

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Monday, December 13, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting opened with prayer by Bruce Roebuck and was called to order by Angella Dancer.

*Members present: Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck, Angella Dancer.*

*Administration present: Scotty Van Worth, Parker Harless.*

It was determined that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Bruce Roebuck and seconded by Angella Dancer to acknowledge that the agenda for this meeting was posted in due time and to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for November 15, 2021. Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

There were no visitors present at this meeting.

Dr Scotty Van Worth began his report with an explanation of the plan for next year's school calendar. He explained that he will present a hybrid calendar for the Board's consideration, meaning that the first semester will include five-day weeks, each day ending at 3 p.m. After the first semester, enough requirements will be met so that the district can possibly revert back to the four-day weeks.

Arlis Young suggested that the district stay with the five-day weeks once they are begun. Angella Dancer expressed concern for those relying on daycare services, because changing things can make scheduling difficult for those parents. However, since 21 days are being added to the school year, utilizing those days in the 18 weeks before testing means that starting out with the five-day weeks makes sense.

When asked what the teaching staff prefers, Principal Parker Harless acknowledged that the teachers do like the four-day weeks, but they also understand that by not utilizing the five-day weeks means that the school year will be longer. They also appreciate that the five-day weeks will allow a 3 p.m. dismissal. They are agreeable to the change-over in the second semester.

Dr Van Worth is working on a mock calendar which will meet all requirements: 1080 educational hours within a minimum of 165 days. He has verified the scenario with the accreditation officer. He plans to email the mock calendar to the Board for further discussion. The administration wants to get approval on the calendar soon so that they can begin planning the next school year. Arlis Young says that he believes in the five-day week, but the State Board did not mandate it as everyone had previously expected.

Dr Van Worth then turned the discussion to the recent issues with Covid-19 cases in the District. A teacher, the elementary Principal, and several students became ill in the

previous week after having no reported cases for a while. Since this was only a few days before Christmas break, the administration felt that dismissing school until after the holidays would create a beneficial separation that would hopefully quell the spread of the virus before family gatherings begin. The long-term intent was to allow the virus to subside within the student body as well as the faculty.

At the time of the meeting, the district was in a position to not be required to institute make-up days. The Board was satisfied with the Administration's decision. Parental feedback had been positive as well.

The High School was not severely affected by that outbreak.

Dr Van Worth advised that State Aid money had not all been collected at the time of the meeting but said that the money is coming and that this has been the best December for finances in about a decade.

Arlis Young moved to approve the encumbrances and checks for the General Fund Purchase Orders 235-259 & 70118 and Building Fund Purchase Orders 1-2. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

Parker Harless then offered the Principal's report for the High School, acknowledging that several of the students would be enjoying exemptions during the week, a reward many look forward to.

On a less pleasant note, Mr Harless also presented several vaping devices which had been confiscated from students in the previous few days. He informed the Board that this has become a real problem throughout the high school. The issues were handled with suspensions of Soper District students and revocation of transfer privileges for two transfer students from another district. As repeat offenders, this was determined by administration to be the best solution for all. Mr Harless added that parents were brought into conference on these incidents, as is always the policy.

First-semester observations had been completed at the time of the Board meeting.

The Board then continued a discussion of the updated Transfer Policy. Essentially, the District cannot deny a student's request to transfer to another school, but the student must be accepted by another school in order to leave. The District can limit its intake of transfer students by setting capacity by grade levels. Dr Van Worth pointed out that, while a capacity must be set, the chosen numbers can be reset if necessary.

A student from another district can be denied entry to Soper if he/she has been a discipline problem in another school district. If a student is accepted but proves to be a discipline problem for Soper School District, he/she can be denied for the following year. A denial can be appealed through a written process.

Dr Van Worth advised the Board that open transfer is a less cumbersome option and suggested setting the initial capacities at 25, noting that capacity, discipline, and absenteeism can be reasons for denial. These guidelines were to be published on the District's website by January 15, 2022.

Arlis Young made the motion to approve the updated transfer policy, and Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye.


Angella Dancer moved to accept the letter of resignation of a cafeteria employee who decided not to return to work after maternity leave. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Arlis Young—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.


This left the need to replace the employee, so Bruce Roebuck made a motion to approve hiring for the open position in the cafeteria staff. Arlis Young seconded that motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

There were no purchase requests and no new business.

Arlis Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye.

Meeting adjourned.

  
Arlis Young

  
Bruce Roebuck

  
Angella Dancer