

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 22, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Angella Dancer.

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.

Motion was made by Bruce Roebuck and seconded by Angella Dancer to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for January 25, 2021. Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

One visitor was present, Brian Moore, but he did not address the board.

Dr. Scotty Van Worth offered the Superintendent's report, from which he announced that the move-in date for the new cafeteria building is planned for March, targeting the Spring Break week for the actual transition work. He invited the school board members to a walk-through with the architect upon completion.

Dr. Van Worth was able to report that the school facilities sustained no damage from the recent snow storm and freeze hazards.

In other business, Dr. Van Worth reported that Soper will extend the four-day school week for the 2021-2022 school year, which will probably be the last year to do so before returning to a five-day school week.

Dr. Van Worth reported that tax money for the school has been coming in and that bills can be paid on schedule.

A motion was made by Gaylen Branton and seconded by Robert Spaulding to approve the general fund encumbrances 225-241 & 70120 and checks. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

Tina Jeffreys, in her Principal's Report, said that the elementary teachers were excited to be working from the basics of phonics to get the students back on level in reading skills. She reported that the environment seems more relaxed and that, even though everyone is behind schedule from being out recently, the kids and staff alike are glad to be back together to learn and share their school days.

Angella Dancer asked if the school might be able to partner with Choctaw Nation or other programs to encourage reading during the upcoming summer break. Dr. Van Worth said that plans are being made to participate in Choctaw Nation's POSSE Program and that Ms. Jeffreys is looking for other possible programs as well.

Parker Harless began his Principal's Report by thanking Ms. Jeffreys and Dr. Van Worth for unwavering support in keeping everything working smoothly during his recent absences. He then reported that efforts are being made to get back to normal for spring activities this year: sports, prom, etc. Prom is scheduled for April 9 and is to take place in the new cafeteria building. The baseball team is also being formed.

Mr. Harless also reported that distance learners as a whole are struggling, and so letters have been sent to inform students and parents that they need to return to in-school learning so that they will be more able to pass this school year. Distance learning has not been as successful for the majority as was hoped. Mr. Harless stated that, even though he is not happy with the results, everyone is currently making the best of the situation and plans to regroup and come back in August with renewed enthusiasm to embark on a back-to-normal school year.

Dr. Van Worth agreed with Mr. Harless's assessment and stated that, come August, his intention is to "put this in our rearview mirror," with the hope that the COVID-19 upheaval will be a thing of the past and students and staff will be able to return to normal.

In other business, Robert Spaulding moved to approve an agreement for legal services with Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold, Attorneys at Law. This is not a retainer association, meaning there are no charges to the school district unless a call is made for advice or services. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Bruce Roebuck moved to approve the contract with Jenkins & Kemper, Certified Public Accountants, P.C., for auditing of Soper Public Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

A motion was made by Robert Spaulding and seconded by Angella Dancer to approve the contract with SEES TLE (Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness) for teacher and administration evaluation. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Gaylen Branton moved to approve the contract with Miller Office Equipment. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

There were no purchase requests and no new business presented.

A motion was made to adjourn by Gaylen Branton, and it was seconded by Arlis Young. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

After adjournment, the board members and administrators enjoyed a brief tour of the new cafeteria building.

Bruce Roebuck
Angella Dancer
Gaylen Branton
Robert Spaulding
Arlis Young