

A meeting of the Board of Education of Conestoga Public School in the County of Cass, in the State of Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 14, 2025 located at the Jr./Sr. High Media Center/Library, 8404 42nd Street, Murray, NE 60409.

Notice of the meeting, agenda and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting were given in advance to all members of the Board of Education and thereof by posting at the Elementary and High School offices and Statue 84-1407 to 84-1414 requires that the Open Meetings Act be posted in the meeting room. Vice President Kelley informed the board and the public that the Open Meetings Act is located in the meeting room.

Opening Procedures

Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call-Ahrens: Present, Kelley: Present, Page: Present, Priefert: Present, Stone: Present.

Comments from the Audience

Public comment regarding the TeamMates mentoring program. A new grant will help target students in grades 3-5 with interventions to help expand literacy. The goal is to serve 800 individuals and volunteer mentors are needed for our students.

Presentations: Tracey Priefert (Foundation) and Jeff Nieto (Soft Skills program)

Jeff Nieto-introduced the Softskills Program that was created to help to bridge the gap between education and employability. Softskills collects, records, and aggregates soft skill attributes, while focusing on leveraging strengths, career discovery and long-term assets.

Tracey Priefert-the Foundation reviewed and approved 3 grants submitted by some of our High School Teachers, and they intend to offer this opportunity at least once a year to help increase learning. There will be a new scholarship in honor of Allison Welch, called the Allison A. Welch Conestoga Educational Scholarship Fund, and there are plans to award this in the Spring with more details to come.

Consent Agenda

Board member Kelley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Page. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried. Minutes/Claims.

Discussion Items

DLR Group-DLR Group gave an overview of the site plan for our new building designs. Boyd Jones provided budget estimates and an update of the schedule to start construction. The next big step is the construction documents that will be available in early March, then they will start putting together bids to present to the Board. All plans and start dates shared are preliminary.

Admin Reports

Jr/Sr High Principal- Mr. Geise

Efforts continue to fill the Ag Teacher/FFA Sponsor position. Mr. Nieto will meet and educate our students regarding the Softskills program in the Spring, and we are very grateful for this opportunity. Our 6th Annual College/Career Day will be on 2/26/25. Working with Mr. Dennis on 6th Grade "Move Up Day."

Elementary Principal, Mr. Dennis

Discussed the focus of professional development, to include efforts to analyze data, and time for collaboration. Updates regarding the Daycare were provided and meetings to occur with ESU to help streamline Sixpence and Step Up to Quality.

Director of Student Services, Mr. Krause

Finishing observations to work alongside special education staff. Summarized meetings attended and those upcoming, such as the Legislative Assembly. ESU3 to host a Targeted Improvement Plan Writing Day, which will provide guidance and another to allow for opportunities for input on services and what is still needed for students in our district.

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Mrs. Stieren

Report submitted.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Mrs. Bergmeyer

Absent, report submitted.

Superintendent, Mr. Apple

NASB provided guidance on our board member opening and we are still in the planning stages. A notice is to be printed in the Nebraska City News Press, encouraging those interested in this opening to fill out an application on our website. Candidates may be interviewed at the board meeting in February. The HVAC project is nearing an end, and the Skylight will be worked on in the Summer. After receiving a letter, an individual was invited to speak regarding a proposed cell tower next month. Professional development opportunities at the Legislative Issues Conference on January 26-27th, the Board President Retreat on February 16-17th through NASB, and the Legislative Forum on February 20th through NRCSA.

Update to the Foundation committee: Tracey Priefert, Seth Ahrens, and Jeremy Stone. Discussions had surrounding a subcommittee and adding another board member if/when appropriate.

Action Items

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the nomination for President of Conestoga Public School for 2024.

Annual reorganization and elections for board officers: Greg Page was nominated and accepted the role as President. No other nominations were made and all those were in favor. Board member Kelley made a motion to approve the nomination for President of Conestoga Public School for 2024., seconded by Stone. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Abstain (With Conflict), Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1 Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary actions to approve the nomination for Vice President.

Candace Kelley was nominated and accepted the role as Vice President. Board member Priefert made a motion to approve the nomination for Vice President., seconded by Ahrens. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Abstain (With Conflict), Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1 Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the nomination for Treasurer.

Tracey Priefert was nominated and accepted the role as Treasurer. Board member Ahrens made a motion to approve the nomination for Treasurer., seconded by Stone. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Abstain (With Conflict), Stone: Yea, Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1 Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the nomination for Secretary. Jeremy Stone was nominated and accepted the role as Secretary. Board member Ahrens made a motion to approve the nomination for Secretary., seconded by Priefert. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Abstain (With Conflict) Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1. Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Federal Program representative, Michael Apple; Legal counsel, KSB; auditor, Dana Cole; newspaper of record, Nebraska City Newspress or OWH, bank depository, Cornerstone Bank and First State Bank.

Board member Priefert made a motion to approve the Federal Program representative, Michael Apple; Legal counsel, KSB; auditor, Dana Cole; newspaper of record, Nebraska City Newspress or OWH, bank depository, Cornerstone Bank and First State Bank., seconded by Stone. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to adopt the Board Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest.

Board member Ahrens made a motion to adopt the Board Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest., seconded by Kelley. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Board Committee assignments discussed for 2025.

Board member Ahrens made a motion to approve the Board Committee assignments discussed for 2025., seconded by Stone. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Superintendent's contract for 2026-2027.

Mr. Geise will be under a Principal contract for another year, followed by the Superintendent's contract, which will need to be renegotiated in the Fall. Board member Ahrens made a motion to approve the Superintendent's contract for 2026-2027, seconded by Stone. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried.

Upcoming Meetings

2/11/25 BOE Meeting

Adjourn

Board member Stone made a motion at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Kelley. Members voting aye: Ahrens: Yea, Kelley: Yea, Page: Yea, Priefert: Yea, Stone: Yea, Yea: 5, Nay: 0. Motion Carried.