

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE

VALLEY ALTERNATIVE LEARNING AND TRANSITIONING SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Board of Education for the Valley Alternative Learning Transitioning School of Banner County (#1), Bayard (#21), Bridgeport (#63), Gering (#16), Kimball (#53), Minatare (#2), Mitchell (#31), Morrill (#11), Sidney (#17) and Scottsbluff (#32), was held at the ESU #13 Technology Center, Room E-194, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, Nebraska on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at noon. Notice of the meeting was given by publication of the time and place thereof in the Star Herald on Sep 3, 2020.

A. Call to Order

President Brad Helgerson called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Helgerson, Peters, Winn, Pieper

Absent: Holliday, Smith, and Nienhueser

C. Adopt Agenda

Pieper made a motion, seconded by Peters to adopt the agenda. Helgerson- yes, Smith- absent, Holliday- absent, Peters- yes, Nienhueser- absent, Winn- yes, Pieper- yes. Motion carried.

D. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)

Winn made a motion, seconded by Peters, to excuse absent board member Brent Holiday, Brenda Smith and Kathy Nienhueser. Helgerson- yes, Smith- absent, Holliday- absent, Peters- yes, Nienhueser -absent, Winn- yes, Pieper- yes. Motion carried.

E. Administrator's Report: George Schlothauer

- Welcome New board members from Sidney: The new board members from Sidney are Brenda Smith and Kathy Nienhuser. Neither were present today.
- Update on VALTS South: Kevin Namuth joined via zoom. He was introduced to the four present board members and introduced himself. Kevin told the board that he was excited to be a part of the VALTS team! He stated that he had previously worked at Cabela's in Sidney for thirteen years, attended UNL, is married with two children, and drives the activity bus for Sidney High School. Mr. Helgerson gave appreciation for Sidney coming aboard. Mr. Schlothauer stated that we are committed to the success of VALTS South. Mr. Peters asked how the Sidney students were doing since coming aboard. Mr. Schlothauer explained that the students are still taking classes at Sidney High School as well as VALTS. He said that they still have the same attendance issues that brought them to VALTS in the first place. Mr. Pieper wished Kevin luck.
- National Guard Visit: Mr. Schlothauer told the board that the visit was last week and the attendance was small. He felt the visit went well. Due to COVID 19 precautions this year outside speakers and activities will be far less than what we would have normally.

- First Quarter Classes: Mr. Einfalt is teaching American Government, Mrs. Brown is teaching Oceanography, Mrs. Reason is teaching Statistics and Probability, and Ms. Billingsley is teaching Personal Communication.
- Graduation/ 4th quarter recap: VALTS had 8 graduates for fourth quarter of the 2019- 2020 school year. Due to not being able to host graduation in doors, it was held at the Gering Downtown Plaza. Mr. Schlothauer explained that due to the districts having graduations later this year, two students were able to walk with their class after the completion of summer school. Districts that had students graduate fourth quarter were: Mitchell -2, Scottsbluff -2, and Gering -4. Mr. Schlothauer explained that VALTS has 50 slots available. Scottsbluff has decreased their slots to 5, Gering has increased from 16 to 20, and Sidney added 7 slots. He also told the board that Sioux County has sent a student to us for the 2020-2021 school year. He explained that she is living in Scottsbluff with her grandparents. Mr. Schlothauer explained that when Scottsbluff leaves we will have 45 slots. He will reach out to the Northern Panhandle as well as the other Southern Panhandle districts to discuss the VALTS program. Summer school was discussed with 330 credits earned between four districts. Math, English, and Science were offered. Title 1C students were from Cozad, and Bayard this year. Mr. Schlothauer explained that the Title 1C program shares the cost of summer school. Mr. Pieper asked if the credits earned were comparable to years past. Mr. Schlothauer said the trend has stayed approximately the same. He also told the board that Mr. Einfalt had won teacher of the week through KCMJ radio station and that he was very deserving of the award as he builds great relationships with students and continues those relationships after graduation. Mr. Schlothauer also discussed cell phone use this year. He explained that Mr. Einfalt has allowed them to use their cell phones for three minutes after 15 minutes of class. They keep their cell phone on the desk upside down until time for them to use it. This practice has cut down on the cell phone use in class. All teachers are using this practice this year with success.
- COVID precautions: Mr. Schlothauer explained that staff and students are required to wear masks and social distance inside the building. He explained that we are fortunate to have smaller class sizes and that for the most part the students have done a good job of complying. He stated that the goal for the school year is to keep staff and students in the classroom as long as possible as face to face works better. He stated that if we moved to zoom at some point during the year that the teachers have stated that they would like to still be able to come to the school and zoom.
- Budget Report: Mr. Schlothauer explained that the year ended with extra money in the budget. The DL funding was discussed and the monies are distributed in September, but money could be tied up due to COVID.

F. Changes updated to the Student Handbook 2020-2021: The ESU13 board approved the updated Interlocal Agreement and bylaws in August. The ESU board also approved changes to the Non-Discrimination clause on page 15 of the current handbook. The ESU13 board also approved a COVID amendment to the handbook.

Winn made a motion, seconded by Pieper to accept the handbook changes made by the ESU13 board. Helgerson- yes, Smith- absent, Holliday- absent, Peters- yes, Nienhueser -absent, Winn- yes, Pieper- yes. Motion carried.

G. Board Comments: Mr. Schlothauer asked the board what teacher presentations they would be interested in for the next meeting. Mrs. Winn stated that Oceanography sounded very interesting. Mr. Schlothauer will have Mrs. Brown present to the board at the December meeting. Mrs. Winn also complimented the staff on the great job do with the VALTS students. She stated it takes special people to work with this group of students. Mr. Peters stated that this particular group of teachers has had much success with the students. They discussed the smaller class sizes and how the staff is good at adjusting and figuring out what works. Mr. Peters asked if the morning and afternoon classes were more balanced this year due to COVID 19 precautions. Mr. Schlothauer stated that they are pretty comparable and that more students seemed to want afternoons this year than in the past.

H. Recommended Action on the following Items:

- Approve Minutes from the June 9, 2020 board Meeting. Winn made a made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded By Peters. Helgerson- yes, Smith- absent, Holliday- absent, Peters- yes, Nienhueser- absent, Winn- yes, Pieper- yes. Motion Carried.
- Approve 4th quarter billing in the amount of 75,813.00 for the 2019-2020 school year. Winn made a motion to approve 3rd quarter billing, seconded by Peters. Helgerson- yes, Smith- absent, Holliday- absent, Peters- yes, Nienhueser- absent, Winn- yes, Pieper- yes. Motion Carried.

J. Suggested Meeting Dates:

- 1) December 8, 2020
- 2) March 9, 2021
- 3) June 8, 2021

I. Adjourn: With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.