

**Minutes of the Ponca Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
January 15, 2024 7:00 PM  
Posting Date: January 11, 2024**

The Board of Education of Dixon County School District 1 (also known as Ponca Public Schools) held a regular meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024 in the Ponca Public Schools library at 505 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Ponca, Nebraska. The meeting was convened in open and public session and advance notice was publicly posted at the Bank of Dixon County, the Dixon County Courthouse, the post office, the school main entrance, published in the Nebraska Journal Leader, and given to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the agenda was kept continuously current and available for inspection at the office of the Superintendent of Schools. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

President Shawn Fethkenher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The public was informed that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the meeting room and Fethkenher led the flag salute. Roll was taken. Members present were Monte Burki, Richard Dohma, Shawn Fethkenher, Phil Kramper, Christina Luebe, and Casey McGhee. Others present were Supt. Brendan Calahan, Principal Bob Hayes, Kristie Hayes, Andy Stark, Secretary Lorrie Huston and 5 visitors. Principal Stansberry was unable to attend due to road conditions.

President Fethkenher turned the meeting over to Superintendent Calahan for nominations of Board President. Burki moved to elect Shawn Fethkenher as Board President for 2024, second by Dohma. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Superintendent Calahan turned the meeting back over to President Fethkenher. President Fethkenher called for nominations for Board Vice President. Motion to elect Richard Dohma as Vice President passed with a motion by Burki, second by McGhee. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Kramper moved to approve the appointment of Lorrie Huston as Board Secretary. Burki seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

On a motion by Luebe, second by Dohma, Lorrie Huston was approved as treasurer for the Board of Education. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

The Potential Conflict of Interest Statement form was given to the Board Members. An official of a school district holding elective office must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.

Dohma moved to approve the consent agenda with moving item 8.1 after item 9.10 and Burki seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U. The consent agenda included approval of the agenda; the minutes of the December 18, 2023 meeting; the treasurer's report showing a general fund balance of \$2,177,865.13, a depreciation fund balance of \$401,395.71, a bond fund balance of \$413,738.54, a special building fund balance of \$56,907.53, an employee benefit fund balance of \$9,053.64, an activity fund balance of \$310,158.20, and a school nutrition fund balance of \$129,989.81; general fund disbursements of \$54,685.08; credit card payments; and the January payroll report.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent Calahan – reported on the current job openings and the progress on filling the positions, the February 12<sup>th</sup> Professional Development day with three other schools, the Rule 10 Compliance Visit on February 29<sup>th</sup>, and the latest snow day count.

Principal Stansberry's report read by Supt. Calahan–PLC progress, the January 18<sup>th</sup> workshop at the ESU, updates on the School Improvement Committee, updates on assessment schedules, the Spelling Bee timeline, the Principal meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the ESU, and the career fair at Wayne State College on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Principal Hayes – reported on letters sent to parents on the K-3 Reading Improvement Act, report cards were sent home on January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Ponca Spelling Bee will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, parent-teacher conferences will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and a swimming party for Jackson students will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Activities Director Hayes – reported on proposals passed at the NSAA District meetings, the wrestling district and conference meet schedules and the conference basketball tournament schedules.

The printed reports are on file. There were no board communications or committee reports.

Representatives from RTI and Five Nines presented information on IT Governance contracts. Bids from both companies were discussed. Dohma made a motion to table the discussion and form a committee to further review the information. McGhee seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Kramper moved to approve the option enrollment request into the district for a junior student from Emerson-Hubbard to begin with the 2024-25 school year. Burki seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

The retirements of Paula Larsen as secondary math teacher and Cindy Anderson as elementary guidance counselor were approved on a motion by Burki, second by Dohma. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U. The board expressed appreciation for the many years of service by both Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Anderson.

Brendan Calahan was designated as the authorized District representative on a motion by Luebe, second by Burki. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Brendan Calahan was designated as the official accounts custodian of the District on a motion by McGhee, second by Luebe. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Luebe moved to designate the third Monday of the month as the official meeting day for the Board of Education. Dohma seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Burki moved to approve the selection of the Bank of Dixon County as the District's Depository Bank. Luebe seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. Abstaining (with conflict): Dohma. M.C.

KSB School Law Firm and the Perry Law Firm were designated as the District's legal counsel on a motion by McGhee, second by Burki. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

The Nebraska Journal Leader and the Sioux City Journal were approved as the District's newspapers of record on a motion by Kramper and second by Burki. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Kramper moved to approve the 2024-2026 Superintendent's contract as propped. Burki seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

A draft of the 2024-2025 school calendar was provided. Action will be taken at the February meeting to approve the official calendar.

The next regular board meeting will be held on February 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

At 8:56 p.m., there being no further business, Dohma moved to adjourn the meeting. McGhee seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Burki, Dohma, Fethkenher, Kramper, Luebe, and McGhee. M.C.U.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn Fethkenher, Board President

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Lorrie Huston, Board Secretary