

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Dr Scotty Van Worth.

Members present: Angella Dancer, Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck. Robert Spaulding and Gaylen Branton were not present. It was determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

Administration present: Scotty Van Worth, Tina Jeffreys, Parker Harless.

Bruce Roebuck opened the meeting with prayer. Angella Dancer called the meeting to order.

It was determined that the agenda for this meeting was posted in due time.

Bruce Roebuck moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for September 20, 2021. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board welcomed visitors: Angie Martin, Paula Massengale and her small grandson, and Brian Moore. Ms Massengale expressed concern that her grandson is not allowed to be dropped off by school bus at her home one and a half miles from the school. Ms Massengale is the primary guardian of the Pre-K student, who is too young to be left at the bus stop, and she works out of town. She brings him to school in the morning and only asks that he be allowed to come off the bus at her house, which is directly on the bus route. She does not ask for deviation from the route, only a stop in front of her house. Her heartfelt concern was taken into consideration. Dr Van Worth and the administration have agreed to look into a way to help her without recreating the current policies.

Dr Scotty Van Worth answered the Board's inquiries on the financial report. Then he reported on the current projects. The new air conditioning systems will be installed soon by Jason Carlile with Dave's Air. The architect has come but his report had not been returned by the time of the meeting. Dr Van Worth was able to feel confident that the report would be positive for the project as proposed, essentially that the roof would be able to support new roofing as planned. All air

conditioners 14 years old and older will be replaced, which will require 18 new units and three closets for the equipment.

This will be a large project, and the beginning phase of removal is ready to start, which will then be followed by the new roof work.

Dr Van Worth asked the Board for thoughts on erecting a privacy fence to conceal the HVAC equipment. Bruce Roebuck observed that security will be a factor to consider with the new units. The Board also addressed the need to be sure of student safety during construction. Water shed will then be a new consideration, and this will be part of a near-future project concerning drainage. Dr Van Worth said the money looks good to cover these needs.

A motion was made by Arlis Young and seconded by Angella Dancer to approve the general fund encumbrances 171-202 & 70065-70069 checks. Arlis Young—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

The administrators are actively working on several reports on the October schedule. They were glad to advise the Board that student Covid counts are much decreased.

In her Principal's Report, Tina Jeffreys presented the Summer School data collected by Choctaw Nation. The averages for the core participants (the upper 74 percentile being excluded in the data gathering) showed progression overall, as the pre-scores already showed that Soper students are hitting their benchmarks and post-test scores shows higher on standards. The primary target for the Summer School program are those students who are struggling, but Soper opened its program to all students during the 2021 summer. The report offered a lot of breakdown data which Ms Jeffreys and her staff of educators can utilize.

Choctaw Nation spent over \$52,000 on this program at Soper school, and Ms Jeffreys expressed gratitude for these efforts. She said the school will definitely want to continue to work with this program.

Pre-K through 6th grade were scheduled to go to the Pumpkin Festival in November, and a dairy cow was scheduled to visit as well.

High school principal Parker Harless reported that the following week would be Red Ribbon Week, which would include dress-up days and a door decorating contest. The winning door would have a pizza party.

Upcoming activities include the Book Fair, the Fall Festival, and the beginning of Basketball Season. Skeet shooting would be the week after this meeting. Mr Harless acknowledges the fun activities and extracurriculars as a viable way to make school memorable and fun while learning is incorporated. He lamented the loss of these activities last year due to the Covid-19 shutdowns and is grateful to have them available to students again.

He also said that free-and-reduced forms need to be turned in. Soper Schools have as many as 45 to 50 percent of students who qualify for these benefits, and this—in turn—brings thousands of dollars into the school district. Parents who are afraid of giving personal information need to understand that it is not being collected for any other reasons and that no one is going to share or use their information beyond these benefits.

Ms Jeffreys explained the state testing priority groups: needs such as disabilities and low socioeconomic status and racial minorities come into play when the scoring is set. Without those forms, the scoring requirements are raised and the student scores look lower. This effects funding. She gave appreciation to Mr Harless for discovering the need for the forms. The school loses a lot when the forms are not returned to be submitted. Dr Van Worth commended Mr Harless for taking the time to discover the way this collection of information benefits the district. The bottom line is that the free-and-reduced program brings more funding to the school.

Arlis Young moved to approve the adjunct teachers' contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. Adjunct teachers are certified teachers but are teaching outside their primary fields of study. They have a few hours of study in these subjects, but their degrees are in other subjects. Those on staff have done well in proving their qualifications for their respective subjects. They include Sunya Dixon in Chemistry, Morgan Taylor in Trigonometry and Calculus, LaRita Pettyjohn in Math, and Colby Moffatt in Physical Science. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

A motion was made by Angella Dancer to approve the 2022-2023 Soper Board of Education meeting place, dates, and times as proposed by Dr Van Worth. Dr Van Worth set the new schedule according to the previous one: Monday at 7 p.m., most of the time falling on the 3rd Monday of each month. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board discussed the Annual Election Resolution, Legal Notice, and Press Release calling for an election to be submitted to voters of the district for upcoming Board positions. Simple disclosures will be filed. Arlis Young made the motion to approve; Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Dr Van Worth presented the updated Indian Education Policy. Nothing has changed from last year, but an approval to adopt it is required each year so that the District can employ Tammy Gravitt as the Federal Projects Director within the Johnson O'Malley Program. Bruce Roebuck made a motion to approve the policy, and it was seconded by Arlis Young. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Dr Van Worth addressed the Board concerning a Covid-19 Sick Day Policy for 2021-2022. He said that the school year began with the hope and belief that Covid was over and no sick days had been allotted specifically for that purpose. Now, state policy is amended so that the District can decide how it wants to proceed. Some teachers have been concerned with the hardship this illness might bring on them if they are forced to be away from work if, for instance, their day cares are shut down for quarantine or other such reasons specifically because of Covid. This would mean that Covid-related illness can be handled without using regular sick leave—if Covid reasons can be proven.

The Board agreed that Covid can make things extra-hard with its unique issues, but it also agreed that exact stipulations need to be in place. Angella Dancer suggested that a real first-hand exposure should be required for self-quarantine. Bruce Roebuck agreed that the Board wants to make things less difficult for the teachers but that the requirements to use this specific pay must be clear. He moved to allow 8 days for Covid-19 Sick Days with proof of positive test or direct exposure. Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Arlis Young moved to approve the Activity Fund transfer. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye. On this note, it was reported that the Little Kid Ballgame had been a great success. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun and around \$2500 was brought in.

There were no purchase requests and no new business to discuss.

Arlis Young made a motion to adjourn. Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Meeting adjourned.

Bruce Roebuck
Angella Dancer
Arlis Young

