

**Minutes of the Ponca Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 18, 2024**

Posting Date: March 7, 2024

The Board of Education of Dixon County School District 1 (also known as Ponca Public Schools) held a regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 in the Ponca Public Schools library at 505 3rd Street, Ponca, Nebraska. The meeting was convened in open and public session and advance notice was publicly posted at the Bank of Dixon County, the Dixon County Courthouse, the post office, the school main entrance, published in the Nebraska Journal Leader, and given to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the agenda was kept continuously current and available for inspection at the office of the Superintendent of Schools. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

President Fethkenher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the meeting room, and led the salute to the flag. Roll was taken. Members present were Richard Dohma, Shawn Fethkenher, Phil Kramper, Christina Luebe, and Casey McGhee. Absent: Monte Burki. Others present were Supt. Brendan Calahan, Principal Allison Stansberry, Principal Bob Hayes, Kristie Hayes, Andy Stark, Secretary Lorrie Huston, and 3 visitors.

Dohma moved to excuse absent member Monte Burki. Luebe seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGehee. M.C.

There were no requests to speak before the Board.

Dohma moved to approve the consent agenda. McGhee seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C. The consent agenda included approval of the agenda; the minutes of the February 19, 2024 meeting; the treasurer's report showing a general fund balance of \$3,205,423.91, a depreciation fund balance of \$401,395.71, a bond fund balance of \$576,882.14, a special building fund balance of \$56,907.53, an employee benefit fund balance of \$5,924.20, an activity fund balance of \$314,163.49, and a school nutrition fund balance of \$134,960.45; general fund disbursements of \$86,533.82; employee benefit fund disbursements of \$3,136.14; credit card payments; and the March payroll report.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent Calahan –Reported that all open certified positions have been filled and all contracts for next year have been returned, open classified positions for the Ponca kitchen and an activity bus driver remain unfilled, the Rule 10 compliance visit went well, the Sports Complex repairs are almost complete, there will be an energy audit of the school buildings, and he reported on State aid figures for next year.

Principal Stansberry –Reported on professional development, evaluations being completed, the book study progress, assessment testing season, student achievements, the teacher evaluation instrument, 2024-25 class schedules and student registration, the Senior trip on April 1st and Prom on April 6th.

Principal Hayes reported on the renewal of the EPI school supply contract, the 6th grade attendance at the WSC Middle School Music Festival, 2nd grade orientation, three teacher evaluations remaining to be completed, elementary field trip schedule, preparations for NSCAS and MAP testing, elementary field day on May 10th, kindergarten sign up on April 17th at 6 pm, and pre-school open house on April 11th at 6 pm. As Activities Director, he congratulated the boys' basketball team on qualifying for the state tournament and the basketball all-conference athletes. He reported on the number of golf and track participants, the district track meet in Hartington on May 9th, the State track meet on May 17th & 18th, and the State golf meet on May 21st & 22nd in Columbus.

Board Communications and Committee Reports

The facilities committee met with the Navitas company to arrange for an energy audit. They will help devise a plan for replacement of an aging HVAC system. The finance committee also met to discuss classified staff wages for the 2024-25 school year.

There were no discussion items.

Action Items:

The contracts for the 2024-25 school year of Quinn Wragge as high school counselor, Erin Reynoldson as FCS teacher, Chad Clay as business teacher and head girls' basketball coach, and Katie Pick as third grade teacher were approved on a motion by McGhee, second by Dohma. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

Dohma moved to approve the option enrollment requests into the district for 2024-25 of a kindergartner from Hartington-Newcastle and a kindergartner from Allen. Luebe seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

McGhee moved to approve the discontinuation of the ESSER Cadre program. Luebe seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

Dohma moved to approve the 2024-25 ESU #1 Service Contract as presented. McGhee seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C. The contract includes our full time Speech-Language Pathologist and School Psychologist as well as other necessary services.

Based upon the recommendation of the finance committee, Kramper moved to approve an estimated classified staff payroll increase of 5.89% for the 2024-25 school year. Dohma seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

Dohma moved to approve the pre-school tuition rate at \$12 per day. Luebe seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

A proposed evaluation tool that was created collaboratively between administration and a staff committee along with the preliminary approval form from the Nebraska Department of Education were presented to the board for review. Luebe moved to approve the new evaluation tool as presented. McGhee seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

The next regular board meeting will be held on April 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:39 p.m., there being no further business, McGhee moved to adjourn the meeting. Dohma seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Absent: Burki. M.C.

Respectively submitted:

Shawn Fethkenher, Board President

Lorrie Huston, Board Secretary