

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 21, 2020

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met in the Peace Garden Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, Tuesday, January 21, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Duchscherer at 1:01 PM. The following State Board members were in attendance for the meeting:

Dr. Brian Duchscherer

Ms. Sonia Meehl

Mr. Jeff Fastnacht

Mr. Josh Johnson

Ms. Maria Effertz Hanson

Absent: Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Dr. Steve Holen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fastnacht moved that the minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting be approved. Ms. Effertz Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REA AUDIT REPORT – NCEC

NCEC – Debby Marshall presented the 2017-18 audit for the NCEC. Ms. Marshall discussed several challenges that the REA has encountered with the process of the getting the audit completed and outlined how any irregularities have been and will be handled.

A motion was made by Ms. Meehl to approve the audit report from the NCEC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson. A voice vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY – DEB KEMP & JODI JOHNSON

Deb Kemp addressed the Board regarding inquiries she's gotten about the process for Voluntary Transfer of Property to a School District. Jodi Johnson addressed the Board outlining several scenarios where she felt that Voluntary Transfer of Property to a School District would be a good option. Deb and Jodi urged the Board to finalize and approve a state

form that would help facilitate the process of Voluntary Transfer of Property to a School District.

REVIEW VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT FORM

Discussion was held regarding the process for the voluntary transfer of property, as well as the form that has been drafted for use in the process. Additionally, discussion was held concerning corrections that were suggested for the draft of the form.

A motion was made by Mr. Fastnacht to approve the form with the corrections so that it could be forwarded through the proper channels to finalize and be assigned a State Form Number. Ms. Effertz Hanson seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECORD, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (ARMSTRONG PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order completed by the Williams County Reorganization Committee, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston School District #1 (Armstrong Petition). There was a consensus from the board to remove “a better learning environment” from the reasons to support this petition. There was a consensus to remove a prior bad experience by the mother on a bus as a relevant factor. There was a consensus to remove the petitioners lack of knowledge about which district their home was in when they bought it as a relevant factor. A motion was made by Ms. Meehl to approve the Armstrong annexation of a portion of the Williams County School District #8 to Williston #1 based on the following Findings of Fact:

- 1) The total acreage in the transfer is reasonable.
- 2) The per-student taxable valuation is reasonable.
- 3) It was approved 4-0 at the county level.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fastnacht.

Result of roll call vote:

Ms. Effertz Hanson – aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Ms. Meehl – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECORD, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (SANCHEZ PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order completed by the Williams County Reorganization Committee, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston District #1 (Sanchez petition). There was a consensus of the board to remove that the petitioners thought their home was in District #1 when they started the rent to own process for their home as a relevant factor. There was a consensus of the board to also remove the statement about the children being bullied on the bus as a relevant factor. A motion was made by Ms. Effertz Hanson to approve the Sanchez annexation of a portion of the Williams County School District #8 to Williston #1 based on the following Findings of Fact:

- 1) The per-student taxable valuation is reasonable.
- 2) The amount of property to be annexed is reasonable.
- 3) It was approved 4-0 at the county level.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Result of roll call vote:

Ms. Meehl – aye

Ms. Effertz Hanson – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER,
FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (FISHER PETITION):**

The State Board members reviewed the draft Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Amended Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston School District #1 (Fisher Petition). Motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. Ms. Meehl seconded the motion.

Result of roll call vote:

Ms. Effertz Hanson - aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Ms. Meehl – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER,
FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (MCCREE PETITION):**

The State Board members reviewed the draft Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Amended Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston School District #1 (McCree Petition). Motion was made by Ms. Meehl to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. Mr. Fastnacht seconded the motion.

Result of roll call vote:

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Ms. Meehl – aye

Ms. Effertz Hanson – aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

PRIVACY LAWS

Allyson Hicks addressed the Board regarding some concerns she had in relation to privacy issues with student names and birth dates being listed in the Findings of Fact that come before the Board in annexation paperwork. It was decided that Ms. Hicks will pursue making some changes on the form used for annexation processes to contain student's initials instead of full names.

RETIREMENT

Dr. Duchscherer announced his retirement effective June 30, 2020.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

There being no other business brought before the board, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.