The Board of Education of the Hitchcock County Schools met November 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Present were board members Webb, O’Byrne, Scott, Kolbet, Marks, and Hagan. Also present were Superintendent Sattler, Principal Tines, Assistant Principal/School Counselor McCarter, Assistant Principal Erickson, N. Thiessen, C. Rippen, and Peggy Fyn.

President Scott called the meeting to order at 6:07 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, November 9, 2023.

President Scott welcomed all visitors. Mrs. Rippen addressed the board.

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

Moved by Hagan; seconded by O’Byrne to approve the consent agenda as presented. Aye votes Marks, Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none. The consent agenda consisted of the following items: (1) Minutes of the October 2023 board meeting. (2) The Activity Fund. (3) The bill roster with general fund bill totaling $433,912.24 and lunch fund bills totaling $25,404.82. (4) Other funds.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Marks to accept the resignation of Ag teacher Brooke Shirley at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Aye votes Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Marks; nay votes none.

Mr. Sattler and Mrs. Erickson addressed the board about purchasing math curriculum for the 7th and 8th grade from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This curriculum matches the math curriculum already in place used by the elementary teachers. The cost of $12,096.24 covers six years of consumables and any training needed. Moved by Webb; seconded by Kolbet to approve the purchase of math curriculum for the 7th and 8th grade from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for $12,096.24. Aye votes O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, and Scott; nay votes none.

Superintendent Sattler visited with the board about the need for a daycare in the district. Mrs. Erickson has been visiting with schools who already have a daycare in the school. The board asked Mr. Sattler and Mrs. Erickson to do further research into the possibility. There was no action taken and this will be revisited at the December 2023 board meeting.

Superintendent Sattler and the board visited about the one-time signing bonus offered to new teachers. Hitchcock County Schools offers $6000 over a three year period. This is an average with most schools throughout Nebraska. No action was taken.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to move into executive session at 6:37 PM to discuss personnel needs for the 2024-2025 schools year. Aye votes Kolbet, Marks, Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, and Hagan; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Marks to move out of executive session at 6:52 PM. Aye votes Marks, Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to hire Teresa Osborne as a full time substitute teacher beginning on December 1, 2023 at the rate of $203.25 a day with health and dental insurance for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. Aye votes Scott; O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Marks; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Marks to hire Teresa Osborne as a 7-12 special education teacher for the 2024-2025 school year with a one-time signing bonus of $6,000.00. Aye votes Scott, O’Byrne, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Marks; nay votes none.

Committee report as follows: President Scott reported that the negotiations committee met with the teacher association representatives prior to the regular board meeting. Highlights are: move the activities director and assistant activities director to years of experience scale versus a fixed rate; increase sick day cap; a possibility to gift/share sick days to other staff; incorporate Article 3 from the teachers’ handbook into the negotiated agreement; add working in the negotiated agreement for subbing during planning periods; increase in base pay; and a longevity pay incentive. The two groups will meet again prior to the December regular board meeting.

Principal Tines’ report as follows: (1) 10/9 – Klooz Farms donated pumpkins for each student. A huge thank you to Klooz Farms! (2) 10/10 – Students got to interact with the Fire Safety House. Also students were involved with the “Polish Your Pearls” program. (3) 10/11 – Students attended the Kids Fitness Day in McCook. Also SWPHD guided students through handwashing stations. (4) 10/11 & 12 – Mr. Tines & Mrs. Bohochik attended the MTSS conference in Kearney. (5) 10/17 – students attended Arts Across America at the Fox Theater in McCook. (6) 10/19 – “Because of You with Maggie McKinley. Also ELA Alignment for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. (7) 10/26 – Atlases were given to the 5th grade students. (8) 10/29 – Elementary Trunk or Treat. (9) 10/31 – Elementary PBiS costume parade. Also completed the “Polish Your Pearls” program. (10) 11/9 – hosted JH wrestling tournament at the elementary. (11) 11/10 – Veterans Day Program. (12) 11/136 – The elementary quiz bowl team place 1st at the Maywood meet. (13) 11/14 – One Act performance to upper elementary students.

School Counselor/Assistant Principal McCarter’s report as follows: (1) 10/24 – MPCC rep registered seniors for seconded semester college classes – English Comp II (5), Psychology (5), Speech (6), Applied Calculus (1), and Biology/Bio Lay (1). There are two students on a waiting list. (2) 10/08 – ASVAB Interp. (3) 11/8 & 11/9 – Mrs. Englot and Ms. McCarter attended a Mental Health workshop in Lincoln. (4) 11/10 – Honor Society and Student Council members and Ms. Oberg put on the Veterans Day Program. It was an outstanding program with the band and choir performing and guest speaker was Peggy Fyn. She did an amazing job. (5) 11/13 – JH and SH Quiz Bowls.

Superintendent Sattler’s report as follows: (1) The AFR has been submitted and the auditor will attend the December 2023 board meeting. (2) Attended a Senators round table in North Platte. Good discussions! (3) AaQuest rating for the district is a 3 (great). (4) Would like to move the January 2024 board meeting to January 15th. (5) The Superintendent evaluations are due at the December 2023 regular board meeting.

President Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM. The next board meeting will be held Monday, December 11, 2023 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/parts 3,708.31

Ace Hardware McCook – building supply 81.11

Aflac – payroll deductions 546.95

American Family Ins Co – payroll deductions 2,301.91

Blick Art Materials – art supply 35.98

Blue Cross Blue Shield – health insurance 57,712.48

Bosselman Energy – bus/building fuels 3,588.72

Bracker’s Good Earth Clays – art supply/kiln 4,086.60

C&K Distributors – building supply 25.01

CEV Multimedia – Ag web-based software 1,500.00

Community First Bank HAS – payroll deduction 50.00

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 55,036.36

Crowne Plaza Kearney – MTSS lodging 839.70

Dans R Us – trash 186.40

Eakes Office Solutions – custodial supply 2,113.49

Ebsco Information Services – periodicals 137.86

Employee Benefit Fund – payroll deduction 389.90

ESU #15 – contracted services 26,350.93

ESU #16 – contracted services 213.63

Farmers Coop – bus/building fuels 3,792.09

Foundation for Educational Services – website hosting 1,900.00

Follett Content Solutions – library books 995.23

Great Plains Communications – phone bills 778.59

Hitchcock Co Educators Association – payroll deductions 400.00

HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursements 828.63

HCS Flex Plan – contributions 1,614.18

Heads Up Sprinkler – sprinkler winterization 483.00

Credit Management Services – payroll deduction 319.00

Holiday Inn Express Kearney – IC conference lodging 270.00

Hometown Leasing – copiers 391.38

Hot Lunch Fund – payroll deductions 2,567.50

Ideal Linen – custodial supply 323.95

Imperial Yost Farm Supply – grounds equipment repairs 454.62

J Distributing – classroom/grounds supply 169.06

Johnson Controls – services 3,373.43

K-C Motor & Electric – services 60.18

Kohl’s Auto Parts – shop supply 153.93

Legal Shield – payroll deductions 102.08

Maris General Constructions – repairs 420.00

Medical Transport Solutions – payroll deductions 137.00

MCI – long distance 48.84

Mead Lumber – classroom/custodial supply 366.05

Menards – shop supply 165.65

Matrix Trust Co – annuities 5,001.00

Mid-American Research Chemical – custodial supply 175.19

NE Department of Education – GOLD support 20.00

NE Association of School Boards – State Ed Conf 391.00

HCS Retirement Account – retirement 47,911.26

NE Safety Center – Level 2 class 125.00

NE Department of Revenue – state taxes 7,847.47

New York Life Ins Co – payroll deduction 103.36

Optum – FSA fees 150.00

OTC Brands – classroom supply 12.98

Principal Life Ins Co – disability 1,076.75

Quill Corp – office supply 96.25

Really Good Stuff – classroom supply 65.94

Rippen Oil – bus parts/labor/fuel 2,315.49

Scholastic Book Club – library books 268.68

School Specialty – classroom supply 228.62

Scoop Media – printing 141.87

7-D Lockshop – building supply 13.00

Southwest Public Power District – electric 1,655.39

Special Building fund – payroll deduction 220.00

Specially Designed Ed Services – teaching package 3,439.91

Teacher Innovations – subscription 162.00

TKO Pest Control – pest control 200.00

Trails West – fuel 3,312.20

Transportation Accessories – bus part 175.00

UniFirst Corporation – custodial supply 106.37

US Bank – credit card charges 891.56

Village of Culbertson – water/sewage 225.90

Village of Trenton – utilities 3,318.47

Vision Service Plan – payroll deductions 445.58

David Wimer – reimbursement 38.12

Yandas Music & Pro Audio – repairs/supplies 399.02

Payroll – net (gross - $261,183.23) 174,359.13

Lunch Fund bills

Cash-Wa Distributing – food/supply 10,890.46

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 1,985.64

Culligan of McCook – salt 140.00

Gary’s Super Foods – food 59.33

Hitchcock County Schools – payroll deduction 5.49

Credit Management Services – payroll deduction 346.35

Ideal Linen & Uniform – kitchen supply 255.59

HCS Retirement Account – retirement 1,469.33

NE Department of Revenue – state taxes 206.36

US Foods – food/supply 2,631.11

Payroll – net (gross - $9,930.34) 7,415.16