

SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, July 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.

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

Members present: Robert Spaulding, Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck, Angella Dancer. It was determined there were enough members present for a quorum. Gaylen Branton joined the meeting a few minutes afterward.

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

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

The members agreed to postpone the decision of whether or not to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for May 24, 2021, until next meeting, as copies were not available. A motion was made by Robert Spaulding and seconded by Bruce Roebuck to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for June 21, 2021. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye. Angella Dancer abstained because she had not been present at the June meeting to determine accuracy. The motion carried.

The Board welcomed Jerrod Lundry, Campus Director of Kiamichi Tech, Hugo, who presented the Partner School Service Report and gave an overview of the advantages of sending Soper students to Tech for training. During the 2020-2021 school year, 10 Soper High School students were served by Kiamichi Tech, ranging in a variety of training, three of whom benefited from Kiamichi's academic courses. Kiamichi offers algebra, geometry, and chemistry classes for students of their training courses in order to help them to meet those academic requirements so that students are not stressed with being present on the Soper campus while rushing to the Tech campus for classes. These classes will be the same as those offered on campus but will allow students to gain credits toward their Tech requirements as well. Currently, these courses are aimed at the junior and senior level students, but there is hope that, in the future, Kiamichi Tech will also offer courses to sophomores, particularly for the pre-engineering students.

Graduates of partner schools, such as Soper, are able to attend Kiamichi Tech for up to two years tuition-free, with the exception of the nursing program, which does require a few necessary costs. This opens up more opportunity to local students who are career-minded. Soper and Kiamichi have enjoyed a successful relationship for several years, and students will be encouraged to continue to take advantage of this opportunity.

After Mr Lundry's departure, the Board also welcomed Mrs Gilbert to the meeting. She stated that she simply wanted to visit the Board to become more informed as a parent of Soper students. She was open to listening to discussions of recent concerns and future plans for programs that would affect her children, as well as all children who depend on this school.

Dr Scotty Van Worth then offered the Superintendent's report in which he explained the health of the budget and Federal funds that are being awaited. The Impact monies are also being awaited, but Dr Van Worth is confident that all submissions have met requirements. The building fund still retains money, and money is available to pay off the bond.

Ad valorem money will be coming in later in the year as well. As State aid only comes in for 11 months of the year, July will not see State money. Federal funds and other funds are listed on the budget as projected encumbered for anticipated needs based on past need. Open purchase orders are not yet spent.

Dr Van Worth looks forward to the coming school year with a plan to give the teachers as much autonomy as possible so that they can teach by their own personally most effective methods. The big hope and expectation is to be able to have students in classrooms this year; no distance learning is intended.

Dr Van Worth reported that he and Bruce Roebuck attended the recent alumni meeting and appreciated the opportunity to speak to the community about the activities and plans for the school. He also stated that this is expected to be the last year of the 4-day school week, as the 5-day week is expected to be mandated in the following school year.

Arlis Young moved to approve the encumbrances and checks for General Fund POs 1-84 & 70001-70013 and the Sinking Fund PO 1. Gaylen Branton seconded

the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Principal Tina Jeffreys reported on the elementary school status. Data from Summer School was still being analyzed at the time of this meeting, but she plans to have a completed report in time for the August meeting. As many as 97-98 students had been enrolled, with few drop-outs, and feedback from teachers, students, and parents was largely positive.

Mrs Jeffreys reported that third-grade teacher Erin Shufeldt has resigned, leaving a vital position open for the upcoming school year. She had two applicants and planned to interview one who is certified and experienced in the coming week with authority granted by the Board to hire if it turns out to be the right fit. All agreed that Ms Shufeldt would be missed and had served Soper well.

Principal Parker Harless reported that the high school is in need of an English teacher, as Amanda Cripe resigned shortly after the June Board meeting. He had interviewed Cheyenne Franks earlier in the day and felt that she would be a good fit for the position. Ms Franks has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and is willing to work toward an emergency certification.

Mr Harless also reported that he and Coach Cartwright had discussed the recent lapse in enthusiasm and other concerns with the ball teams and expects things to improve for everyone. Coach Cartwright has been working on the ball field, and Mr Harless says that it is looking good. So far, seven team members have shown for practice, although one is injured and will not be able to play until September. Another might also be coming in to join them. The coach plans to continue practicing with the high school team until August 12, at which time they will know if there will be enough players to make a team. Nine is the required number, so this might not be determined until the last minute.

However, there is hope that the upcoming junior high team will be strong, and so Mr Harless is thinking of the future of the program and plans to put a lot of emphasis on these players. He wants to put them in uniforms and let them participate in as many pick-up games as possible and to learn from the senior high team members.

Coach Cartwright is on board with the plan and is showing a renewed enthusiasm for the program. Mr Harless stressed to the Board and the parent who was present that Coach Cartwright is truly a skilled coach and that he should be able to accomplish a lot for the upcoming team within the next two years before his intended retirement. Mr Harless said that the conversation between himself and Coach Cartwright was very productive and that he has high hopes for the next couple of years.

At this point, Mrs Gilbert addressed the board with her concerns about the recent situation with the ball team and her own son's poor attitude as a result. She suggested that the older boys and parents could be available to help the upcoming junior team as they grow, in the event that the coach might need to step aside. While Mr Harless agrees that the support will be welcome, he reiterated that he does truly believe in Coach Cartwright reassured Mrs Gilbert that her son is in a great position to succeed under this coach.

Mr Harless is also thinking of basketball and is hopeful there will be enough boys to make a team. The girls' team will potentially have 12 to 14 players, mostly younger girls.

Mr Harless took a moment to brag on Mr Colby Moffatt for how good the campus is looking and to say that the teachers are ready to start work on August 4. Students are to begin classes on August 12.

In other business, Dr Van Worth presented the Soper Student Handbook, 2021-2022, for approval with no changes other than applicable dates. Angella Dancer moved to approve the handbook. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

Robert Spaulding moved to approve the hiring of two teachers for the 2021-2022 school year to replace the two who have resigned, in agreement with Dr Van Worth's recommendation to hire Cheyenne Franks for the high school English teacher position and to allow Mrs Jeffreys to hire an elementary teacher. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

Gaylen Branton made a motion to transfer activity funds to the accounts for the benefit of the students who have earned them. The 8th-grade funds will be transferred to the new 9th-graders' account in the amount of \$213.73. The 9th-grade funds will transfer to the new 10th-graders' account in the amount of \$213.72. The 10th-grade funds will transfer to the new 11th-graders' account in the amount of \$284.69. The 11th-grade funds will transfer to the new 12th-graders' account in the amount of \$1,176.89. Bruce Roebuck seconded this motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Angella Dancer moved to approve the OSAG contract, which is the worker's compensation contract. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

Bruce Roebuck moved to approve the InterQuest contract, which is the contract for random drug testing and the use of the drug dog. Mr Harless recommended this approval, stating that it poses an effective deterrent to drug activity on campus. Robert Spaulding seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board was then asked to approve the bids for use of the ESSER funds (monies coming from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund), which will cover the new air conditioning installation, the roof work, the new activities bus, and the other previously discussed upgrades. The bids recommended for acceptance include Midwest Bus Sales for the activities bus, Miller Built for the roof work, and Dave's Air for the HVAC systems. The concern with the bids is that materials costs are climbing rapidly, and so there could be adjustments to the bids by no fault of the bidders. After approval from the State Department, an architect will be called in to make sure the building can withstand the weight of the improvements. Immediately thereafter, with the Board's approval, the materials will be secured before pricing goes up.

Angella Dancer made the motion to approve the bids. The motion was seconded by Gaylen Branton. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye.

The payroll dates were presented: August 26 for the first payroll for the 2021-2022 school year, followed by approximately the 15th of each month following. Gaylen Branton moved to approve these dates. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board was then asked to approve the Elementary Retention and Promotion Policy Amendment. Mrs Jeffreys explained that this policy was approved a while back but that it is necessary to add the mid-year promotion of retained 3rd-graders amendment. She used language from the State law in order to bring the policy into compliance. This amendment, as Mrs Jeffreys explained, is a necessary addition. Arlis Young made the motion to approve the amendment, and Gaylen Branton seconded it. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board for approval, which consists of discussion, consideration, and approval of fundraiser items. These are the same fundraiser activities from past years, although some have not been accessed or haven't been available in recent school years. These items include the following:

- FFA Shop Projects
- FFA Rodeo
- FFA Rodeo Program Ad Sales
- FFA Rodeo Queen Contest
- Blue and Gold Sausage and Other Sales
- Donkey Ballgame
- Candy, Jewelry, Candle, Donut, Pizza, and other Sales
- T-shirt and Jacket Sales
- Fireworks Sales
- Yearbook Ad Sales
- Favorite Picture Sales for Yearbook
- Halloween Festival
- Elementary Basketball Game
- Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball, and Gold Fundraiser Games
- Meals by Ball Teams or Other Organizations
- Valentine Fundraiser

- School Dance
- Car Wash
- Top Shoot
- Chances
- Other fundraisers as approved by Superintendent on as-needed or emergency bases.

Arlis Young moved to approve the consent of this fundraiser agenda. The motion was seconded by Gaylen Branton. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye.

There were no further purchase requests and no new business.

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

