

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 21, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Angella Dancer and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members present: Robert Spaulding, Gaylen Branton, Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck, Angella Dancer.

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

It was determined that the agenda for this meeting was posted in due time, and Arlis Young moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the Soper School Board for January 2022. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

The Board welcomed visitor Angela Martin. Ms Martin offered no comments or questions.

Dr Van Worth then welcomed Michael Kemper of Jenkins & Kemper, Certified Public Accountants, P.C., via speaker phone, as he addressed the Board about last year's audit report. The report was favorable. The determination on the basis of accounting was "the best opinion you can get." There was no disagreement with management.

The Auditor's Results summary listed nine items related to the Federal programs for observation but listed no particular material findings for the year. No issues or discrepancies. The management letter included a few material observations to offer areas for improvement, but no major issues to consider. Dr Van Worth clarified a coding question for monies. The Board accepted the audit by signature.

After the audit call was ended, Dr Scottie Van Worth gave his Superintendent's Report in which he presented the calendar for the 2022-2023 Soper School Year as previously discussed. He informed the Board that he has heard from other school districts in the area and most are following the same or a similar plan.

The school year will begin on August 5, 2022, a Friday. Dr Van Worth's intention for beginning on a Friday is that students can receive books and go over rules while acclimating to the new year and then start Monday morning ready to work. This has shown to be a good plan for getting first-day jitters out of the way so that focus can be on classroom studies from the beginning of the first full week. The new calendar accomplishes enough days for State requirements and includes five professional development days and two parent/teacher conference days.

School will be in session for five days of each week until January and then will go to four days per week. With the parent/teacher days and the professional development days, there will be 158 instructional days accomplished, altogether meeting the 165-day school year requirements. Also, this structure has the students under more intense instruction before testing dates while also allowing fewer hours per day. An informal survey of teachers indicates that most are fully supportive of the calendar.

In financial business, Dr Van Worth reported that the district had recently received some funds adding to the good health of the building fund. Since there is no industry in the Soper School District area, it is able to receive additional funding to balance its educational abilities with those districts where industry brings additional revenue. Dr Van Worth is looking into details to see how quickly the building funds need to be spent or if there might be opportunity to save some for future needs.

He was able to report that the bank account is very healthy and that finances look better than the current Board and Administration have seen in any recent years. His intention is to be vigilant in protecting those funds and to keep the finances strong for the good of the District.

The Administration has set aside ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds to hire another elementary teacher for next year, funds that will pay for that teacher for three years.

Bruce Roebuck inquired to the schedule for the roof work to which Dr Van Worth reported that some work in preparation for the roof work is in progress, although the actual roof construction is expected for the summer. There are expected to be enough funds for some landscaping projects around the new cafeteria building as well.

A bus driver position is coming available, as well as one cafeteria worker position. Getting a CDL driver for the larger buses at the rates available has been difficult, so one option would be to downsize to smaller buses since CDLs would not be required.

Dr Van Worth was happy to announce that Soper now has a baseball team.

In other business, Bruce Roebuck moved to approve the SEES/OKTLE (Oklahoma Teacher Leadership Effectiveness) contract, which certifies the principals and superintendent. Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

A motion was made by Arlis Young and seconded by Robert Spaulding to approve the general fund encumbrances and checks 279-307 & 70120. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

Tina Jeffreys offered the report for the Elementary School. Grades 4, 5, and 6 have been in competition for privileges. Points are gained by behavior, grades, reading, etc. The class with the most points get to vote on a privilege. The 4th graders are leading so far, and they chose to

skip a class and eat ice cream. They are also in the lead to have a movie day. The 5th-grade class is coming in second at this time.

The idea is to motivate good behavior and extra efforts in the classroom. The 3rd nine weeks plan is to go to Durant to a gaming place.

The K-4 grades are approved for Summer School. Because of ESSER funds, the 5th and 6th grades will also be able to participate. This is to help students who have struggled because of classroom time lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

Parker Harless reported on Grades 7-12 and stated that he hopes to be able to offer Credit Recovery or Tutoring for the summer schedule. A few students have shown an interest in this extra help. Mr Harless proposes paying one teacher a stipend to work this summer program for six weeks for about three hours per day using ESSER funds. Any student participating in this program will be required to attend every day. Math and Reading would be the focus to reach the most students with needs. Mr Harless has asked the Board to consider this proposal for a future agenda.

Looking at Week 8 of the third nine weeks, March 1 begins several activities, and testing gets underway in April.

Two of the students who have been in trouble have been invited back to regular school for a second chance during the last nine weeks of the school year.

Some kind of banquet will be planned for the athletes around the 1st of May. There will be food, a slide show, etc.

Arlis Young moved to go into executive session to discuss the contracts of certified and non-certified staff for the 2022-2023 school year: 25 O.S. Sec 307 (B) (1). Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Bruce Roebuck made motion to return to open session. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

In executive session, the contracts of certified and non-certified staff were discussed.

Following the ongoing discussion of the 2022-2023 calendar, Robert Spaulding moved to approve the calendar. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

There was no new business and no new purchase requests.

Gaylen Branton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Meeting adjourned.

Arlis Young
Gaylen Branton
Robert Spaulding