President Scott opened the Committee on American Civics Hearing and Public Testimony, December 11, 2023 at 4:45 PM. Social Sciences teacher, Loren Wagner reviewed the social sciences classes he teaches and addressed the board with information about the American Citizenship test that he gives to students. There was no public comment. President Scott declared the hearing closed at 4:56 PM.

The Board of Education of the Hitchcock County Schools met December 11, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Present were board members Webb, O’Byrne, Scott, Hagan, and Kolbet. Also present were Superintendent Sattler, Principal Tines, Assistant Principal/School Counselor McCarter, L. Kisker, C. Rippen, N. Thiessen, L. Tines, and Peggy Fyn.

President Scott called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Notice of the board’s adherence to the Nebraska Open Meeting Law posted on the north wall of the meeting room was given. The meeting was properly advertised in the Hitchcock County News on Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Hagan to excuse Marks. Aye votes Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by O’Byrne to approve the December 2023 regular board meeting agenda as presented. Aye votes O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Scott; nay votes none.

President Scott welcomed all visitors. There were no comments.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by O’Byrne to approve the consent agenda as presented. Aye votes Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, and O’Byrne; nay votes none. The consent agenda consisted of the following: (1) Minutes of the November 2023 board meeting. (2) The Activity Fund. (3) The bill roster with general fund bills totaling $442,042.46 and lunch fund bills $26,618.40. (4) Other funds.

Linnette Kisker from Bentley & Kisker CPAs presented the board with the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit Report. Mrs. Kisker pointed out key points in the audit and answered all questions directed by the board members. Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Webb to accept the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit Report. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, O’Byrne, and Webb; nay votes none.

Moved by O’Byrne; seconded by Hagan to recognize the Hitchcock County Educators Association as the official bargaining unit for the 2025-2026 school year. Aye votes Kolbet, Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, and Hagan; nay votes none.

Moved by Webb; seconded by Kolbet to accept the resignation of Brandi Benson at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Aye votes Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Principal Tines presented board members with information he has been researching to begin the process of starting a daycare for Hitchcock County Schools. Mr. Tines presented needs and costs to the board. The board directed Superintendent Sattler to consult the school attorneys and insurance company; and to find the cost of plumbing and flooring. Mr. Tines is to look at the cost of storage containers; and furniture and equipment to stock a daycare. No action was taken but will be revisited at the January 2024 regular board meeting.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to give all school employees a $50.00 gift card to Walmart as a Christmas present. Aye votes O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Scott; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to move into executive session at 5:51 PM to discuss Superintendent Sattler’s evaluation. Aye votes Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, and O’Byrne; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Webb to move out of executive session at 6:03 PM. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, O’Byrne, and Webb; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Hagan to extend Superintendent Sattler’s employment contract by one year to the 2025-2026 school year. Aye votes Kolbet, Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, and Hagan; nay votes none. President Scott will meet with Superintendent Sattler at a later date to review the evaluation.

Superintendent Sattler informed the board members that Hitchcock County Schools is currently advertising for an elementary teacher, Ag teacher, and music teacher. Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to move into executive session to discuss personnel needs for the 2024-2025 school year at 6:06 PM. Aye votes Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, and O’Byrne; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to move out of executive session at 6:34 PM. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Scott, O’Byrne, and Webb; nay votes none. No action was taken.

Committee reports as follows: President Scott reported that the negotiations committee met with the Hitchcock County Educators Association committee prior to the regular board meeting. President Scott reported that both committees will be meeting again at the end of the week.

Principal Tines’ report as follows: (1) 11/14 – One Act performance for the elementary students. (2) 11/16 – Because of You dinner with Wyatt Gohl. (3) 11/21 One Act public performance. (4) 12/7 – Snowplow Naming presentation. Lydia Barth won the naming of one of the state snowplows. (5) 12/11 – High School Christmas Concert. (6) – 12/12 – Elementary Christmas Concert at 6:30 PM. (7) NSCAS winter testing is almost completed.

School Counselor/Assistant Principal McCarter’s report as follows: (1) 11/13 – FFA seniors visited Curtis. (2) 11/17 – the FFA students visited the Farm & Ranch Expo in McCook. (3) 11/21 – One Act Play community performance. (4) 12/11 – High School Christmas Program. (5) NSCAS math testing is complete. English will be completed this week.

Superintendent Sattler’s report as follows: (1) The junior and senior high students will make their IXL goal of 4000 points so the students will be dismissed for Christmas break on 12/20 at 12:45 PM. (2) The teachers will all meet at the high school on 12/21 for school improvement in the morning.

President Scott adjourned the meeting at 6:42 PM. The next board meeting will be held Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM. The agenda kept continuously current is available to the public for items of an emergency nature. The meeting is open to the public.

Craig Scott – President Casha O’Byrne – Secretary

General Fund bills

20/20 Technologies – contracted services 12,157.31

McCook Ace Hardware – grounds equip/supply 88.76

Aflac – payroll deductions 546.95

American Family Insurance Co – payroll deductions 2,301.91

Blue Cross Blue Shield – health insurance 57,463.08

Bosselman Energy – building/bus fuels 5,892.44

Community First Bank HSA – payroll deduction 50.00

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 53,823.73

Dans R Us – trash 186.40

Decker Equipment – building equipment 210.46

Diamond Vogel – shop supply 97.46

Eakes Office Solutions – custodial supply/copier usage 7,884.96

Ebsco Information Services – periodicals 481.26

Employee Benefit Fund – payroll deduction 389.90

ESU #15 – contracted services 26,350.93

ESU #16 – contracted services 197.75

Farmers Coop – building/bus fuels 4,322.48

Follett Content Solutions – library books 362.21

Frankly Music – music supply 134.00

Great Plains Communications – phone bills 783.00

HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursements 577.97

HCS Flex Plan – contributions 1,614.18

Credit Management Services – payroll deductions 286.24

Hometown Leasing – copiers 391.38

Hot Lunch fund – payroll deductions 2,071.10

Houghton Mifflin – textbooks 12,096.24

Ideal Linen – custodial supply 390.43

JW Pepper – music supply 127.49

Kohl’s Auto Parts – shop supply 123.35

KSB School Law – legal services 575.00

Legal Shield – payroll deductions 102.08

Medical Transport Solutions – payroll deductions 137.00

McCook Gazette – subscription 138.00

MCI – long distance 48.80

Mead Lumber – shop/custodial supplies 720.54

Matrix Trust Co – annuities 5,036.00

Midland Credit Management – payroll deductions 371.14

HCS Retirement Account – retirement 46,740.39

NE Department of Revenue – state taxes 7,659.72

Novus Glass – windshield repairs 130.00

NRCSA – conference registration 220.00

New York Life Ins Co – payroll deduction 103.36

Optum – FSA fees 220.00

Principal Life Ins Co – disability 1,076.75

Quill – office supply 302.97

Rippen Oil – fuel/parts/labor 3,965.10

Ruggles Truck & Trailer – bus services 678.00

Southwest Farm & Auto – bus supply 110.93

Southwest Public Power Dist – electric 1,408.69

Special Building fund – payroll deduction 220.00

TKO Pest Control – post control 200.00

Trails West – bus fuel 2,710.44

UniFirst Corp – custodial supply 106.37

Unitech – custodial supplies 327.50

US Bank – credit card 1,440.43

Village of Culbertson – water/sewage 716.30

Village of Trenton – utilities 3,582.70

Vision Service Plan – payroll deductions 395.76

David Wimer – reimbursement 90.24

Yandas Music – music supply 118.00

Payroll – net (gross - $255,368.97) 171,056.88

Lunch Fund bills

Cash Wa – food/supply/FFV 13,847.66

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 1,746.76

Gary’s Super Foods – food 216.54

HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursement 36.19

Credit Management Services – payroll deductions 581.06

Ideal Linen – kitchen supply 189.11

HCS Retirement Account – retirement 1,318.45

NE Department of Revenue – state taxes 175.32

US Foods – food/supply 2,054.53

Payroll – net (gross - $8,928.80) 6,452.78