

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
BENKELMAN NE 69021**

The Dundy County Stratton Board of Education met in regular session on March 12, 2012 at the Dundy County Stratton High School. The following members were present: S Krug, K Lorens, M Lutz, L Melchert, J Metzger, and S Noffsinger. Also present were Principal Jim Kent, Principal Mike Rotherham, Superintendent Dallas Watkins and staff member JoAnn Decker. Visitors were Cindy McVicker, Amy M Haines, and Jason Frederick from the Benkelman Post. Board members M Blecha, C Kerchal, and S Stamm arrived late.

President Metzger called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

President Metzger stated that the board follows the Open Meetings Act Guidelines which are located in the meeting room. The Board of Education may enter closed session during the meeting when it determines that doing so is appropriate and is authorized by the provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

Motion by Lorens seconded by Melchert to approve the agenda and minutes of the February 13, 2012 regular meeting. Yes: Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, and Noffsinger. No: None. Absent: Blecha, Kerchal, and Stamm. Motion carried.

There were no public items of discussion.

Shad Stamm arrived at 6:04 P.M.

Craig Kerchal arrived at 6:06 P.M.

Motion by Melchert seconded by Noffsinger to approve the administrative and financial reports and payment of bills as presented. Yes: Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Absent: Blecha. Motion carried.

Mike Blecha arrived at 6:32 P.M.

Principal Rotherham congratulated Jonathan Cleveland for qualifying for the state geography bee and Nicole Kent for winning the district spelling bee. He reported on Dr. Seuss visit from FCCLA's Cat in the Hat and assistants that visited for Read Across America; 5th & 6th grade district wide quiz bowl; important dates; and the library accelerated reading program. Principal Kent congratulated winter sports teams and coaches for their solid season and their many goals they achieved and the State qualifiers in the vocational groups. He also reported on coaches for track; spring sports numbers; and the upcoming School Improvement external visit. Superintendent Watkins reported on feasibility of a pre-school at Benkelman Elementary; Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Conference; summer projects; and updates on concussion policy and curriculum guides for Mathematics and English.

Under board items of discussion Superintendent Dallas Watkins and Mike Blecha discussed the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Legislative Forum.

Motion by Blecha seconded by Stamm to verify the results of the Haigler Elementary vote held on March 6, 2012 concerning whether Haigler Elementary should remain open during the 2012-2013 school year. The results were 61 to remain open and 28 to close. Yes: Krug, Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Blecha, and Kerchal. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Noffsinger seconded by Melchert to form a committee to study the feasibility of a pre-school at Benkelman Elementary, Junior High scheduling, and K-12 curriculum with regard to financial planning, enrollment numbers, and staffing needs. The committee will consist of Blecha, Stamm, Noffsinger, and Melchert. Lorens will act as an alternate. The committee will also solicit advice from administrators and staff as needed. Yes: Lorens, Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Blecha, Kerchal, and Krug. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Noffsinger seconded by Krug to approve the Secondary Principal contract for Phil Truax effective July 25, 2012. Yes: Lutz, Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Blecha, Kerchal, Krug, and Lorens. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Lutz seconded by Lorens to amend the 2011-2012 Budget as recommended by the Nebraska Department of Education to protect local control of unused budget authority. Yes: Melchert, Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Blecha, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, and Lutz. No: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed staffing for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion by Stamm and seconded by Melchert to adjourn at 7:14 P.M. Yes: Metzger, Noffsinger, Stamm, Blecha, Kerchal, Krug, Lorens, Lutz, and Melchert. No: None. Motion carried.

Sandy Noffsinger, Secretary