the discussion and the SDHSAA deadline, the conversation was tabled. Coach Marla Tegethoff would like to pursue the coop once again. After discussion, the board requested that Mrs. Tegethoff provide additional information for the April board meeting to help them with their decision.

Approve Election Workers

SDCL 12-7-12 requires local school boards to approve election workers for school board elections. This year's election workers will be:

Platte Site: Shirley Johnson, Anita Crosby, Jody Ringling, Glenda VanderPol

Geddes Site: Colleen Jaeger, Monica VanderPol, Sandy Gant

Motion D. Starr, seconded R. Van Zee approving the election workers and rate of pay at \$175.00 per worker. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Track Resurfacing Project

Last year the decision to delay resurfacing the track at the athletic complex was made. As a preventive measure and to eliminate the risk of damaging the base layer, it is now recommended that the project proceed. Motion R. Van Zee, seconded R. Varilek approving the track resurfacing project in the amount of \$48,500.00 from Midwest Tennis & Track. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Advertising for Upper Level Colony Teacher

Mrs. Semmler will be moving into the additional 6th grade teaching position. This move creates a vacancy for the upper level elementary teacher at Platte Colony. The district needs to advertise the vacancy as soon as possible in hopes of retaining excellent applicants. Motion R. Summerville, second H. VanDerWerff approving the advertisement for an upper level teacher at Platte Colony. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Computer Quote

The district needs to purchase new Chromebooks for the half-day kindergarten through sixth grade students and both colony schools. Mr. Neugebauer has secured excellent pricing through Fire Fly Computers. Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. Starr approving the computer quote for 370 Chromebooks in the amount of \$69,500.00. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approve Co-Head Junior High Track Coach Positions

Motion R. Varilek, seconded D. Starr approving the Co-Head Junior High Track Coach positions of Mr. Carter Kemnitz and Mrs. Regan Holleman for the 2020 track season at a rate of \$1,000.00 each. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Set Time/Date for February Board Meeting

There are no conflicts with the regular scheduled school board meeting in April so it will remain as scheduled on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at the Elementary School.

Executive Session

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. Starr to enter into executive session at 8:28 p.m. pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) Superintendent Evaluation. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

President J. Sondgeroth declared executive session closed at 9:02 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion D. Starr, seconded H. VanDerWerff to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

President

Business Manager