The Committee on American Civics Hearing and Public Testimony was opened by Hitchcock County Board President Scott at 5:52pm. Mr. Wagner reported to the board and answered questions regarding the American Civics curriculum. There was no public comment. President Scott declared the hearing closed at 5:55pm.

The Board of Education of the Hitchcock County Schools met December 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Distance Learning Room at the high school in Trenton. Present were board members Scott, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet and Marks; absent was O’Byrne. Also present were Assistant Principal/ Counselor McCarter, Assistant K-12 Principal Erickson, T. Cook, B. Melchert, E. O’Byrne, C. Rippen, N. Thiessen, F. Vrbas, T. Oberg, P. Fyn, and C. Hrnchir.

President Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Notice of the board’s adherence to the Nebraska Open Meeting Law posted on the north wall of the meeting room was given. The meeting was properly advertised in the Hitchcock County News on Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to excuse O’Byrne. Aye votes Scott, Hagan, Kolbet, Webb, and Marks; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Webb to approve the December 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, Scott, and Webb; nay votes none. The consent agenda consisted of the following items: (1) Minutes of the November 2024 regular board meeting. (2) The Activity Fund. (3) The bill roster with general fund bills totaling $459,422.92 and lunch fund bills totaling $24,108.79. (4) Other funds.

President Scott welcomed visitors. Emily O’Byrne addressed the board regarding faculty crisis preparation & crisis training. President Scott thanked Mrs. O’Byrne for taking time to address the board.

Abby Janzing, CPA for Forward CPA reported to the Board via ZOOM for the Hitchcock County Schools 2023-24 Fiscal Year Audit for the year ending August 31, 2024. Janzing highlighted key points in the audit and answered all questions directed by the board members. P. Fyn addressed additional bookkeeping best practices that have been added based upon the audit.

Kelly Erickson presented the AQeSTT Classification Report 2024 to the board. Criteria for the AQeSTT ranking include NSCAS testing, attendance, & graduation rate. Combined rankings for the Elementary, Junior & Senior High Schools were Excellent; the highest ranking. Hitchcock County outperformed the state of Nebraska & our peers in overall proficiency in NSCAS growth for English Language Arts, Math & Science. In celebration this achievement, the school board decided to reward the staff and students with an extra day of Christmas vacation.

Farris Vrbas introduced herself to the board and shared her FFA background and education in the field of Agriculture. She noted the success of the current Ag program with Mr. Tom Lewis as well as the potential of the FFA program in the future. Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to hire Farris Vrbas as an Agriculture teacher for the 2025-2026 school year and to pay a one-time signing bonus of $6,000. Aye votes by Marks, Scott, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Moved by Marks; seconded by Kolbet to accept the resignation of Peggy Fyn effective May 31, 2025 with appreciation for her many years of dedicated service to Hitchcock County Schools. Aye votes by Scott, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, and Marks; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Hagan to hire Peggy Fyn as a part-time bookkeeper beginning June 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025. Aye votes by Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, and Scott; nay votes none.

The board reviewed school board policy #2008 and #3004.1. Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to revise and update school board policy #2008 - Meetings and #3004.1 – Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds as presented. Aye votes by Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, Scott, and Webb; nay votes none.

Moved by Scott; seconded by Hagan to approve giving all school employees a $50.00 gift card from Gary’s as a Christmas present. Aye votes by Kolbet, Marks, Scott, Webb, and Hagan; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to move in to executive session to discuss the school board annual evaluation of Superintendent Sattler at 6:47 PM. Aye votes by Marks, Scott, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to move out of executive session at 7:08 PM. Aye votes by Scott, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet and Marks; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to extend Superintendents Sattler’s employment contact by one year to the 2026-2027 school year. Aye vote by Webb, Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, and Scott; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to move in to executive session to discuss personnel needs for the 2025-2026 school year at 7:10 PM. Aye votes by Marks, Scott, Webb, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; seconded by Hagan to move out of executive session at 7:22 PM. Aye votes by Scott, Webb, Hagan, Kolbet and Marks; nay votes none. No action was taken.

Committee reports as follows: President Scott reported that the negotiations committee met with the Hitchcock County Educator Association committee prior to the regular board meeting. President Scott reported that both committees will be meeting again on January 6th, 2025 at 6:00 PM and on January 13th, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Principal Tines’ report was presented by School Counselor/Assistant Principal McCarter as follows: (1) 11/14 – JH Wrestling in Culbertson. (2) 11/22 – Staff Touch Base Meeting (3) 11/25 – Because of You award given to Alivia Vrbas (4) 11/26 – Pre K–6 PBIS Movie day. (5) 12/06 – Christmas Concert Practice. (6) 11/09 – Christmas Concert. (7) Mrs. Haddix is finishing Winter NSCAS testing for 3,4,5,6 and MAP testing for K,1,2.

School Counselor/Assistant principal McCarter’s report as follows: (1) 11/18 – Staff and Team PBIS meeting. (2) 11/20 – FFA – Junior High Quiz Bowl CDE. (3) 11/25 – High School Quiz Bowl. (4) 12/06 – One Act Community Performance. (5) 12/07 – K-12 Music Concert. (7) 12/10 – District FFA Contest. (8) 12/16 – PBIS Staff & Team Meeting. (9) 12/19 – PBIS Holiday Celebration & Last Day of School

No Superintendent’s report was given.

President Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM. The next board meeting will be held Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM. The agenda kept continuously current is available to the public for items of an emergency nature. The meeting is open to the public.

Craig Scott – President Bryan Hagan – Vice President

General Fund bills

20/20 Technologies – contracted services 3,662.73

McCook Ace Hardware – building/custodial/grounds supply 890.14

Aflac – payroll deductions 670.70

American Family Ins. Co – payroll deductions 2,154.34

Blue Cross Blue Shield – health insurance 58,805.74

Bosselman Energy – building/bus fuels 8,818.30

Cash-Wa Distributing – food/custodial supply 135.15

Cengage Learning – supplies 263.73

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 52,695.36

DansRUs – trash 207.95

Demco, Inc. – library supply 61.94

Dollamur – custodial supply 329.94

Eakes Office – copier service/custodial supply 9,445.76

Ebsco Information Services – library periodicals 490.39

Employee Benefit Fund – payroll deductions 500.00

ESU 15 – contacted services 27,054.16

ESU 16 – contracted services 129.01

Farmers Coop – grounds/bus fuels 429.34

Fastenal – building supply 127.76

Follett Content Solutions – library books 2,462.59

Forward CPA – audit services 11,000.00

Great Plains Communications – phone/internet 1,583.12

HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursements 190.62

HCS – payroll deductions 7.27

HCS Flex Plan – contributions 1,398.50

Heads Up Sprinkler – grounds services 600.00

Higher Ground – REAP computer hardware 1,196.70

Hilton Omaha – NASB lodging 496.50

Credit Management Services – payroll deductions 294.43

Hometown Leasing – copier lease 391.38

Hot Lunch Fund – payments 2,352.60

Ideal Linen & Uniform – custodial/kitchen supply 374.74

Jostens – graduation supply 166.95

Journey Ed – computer software 2,477.56

Kohl’s Auto Parts – shop equipment 33.29

KSB School Law – legal services 432.00

Legal Shield – payroll deduction 121.03

LVNV Funding – payroll deduction 234.23

Medical Transport Solutions – payroll deductions 137.00

Rust Publishing - library newspaper 162.00

MCI – long distance 51.50

Mead Lumber – building/shop supply 1,141.70

Menards – supply 118.30

Matrix Trust Company – annuities 5,538.00

Mid-American Research Chemical – custodial supply 379.14

MPCC Student Accounts – text books 172.72

NASB ALICAP – premium adjustment 218.00

HCS Retirement – retirement 46,463.89

Ne Dept of Revenue – state taxes 7,530.36

New York Life Insurance – payroll deduction 103.36

Optum – FSA fee 150.00

Principal Life Insurance – disability 1,135.16

Quill – office/admin supply 202.17

Ramsey Solutions – software 624.75

Rippen Oil – fuel/parts 1,757.54

Scholastic – library books 115.90

Scoop Media – printing 158.58

Snell Service – equip repair/maintenance 10,686.05

Southwest Public Power District – utilities 1,405.25

Special Bldg Fund – payroll deduction 520.00

TKO Pest Control – pest control 200.00

Trafera – REAP computer hardware/software 7,380.00

Trails West – bus fuel 2,146.10

Transportation Accessories Co. – bus parts 74.08

UniFirst Corp – custodial supply 123.44

Unitech – custodial/classroom supply 258.50

US Bank – credit card 6,123.66

US Foods – food / custodial supply 286.62

Village of Culbertson – water/sewer 108.10

Village of Trenton – utilities 2,936.41

Vision Service Plan – payroll deductions 415.09

Wagner – bus parts / repair 666.94

Payroll – net (gross $251,669.14) 167,246.66

Lunch Fund Bills

Cash-Wa Distributing – food/ lunchroom supply 12,460.32

Community First Bank – FICA/taxes 1,597.69

Eakes Office Solutions – copier service & custodial supply 73.92

Gary’s Super Foods – food 128.99

HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursements 58.45

Credit Management Services – payroll deductions 320.02

Ideal Linen & Uniform – custodial / kitchen supply 128.67

HCs Retirement Acct – retirement 1,666.70

Ne Dept of Revenue – state taxes 143.39

Red Willow County Court – payroll deductions 245.45

US Foods – food / custodial supply 946.53

Payroll – net (gross $8,801.10) 6,338.66