

**JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050**  
**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
January 17, 2024

Members Present: Arlin Beethe, Bob Hutt, Gail Hutt, Rebecca Plager, Kim Wellensiek

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal; Garrett Collin, Athletic Director; Rick Lester, High School Principal

Justin Beethe-absent (excused)

Six visitors were present

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The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 17, 2024, in the high school room 204, Tecumseh, Nebraska. A current copy of the agenda was available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting and agenda was posted at the three main school buildings as well as the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Tecumseh Chieftain.

President Kim Wellensiek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting by announcing that the Open Meetings Act rules were posted. Roll call was taken. Arlin Beethe-present, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-present, Gail Hutt-present, Plager-present, Wellensiek-present.

### **PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Principal Rick Lester provided information on the following:

- Update on choir/graduation robes provided
- Senior Breakfast hosted by the JCC Foundation- January 17 2024
- Last day to change second-semester classes- January 19, 2024

Principal Bacon reported on the following:

- Sixteen students were selected for the Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir
- Finals of the Johnson County Scripps Spelling Bee- January 20, 2024.
- Junior High athletic update provided.

Board member Plager arrived at 6:18 p.m.

### **REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Superintendent Rother assumed the leadership role and requested nominations for President. Arlin Beethe nominated Kim Wellensiek for Board of Education President. A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and second by Gail Hutt to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call

vote: Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt--yes, Gail Hutt- yes, Plager- yes, Wellensiek-abstain. Carried 4-0-1

Kim Wellensiek assumed the leadership role as Board President and requested nominations for Vice-President. Plager nominated Arlin Beethe for Vice President. A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Bob Hutt to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-abstain. Carried 4-0-1.

President Wellensiek requested nominations for Treasurer. Plager nominated Gail Hutt for Treasurer. A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and second by Plager to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call vote: Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-abstain, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent. Carried 4-0-1.

President Wellensiek appointed Jon H. Rother, as secretary of the Board of Education and Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary.

President Wellensiek appointed committee members as follows:

AMERICANISM: Arlin Beethe, Rebecca Plager, Kim Wellensiek

BUDGET REVIEW: Arlin Beethe, Gail Hutt, Rebecca Plager

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Arlin Beethe, Justin Beethe, Gail Hutt

NEGOTIATIONS: Justin Beethe, Bob Hutt, Kim Wellensiek

POLICY REVIEW: Bob Hutt, Gail Hutt, Rebecca Plager

TRANSPORTATION: Justin Beethe, Bob Hutt, Kim Wellinsiek

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and seconded by Gail Hutt to approve the December 13, 2023 regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes. Carried 5-0.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Bob and second by Gail Hutt to approve the January 17, 2024, Financial Report and the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$789,695.57. Roll call vote: Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes. Carried 5-0.

## **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT**

Athletic Director, Garret Collin reported on the following:

- 2024 MUDECAS basketball tournament was canceled after the first round due to inclement weather.

- The 2009 girls' MUDECAS Championship basketball team will be recognized at the basketball game, January 20, 2024
- Girls basketball sub-districts - February 13-15, 2024
- Boys basketball sub-districts - February 19-22, 2024
- Boys wrestling districts February 10, 2024
- Girls wrestling districts February 9, 2024
- Bowling districts- January 29, 2024

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Rother reported on the following:

- As of January 14, 2024 four student days have been canceled due to inclement weather
- Transportation considerations
- Nebraska Department of Education is currently reviewing the state assessment model used
- JCC Maintenance dept. and Kudu Lawn Care recognized for snow removal efforts.
- Mr. Rother will help with ESU #4 Special Education Director interviews. Ellen Stokebrand to retire.

## **FUTURE DATES**

- NRCSA- Legislative Forum – February 20, 2024
- Nebraska School Board Member Week- January 21-28, 2024
- NASB Legislative Issues Conference- January 21-January 22, 2024
- NASB Board Presidents Retreat- January 28-29, 2024
- NASB Federal Advocacy Fly In – April 29- May 1, 2024

## **DISCUSSION**

Superintendent Rother led a discussion related to the Nebraska Department of Education's latest teacher shortage report. The Nebraska 108<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session proposals that could impact Nebraska's public schools were reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the JCC financial funds and where they are being deposited to acquire interest.

## **REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Arlin Beethe to approve the following policies as presented: **3023-** Record Management and Retention, **3024-** Booster Clubs and Parent Teacher Organizations, **4027-**Part-time Certificated Employees, **4028-** Substitute Teachers, **5012-**Testing and Assessment Program., **5014-**Homeless Students, **6005-**Academic Credits and Graduation. Roll call vote: Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes.Carried 5-0.

Discussion was held with regards to the location of the preschool classrooms. Johnson County Central preschool teachers; Lisa Othmer, Cheryl Panko, and Jacy Pollard were present to answer questions from the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and second by Bob Hutt to move the preschool attendance center to Tecumseh starting with the 2024-2025 academic year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-no. Carried 4-1.

A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and second by Bob Hutt to accept the letter of resignation, with regrets, from Joann Gaden effective June 2024. Roll call vote: Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Rother led a discussion in regard to the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar. No action was taken.

President Wellensiek declared a recess at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Arlin Beethe and second by Bob Hutt to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations, administrative, and classified employee compensation as it is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest. Roll call vote: Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent. Bob Hutt-yes, Carried 5-0.

Entered executive session at 8:12 p.m.

A motion was made by Bob Hutt and second by Gail Hutt to leave executive session. Roll call vote: Plager-yes, Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes. Carried 5-0

Left executive session at 9:27 p.m.

A motion was made by Plager and second by Arlin Beethe to approve the 12-month classified salaried staff compensation as presented and to offer the 2024-2025 Administrative Contracts to include compensation as follows: Principal, Richard Bacon-\$117,000, Principal, Richard Lester-\$123,000, Superintendent, Jon Rother- \$147,700. Roll call vote: Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Plager and second by Gail Hutt to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Wellensiek-yes, Arlin Beethe-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Bob Hutt-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Plager-yes. Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 7, 2024, in the High School room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska at 6:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting will be published in the Tecumseh Chieftain. The agenda will be posted at the three main school buildings as well as the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. A current copy of the agenda will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.