

Monday, January 13, 2025

The Pierce Public School Board of Education met for the regular monthly meeting at 6:30 pm in the board room of Pierce High School. Members present were Dan Unseld, Lisa Freeman, Stefanie Dvorak, Ryan Collison, Adam Venteicher and Todd Wragge. Also present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, Elementary Principal Trent Suehl, High School Principal Mark Brahmer, and eight guests.

Notice of the meeting was printed in the Pierce County Leader and posted on Pierce Public Schools website.

A welcome was extended to the public, the open meetings act pointed out, and roll call taken. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent Steffensen assumed duties of the chair.

Steffensen asked for nominations for president. Venteicher nominated and Collison seconded Dan Unseld for president. Nominations ceased and a voice vote was taken with Unseld being unanimously elected president.

Unseld assumed duties of the chair. Unseld asked for nominations for vice president. Wragge nominated and Freeman seconded Ryan Collison for vice president. Nominations ceased and a voice vote was taken with Collison being unanimously elected vice president.

Unseld asked for nominations for secretary. Collison nominated and Wragge seconded Adam Venteicher for Secretary. Nominations ceased and a voice vote was taken, and Venteicher was unanimously elected secretary.

Unseld appointed Wragge as the treasurer.

Unseld appointed Unseld, Collison, and Venteicher to the Negotiations Committee. Freeman, Dvorak, and Wragge were appointed to the Committee on American Civics.

There was no communication and correspondence from the public.

Venteicher moved and Wragge seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the approval of minutes from the previous meeting, approval of claims and payment of bills, and financial reports. Voting Unanimous, motion carried.

Sydney Kuper reported on behalf of the FCCLA. FCCLA has three competitors preparing for STAR competition. In addition, members are competing to earn a spot on one of the two Pierce FCCLA Chapter Knowledge Bowl teams.

Claudia Riggert reported on behalf of student council. In December they held a movie night and Christmas party. Also, they went to the Heritage of Bel Air to spend time with residents. Then last Saturday they hosted Winter Royalty.

Evelyn Skrdla and Lexi Sporleder reported for the FFA. They hosted their first annual Christmas market in December and had a float in the Christmas parade. In addition, they visited residents of the nursing home before the holidays. District Livestock judging will take place the end of January.

Written reports were given to the board from the high school elementary principals.

Superintendent Steffensen relayed that the legislature is in session now and there will likely be education related bills introduced by the end of the ten day introduction period. The federal program, ERATE, has funds designated to enhance internet service. The intent is to replace all the routers, switches, and access points.

For the first discussion item, each board member signed the annual conflict of interest statement.

The school board retreat is scheduled for January 27th at 6:30pm.

For the third discussion item, the board agreed to alternate three board members attending the focus group meetings. Wragge, Dvorak, and Freeman will attend the first one and Collison, Unseld, and Venteicher will attend the second.

For the first action item, Collison moved and Venteicher seconded to approve the annual Board of Education calendar. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

As the second action item directed, Venteicher moved and Wragge seconded to authorize the superintendent as the local agency representative for local, state, and federal programs. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

As the third action item directed, Wragge moved and Collison seconded to authorize the superintendent to dispose of unwanted items in an appropriate manner. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

For the fourth action item, Collison moved and Venteicher seconded to approve four early separation incentive program applications. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

The fifth action item was moved later in the meeting and for the sixth action item, Collison moved and Wragge seconded a motion indicating that Hausmann Construction best met the criteria contained in the request for proposals and was recommended to the Board of Education by the construction manager at risk selection committee. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

As the seventh action item directed, Wragge moved and Freeman seconded a motion directing myself and the district's legal counsel to negotiate a construction manager at risk contract in the order of their ranking (First-Hausmann Construction, then Boyd Jones). Voting unanimous, motion passed.

Collison moved and Freeman seconded to engage D.A. Davidson as the financial company for our school district's potential upcoming project. Motion carries, five voting in favor, Wragge voted against.

For the fifth action item of teacher negotiations, Wragge moved and Freeman seconded to go into executive session to protect the public interest and the school district's bargaining position. Voting unanimous, motion passed. The board went into executive session at 7:23pm. The board came out of executive session at 7:39pm.

Venteicher moved and Collison seconded to accept the negotiated BCBS insurance coverage, increase the base salary by \$925 for the 2025-26 year and increase the stipend for dual credit courses to \$250. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

Steffensen relayed Board of Education development opportunities and topics for the next month's agenda.

Collison moved and Wragge seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Adam Venteicher, Secretary
Pierce Public Schools
Board of Education, District 2
Pierce, NE 68767