

SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2022
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Angella Dancer, and Bruce Roebuck opened the meeting with prayer. It was determined that a quorum was present.

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

Administration present: Scotty Van Worth, Parker Harless.

Arlis Young moved to approve the minutes of the April 2022 Soper School Board Meeting and to determine that the agenda had been posted in due time. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Visitor Angela Martin was welcomed by all.

Dr. Scotty Van Worth offered the Superintendent's report, at which time he updated the situation with the school vehicle which threw a rod as Mrs Tina Jeffreys was taking students on a school trip. The Ford Flex was under warranty, but there are currently no motors available to repair. The school has been offered a \$13k trade value, but that will require another \$13k to get a new car. Dr Van Worth is still discussing this with the Ford dealership, expressing that the car only had 26k miles. He is looking at all angles of getting a vehicle and still looking out for the school's best interests.

Dr Van Worth likes the idea of having a small passenger bus for activities and said that can be purchased with ESSER money after other projects are complete. He has been submitting grant documents. He strives to bring in at least enough grant monies to supplant his own salary each year.

Next, Dr Van Worth reported that the banquets and other events to end the school season all went well. Graduation was a successful event, and the gymnasium is booked for a wedding between a cheerleader and a basketball player.

Dr Van Worth showed that the finances are looking better than ever for May. He pointed out that 2012 was the closest year to ever reaching this success. With \$4k

hitting the bank the following day, even after a big payroll month, the accounts look very healthy.

Summer School is coming up, but Choctaw Nation pays for the regular funding for that. Also, local money comes in during the month of June. State funds, Federal monies, Ad valorem and local taxes are all coming in.

As Dave's Air places each new HVAC system, they turn in invoices, so the payments are being steadily made for that project. The metal roof project needs Board approval to begin, which is a reason the Regular Board Meeting had to be moved up this month. Official approval for the expenditure is required for compliance, although this is the work already discussed and planned for.

After all is done, assessment will be done to divert rain run-off since the structure will be different from before.

The student accounts look good for starting the new year.

Bruce Roebuck made a motion to approve the general fund encumbrances and checks 367-399 & 70121. Robert Spaulding seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Although Mrs Tina Jeffreys was not able to attend the meeting, she asked that administration relay to the Board that around 80 students were currently enrolled for Summer School. The POSSE Program through Choctaw Nation supports K-4 classes, and ESSER funds will handle Pre-K, 5th, and 6th grades. Applications are in for a teacher and an aide. Summer School was scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 18.

Mr Parker Harless also reported that the end of year has gone as smoothly as ever and that administration is working on reports that will be completed in June.

Bruce Roebuck asked about Bethany Smith, the teacher who is leaving to take a contract with Hugo Schools. She will be able to increase her salary with this move and will be able to utilize her master's degree, so the Board and administration wish her well. Mr Harless acknowledged that she is leaving on good terms with Soper Schools and that a new Special Education teacher will be needed. At the time of the meeting, there were two applicants to consider.

The Board was asked to approve or disapprove the contracting services for speech pathology with Moyers Public Schools, Eagletown Public Schools, and Ft. Towson Public Schools. Soper, as the base school, pays the contract and sends the speech pathologist to the other schools. In turn, the other schools share the costs of Soper having a speech pathologist on staff. Angella Dancer moved to approve this contract. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Arlis Young moved to approve using hours in place of days to calculate the 2022-2023 school year, totaling 1080 hours as previously discussed. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Arlis Young also moved to approve the contract for services with OSSBA (legal services) and WPS (technology services). Robert Spaulding seconded this motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Next on the agenda was the resignation letter of Bethany Smith, Special Education teacher who has accepted a position with Hugo Schools. Dr Van Worth read the letter aloud. Robert Spaulding made the motion to approve the letter, and Angella Dancer seconded it. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, and Angella Dancer—Aye.

This item led to the discussion of the need to hire a math teacher and a Special Education teacher. Brandon Debo will primarily be hired as a math teacher but will assist Coach Cartwright, later assuming the role as head coach after Coach Cartwright retires. Coach Cartwright has been given the courtesy of a discussion of this idea and seems to agree.

Angella Dancer moved to go into executive session to discuss hiring Brandon Debo and a Special Education teacher and to discuss salaries for these new hires. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

After the discussion, Arlis Young moved to return to open session, and Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Upon returning to open session, Robert Spaulding made the motion to approve the hiring of Brandon Debo as math teacher and assistant coach and grant permission to interview Special Education teacher candidates. Angella Dancer seconded the motion. Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Robert Spaulding—Aye.

Dr Van Worth then presented the need for a new phone system, as the current system is over 15 years old and badly outdated. There are a lot of aspects to an update, and bids have been coming in, each being very different in details offered. The offerings vary greatly, but Dr Van Worth likes the package offered by WPS, the company which already handles the school's technology equipment and services. ESSER money can go into this project, and Dr Van Worth believes this would be the best choice for both safety and communications needs.

Robert Spaulding moved to approve WPS to provide the new telephone system. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board resumed its discussion of a pay increase for the support staff. As requested, Dr Van Worth created a report to show the Board the cost of increasing all support staff by different amounts per hour: 15, 20, or 25 cents. With the increase in days for the upcoming school year, support personnel will be seeing an increase in pay simply because they will be logging more hours. Dr Van worth suggests that all support staff be given a small hourly raise per year, capping the wage at \$15 per year, to be approved annually if the budget allows. This will not include the administrative office support staff.

Arlis Young suggested that the increase begin at 25 cents per hour, to which Bruce Roebuck voiced agreement to the raise and to re-evaluating each year. Arlis made the motion to approve the raises, and Robert Spaulding seconded the motion. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck--Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Dr Van Worth then opened a discussion about Apptegy, a web page and communications company which has offered an app so that administration can send out communications in a more streamlined manner. The cost would be an additional \$3K per year and would include call, text, web page, and social media.

Parents and staff could download the app to stay more efficiently updated on all news and announcements.

Dr Van Worth said that he likes this option but that it isn't a requirement at this time and wondered if enough people would want to use the app to make it a feasible expenditure. He pointed out that communication is an area where people would like to see improvement. He said that this system is a lot better, but his question is, is it three thousand dollars better?

The company is willing to bring a presentation if requested. The Board didn't have an extreme interest in it at this time but are willing to hear more if it would benefit the administration team. No action was taken at that time.

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

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

Meeting was adjourned.

