

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

The Dundy County Stratton Board of Education met in regular session on April 13, 2015 at the Dundy County Stratton High School. The following members were present: Brad Baney, Jason Frederick, Amy Haines, Kevin League, Kent Lorens, Mike Lutz, Sandy Noffsinger, and Shad Stamm. Also present were Principal Mike Rotherham, Principal Phil Truax, Superintendent Jim Kent, and recording secretary JoAnn Decker. Visitors were Dr. Mike Cuning from TRANE Inc., Elmer Case, Tally Case, Philip Boyd, Olivia Sis, Natalie Boyd, D. J. Hardwick, Gregg Loghry, Peter Boyd, June Boyd, Tish Burrell, Donna Hardwick, Loretta Raile, Susan Ladenburger, Kati Ladenburger, Julie Preston, Richie Gaskill, Amber Hubl, Joe Hubl, Amy Frederick, Michelle Smith, and Tim Smith. Board member Mike Blecha arrived late.

President Stamm called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

President Stamm 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.

During public items of discussion several patrons spoke up regarding the music program. Erin Perrigo stated that despite challenges to filling a .55 position it should be enough of a priority to think outside the box and fill the job. Elmer Case urged strong consideration for a replacement vocal teacher to fill the vacancy of Mrs. Hughes. The importance and influence of vocal music should not be under estimated. Mrs. Hughes has established a good vocal music program in the DCS school system. Let's make every effort to make a good program better by hiring a replacement. Kati Ladenburger spoke in support of hiring a second music teacher. She doesn't feel that the current band teacher can do his current job and take on the work that Mrs. Hughes is currently doing. She has 5 kids that will be going through the DCS School and having music is an important part of their education. Amy Frederick thanked the Board again for hiring Julie Shillington as the piano accompanist for the District and for letting her play for the kids at the Junior High music contest. She also spoke in support of the music program. Nicole Sis addressed the Board regarding re-hiring for Mrs. Hughes position and distributed materials to the Board and Administrators to view..

Board member Mike Blecha arrived at 6:17 P.M.

Motion by Noffsinger seconded by Frederick to approve the Consent Agenda items. Consent Agenda items included to verify that notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Benkelman Post, a legal newspaper for Dundy County Stratton Schools, and by written notice to each member of the board, the designated method of giving notice; approval of the agenda of the April 13, 2015 regular meeting; approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular meeting; and payment of bills. Yes: Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, and Baney. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by League seconded by Blecha to accept the low bid proposal from Rome Service in the amount of \$325,000 for the HVAC project at Benkelman Elementary. Yes: Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, and Blecha. None. Motion carried.

**The Board discussed instruction staffing, scheduling, tech support, and budgeting for the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Motion by Frederick seconded by League to approve the financial reports. Yes: Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, and Frederick. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Frederick seconded by Lutz to accept the proposal from Fisher Track in the amount of \$83,908 for the replacement of the track surface. Yes: League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, and Haines. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Lutz seconded by Lorens to accept the lowest best bid on lawn services for the summer 2015 from Extreme Green. Yes: Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, and League. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by League seconded by Blecha to accept the resignation of Amanda Benson, effective at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year and to thank her for her 2 years of service to the District. Yes: Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, and Lorens. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by League seconded by Haines to accept the resignation of Verla Martin, effective at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year and to thank her for her 21 years of service to the District. Yes: Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, and Lutz. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Noffsinger seconded by Haines to accept the resignation of Phil Truax effective June 15, 2015 and to thank him for his 3 years of service to the District. Yes: Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, and Noffsinger. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by League seconded by Blecha to offer the teaching contract to Paige Stute for the 2015-2016 school year and to honor her years of experience and graduate hours on the salary schedule. Yes: Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, and Stamm. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Haines seconded by Lorens to offer the teaching contract to Sadie Hunt for the 2015-2016 school year. Yes: Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, and Baney. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Noffsinger seconded by Baney to offer the teaching contract to Kale Schields for the 2015-2016 school year and to honor his years of experience and graduate hours on the salary schedule. Yes: Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, and Blecha. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve the Principal contract to Adam Fette for the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$80,000. The contract will be for 215 days and include the same insurance package as the teacher contracts. Yes: Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, and Frederick. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Blecha seconded by Haines to approve the board goals as presented. Yes: League, Lorens, Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, and Haines. No: None. Motion carried.**

**The Board discussed legal counsel update.**

**Motion by Lorens seconded by Baney to move school legal files to Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C. LLO. Yes: Lorens, Lutz, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, and League. No: Noffsinger and Haines. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Blecha seconded by League to purchase negotiations software from NETS. Yes: Lutz, Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, and Lorens. No: None. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Lorens seconded by Lutz to purchase e-meetings software from NETS. Yes: Noffsinger, Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, and Lutz. No: None. Motion carried.**

**The Board discussed teacher contract renewal. Under continuing contract law teacher and principals contracts automatically renew each year on April 15 unless they are notified by the board.**

**The District technology report was presented.**

**Principal Rotherham reported on parent teacher conference; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade quiz bowl; spring concert dates; kindergarten roundup; kindergarten graduation; state wide assessment update; preschool numbers, and Benkelman Elementary traffic issues. Principal Truax reported on graduation date; RPAC Instrumental Clinic; NSEA testing; winter sports banquet; and track and golf meets. He congratulated the Dundy County Stratton students for the team placing 1<sup>st</sup> at both the McCook and North Platte inter-high day. He also reported on how smoothly the track and golf meets run due to the support of the volunteers both from the school and surrounding communities. Superintendent Kent reported on summer maintenance projects; activity assignments; RTI training; and NRCSA and NASB elections.**

**The Board discussed the transportation report which included the monthly vehicle report, progress of building deer catchers for the coach buses, and new vehicle needs.**

**During board items of discussion Superintendent Jim Kent, Sandy Noffsinger, Mike Blecha, Amy Haines, and Jason Frederick reported on the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Conference.**

**The Board discussed Administrative negotiations.**

**Motion by Blecha seconded by Lutz to adjourn at 9:35 P.M. Yes: Stamm, Baney, Blecha, Frederick, Haines, League, Lorens, Lutz, and Noffsinger. No: None. Motion carried.**

---

**Sandy Noffsinger, Secretary**