

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024 6:00 PM

Room 810, Elm Creek High School
230 Calkins Avenue
Elm Creek, NE 68836-0490

1. Call to Order
2. Flag Salute
3. Open Meeting Act
 - 3.1. The "Open Meetings Act" has been duly posted at the front of the room. It has also been advertised in the Beacon-Observer Newspaper ahead of time.
4. Roll Call
 - 4.1. - Excuse Absent Board Members
5. Student Recognition
 - 5.1. Elementary: 5th & 6th Leadership Academy

 - 5.2. Secondary: Conference Speech Champs
6. Citizens Comments

The purpose of public participation is not to provide an opportunity for the board to act upon matters concerning the public, but instead, it is a forum for the public to provide information and be heard by the members of the board. To acknowledge the purpose of public participation, the chair may wish to recognize the public comment received during this portion of the agenda, while emphasizing the board will not respond and/or act pertaining to matters brought before the board.

7. Consent Agenda
 - 7.1. Elm Creek Public Schools Mission Statement:
At Elm Creek Public Schools we will:
Be Kind
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Trustworthy
Be Accountable
Be Honest
and Give Great Effort.
 - 7.2. Minutes
 - 7.3. Claims
 - 7.4. Treasurer's Report
 - 7.5. Current and past board members that pay for the district health insurance plan.
Morgan Meier
Denise Ourada
JC Ourada

- 7.6. Staff Adjustments
 - 7.6.1. Resignations
 - 7.6.1.1. Certified Staff: Olivia Anderson - Instrumental Music
 - 7.6.2. Hirings
 - 7.6.2.1. Classified Staff: Shelby Chartier - Para
- 8. Information Items
 - 8.1. Kent Cordes will give an update on the elementary construction project.
 - 8.2. Policies for Approval
 - 2005-Conflict of Interest
 - 3014 - Use of School Property
 - 4027 - Part Time Certified Employees
 - 4028 - Substitute Teachers
 - 4029 - Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees
 - 4030 - Evaluation of Certificated Employees
 - 4032 - Professional Growth
 - 4034 - Staff Handbook
 - 4037 - Reduction in Force
 - 4038 - Classified Staff Defined
 - 4039 - Employment of Classified Staff
 - 4040 - Employment Terms for Classified Staff
 - 4042 - Employee Social Security Numbers
 - 4043- Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students (replaces policy 4026)
 - 4044 - Political Activity by Staff Members
 - 4045 -Milk Expression
 - 4046 - Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees
 - 4048 - Assessment Administration and Security
 - 4050 - Overtime and Compensatory Time
 - 4051 - Staff and District Social Media Use
 - 4052 - Job References to Prospective Employers
 - 4053 - Conflict of Interest
 - 4054 - Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect
 - 4056 - Resignation of Certificated Staff
 - 4057 - Superintendent Evaluation
 - 4058 - Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance
 - 4059 - Behavioral and Mental Health Training
 - 4060 - School Vehicle Use
 - 4061 - Workplace on Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness and return to Work
 - 4062 - Locker Room Supervision
 - 5052 - School Wellness Policy
- 9. Action Items
 - 9.1. Adopt Policies:
 - 2005-Conflict of Interest
 - 3014 - Use of School Property
 - 4027 - Part Time Certified Employees
 - 4028 - Substitute Teachers

- 4029 - Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees
- 4030 - Evaluation of Certificated Employees
- 4032 - Professional Growth
- 4034 - Staff Handbook
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- 4062 - Locker Room Supervision
- 5052 - School Wellness Policy

10. Reports

- 10.1. Superintendent's Report
 - Online Auction
 - Public Access to Policies
 - Public Access to Building
 - Superintendent Evaluation
- 10.2. Principals' Report
 - 10.2.1. Elementary Principal:
 - Core Knowledge Language Arts Update
 - Safety Committee Update
 - 10.2.2. Secondary Principal:
 - Green House Update
 - Scheduling
 - ACT, Pre-ACT Testing
- 10.3. Board Committees
 - April 3
 - 5:00 -Building, Grounds and Transportation
 - 6:00 - Finance and Personnel

April 10
5:00 - Policy and Negotiations
6:00 - Curriculum and Technology

11. Next Regular Board Meeting
 - 11.1. April 15 - 6:00 PM
12. Adjournment

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2024 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President Alicia Beavers.

2. Flag Salute

3. Open Meeting Act

3.1. The "Open Meetings Act" has been duly posted at the front of the room. It has also been advertised in the Beacon-Observer Newspaper ahead of time.

4. Roll Call

JC Ourada and Morgan Fouts Absent.

4.1. - Excuse Absent Board Members

JC Ourada and Morgan Fouts Excused.

Motion to Excuse JC Ourada and Morgan Fouts from Meeting. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded by Hannah Hild, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

5. Citizens Comments

The purpose of public participation is not to provide an opportunity for the board to act upon matters concerning the public, but instead, it is a forum for the public to provide information and be heard by the members of the board. To acknowledge the purpose of public participation, the chair may wish to recognize the public comment received during this portion of the agenda, while emphasizing the board will not respond and/or act pertaining to matters brought before the board.

None

6. Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Cole Brodine and seconded by Lynette Mitchell, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

6.1. Elm Creek Public Schools Mission Statement:

At Elm Creek Public Schools we will:

Be Kind

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Trustworthy

Be Accountable

Be Honest

and Give Great Effort.

6.2. Minutes

6.3. Claims

6.4. Treasurer's Report

7. Information Items

7.1. Proposed 2024-2025 Calendar

Thank you calendar committee:

Katie Holland - Elementary

Jennifer Schopke - Elementary

Tanner Cavenee - MS/HS

Kris Tool - MS/HS

Micki Fries - MS/HS

Brandon Marquez - Principal

Terah Williams - Principal

7.2. Disposal of Surplus Items

7.3. Girls Wrestling

7.4. Fitness Facility Agreement

7.5. Jobs for America's Graduates Nebraska Agreement

7.6. Policies for Discussion

2005-Conflict of Interest

4043- Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students

5052 - School Wellness Policy

7.7. Policies For Approval

4002- Drug Free Workplace

4003 - Drug Policy Regarding Drivers

4004 - Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others.

4005 - Communication Between the Board and District Employees

4006 - Insurance

4007 - Personnel Records

4008 - Outside Employment

4009 - Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities

4010- Inclement Weather

4011- Employee Leave under the FMLA

4011.1 Nebraska Family Medical Leave Act

4013 - Grievance Procedure

4016 - Jury Duty/Service as Witness in Court

4017 - Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations

- 4018 - Corporal Punishment
- 4019 - Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee
- 4020 - Ownership of Copyrighted Works
- 4022 - Certification and Endorsements
- 4023 - Professional Ethics
- 4024 - Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties
- 4025- Superintendent

8. Action Items

8.1. Adopt 2024-2025 Calendar

Move to adopt 2024-2025 Calendar as presented. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded by Hannah Hild, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.2. Approve Disposal of Surplus Items

Move to sell surplus items from the old elementary building and the Districts storage units at Auction. This motion, made by Lynette Mitchell and seconded by Cole Brodine, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.3. Approve girls wrestling as an extra-curricular activity.

Move to offer girls' wrestling as an extra-curricular activity. This motion, made by Hannah Hild and seconded by Alicia Beavers, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.4. Approve Jobs for America's Graduates Nebraska Agreement

Move to approve Jobs for America's Graduates Nebraska Agreement. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded by Lynette Mitchell, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.5. Approve use of Fitness Agreement and Fitness Facility Rules

Move to adopt the use of the presented agreement and rules for the fitness facility. This motion, made by Cole Brodine and seconded by Hannah Hild, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.6. Recognize KSB School Law as legal counsel for Elm Creek Public Schools.

Move to recognize KSB School Law as legal counsel for Elm Creek Public Schools. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded by Lynette Mitchell, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.7. Recognize FirstTier Bank as the depository for Elm Creek Public School funds.

Move to recognize FirstTier Bank as the depository for Elm Creek Public School funds. This motion, made by Hannah Hild and seconded by Alicia Beavers, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

8.8. Adopt Policies 4002- Drug Free Workplace, 4003 - Drug Policy, Regarding Drivers, 4004 - Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others, 4005 - Communication Between the Board and District Employees, 4006 - Insurance, 4007 - Personnel Records, 4008 - Outside Employment, 4009 - Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities, 4010- Inclement Weather 4011- Employee Leave under the FMLA, 4011.1 Nebraska Family Medical Leave Act,

4013 - Grievance Procedure, 4016 - Jury Duty/Service as Witness in Court, 4017 - Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations 4018 - Corporal Punishment, 4019 - Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee, 4020 - Ownership of Copyrighted Works, 4022 - Certification and Endorsements, 4023 - Professional Ethics, 4024 - Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties, 4025- Superintendent Approve policies 4002- Drug Free Workplace 4003 - Drug Policy Regarding Drivers 4004 - Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others. 4005 - Communication Between the Board and District Employees 4006 - Insurance 4007 - Personnel Records 4008 - Outside Employment 4009 - Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities 4010- Inclement Weather 4011- Employee Leave under the FMLA 4011.1 Nebraska Family Medical Leave Act 4013 - Grievance Procedure 4016 - Jury Duty/Service as Witness in Court 4017 - Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations 4018 - Corporal Punishment 4019 - Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee 4020 - Ownership of Copyrighted Works 4022 - Certification and Endorsements 4023 - Professional Ethics 4024 - Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties 4025- Superintendent as presented. This motion, made by Cole Brodine and seconded by Lynette Mitchell, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

9. Reports

9.1. Superintendent's Report

9.1.1. Building Update

9.2. Principals' Report

9.2.1. Secondary Principal Student Successes

9.2.2. Elementary Principal Safety Team Update Upcoming Professional Development

9.3. Board Committees

9.3.1. Meeting Dates

February 28

5:00 -Building, Grounds and Transportation

6:00 - Finance and Personnel

March 6

5:00 - Policy and Negotiations

6:00 - Curriculum and Technology

10. Next Regular Board Meeting

March 11 @ 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 6:55PM. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded

by Hannah Hild, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea

Checking Account ID: GENERAL

Check Type: Check

Check Number	Check Date	Cleared	Void	Void Date	Entity ID	Entity Name	Amount
19994	03/11/2024				AGDRYER	AG DRYER SERVICES	670.12
19995	03/11/2024				ALPHAREH	ALPHA REHABILITATION P.C.	2,349.30
19996	03/11/2024				BEACONO	BEACON OBSERVER	276.85
19997	03/11/2024				BLACKHILLS	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	2,209.20
19998	03/11/2024				BUFFALOOUT	BUFFALO OUTDOOR POWER LLC	255.93
19999	03/11/2024				COMPHA	COMPUTER HARDWARE, INC	1,247.80
20000	03/11/2024				USBANK	CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	6,595.12
20001	03/11/2024				EAKESOFF	EAKES OFFICE PRODUCTS	3,408.91
20002	03/11/2024				ECOLAB	ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION	76.69
20003	03/11/2024				ESU10	EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 10	1,168.69
20004	03/11/2024				ESI	ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, INC	300.00
20005	03/11/2024				FOSTERC	CURT FOSTER	200.00
20006	03/11/2024				FOSTFAMGF	FOSTERS FAMILY FOODS	101.42
20007	03/11/2024				GRACZYKL	GRACZYK LAWN & LANDSCAPE	466.00
20008	03/11/2024				HOMETOWN	HOMETOWN LEASING	1,320.00
20009	03/11/2024				IDEAL	IDEAL PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS	761.00
20010	03/11/2024				PAYFLEX	INSPIRA FINANCIAL	150.00
20011	03/11/2024				PEPPERJW	JW PEPPER	240.79
20012	03/11/2024				KELLYSA	KELLY'S SALES & AG SERVICE	51.64
20013	03/11/2024				KIDWELL	KIDWELL INC.	1,676.00
20014	03/11/2024				LOCKMOBILE	THE LOCKMOBILE	228.00
20015	03/11/2024				LINWELD	MATHESON TRI GAS	364.89
20016	03/11/2024				MENARD430	MENARDS - KEARNEY	599.74
20017	03/11/2024				NPPD	NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	7,659.34
20018	03/11/2024				ONESOURCE	ONESOURCE	82.00
20019	03/11/2024				PROED	PRO-ED, INC.	41.80
20020	03/11/2024				STATENE	STATE OF NEBRASKA	354.53
20021	03/11/2024				VILLAGEE	VILLAGE OF ELM CREEK	857.70
20022	03/11/2024				VILLAGEU	VILLAGE UNIFORM	356.96
20023	03/11/2024				WEXBANK	WEX BANK	1,277.55
20024	03/11/2024				WICKJ	JOSH WICK	49.79
20025	03/11/2024				WOODWARDS	WOODWARDS DISPOSAL SERVICE	30.00
20026	03/11/2024				YANDAS	YANDA'S MUSIC	16.20
Check Type Total:			Check		Void Total:	0.00	Total without Voids: 35,443.96
Checking Account Total:			GENERAL		Void Total:	0.00	Total without Voids: 35,443.96
Grand Total:					Void Total:	0.00	Total without Voids: 35,443.96

Checking Account ID: BUILDING

Check Type: Check

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Void</u>	<u>Void Date</u>	<u>Entity ID</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10042	03/11/2024				WILKINSA	WILKINS ARCHITECTURE DESIGN	863.47
Check Type Total:			Check			Void Total: 0.00	Total without Voids: 863.47
Checking Account Total:			BUILDING			Void Total: 0.00	Total without Voids: 863.47
Grand Total:						Void Total: 0.00	Total without Voids: 863.47



Wilkins Architecture Design Planning LLC

2908 W 39th Street Suite A
Kearney, NE 68845
Tel: 308-237-5787 Fax: 308-236-6929
wadp@wilkinsadp.com
www.wilkinsadp.com

INVOICE

INVOICE DATE: 2/28/2024
INVOICE NO: 5924
BILLING THROUGH: 2/23/2024

Tom Moore
Elm Creek Public Schools
230 East Calkins Ave
Elm Creek, NE 68836-0490

2101 Elm Creek Public Schools Addition & Renovation

Managed By: Jacob M Sertich

DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT AMOUNT	% COMPLETE	BILLED TO DATE	PREVIOUSLY BILLED	CURRENT AMOUNT
2101 Elm Creek Public Schools Addition & Renovation	\$664,204.00	99.74	\$662,477.07	\$661,613.60	\$863.47
2101 Elm Creek Public Schools Additional Services-Oak Creek Engineering	\$5,000.00	100.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$669,204.00		\$667,477.07	\$666,613.60	\$863.47

2101 ELM CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADDITION & RENOVATION - REIMB

\$0.00

SUBTOTAL \$863.47

AMOUNT DUE THIS INVOICE \$863.47

This invoice is due on 3/29/2024

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

BILLED TO DATE	PAID TO DATE	BALANCE DUE
\$670,070.60	\$669,207.13	\$863.47

We appreciate your business

Cash Flow Report

School District #9

Page: 1

03/06/2024

Processing Month

02/2024

User ID: LKJ

FUND NI Account	BEGINNING CASH 09/01/2023	REVENUES	EXPENSES	ENDING CASH
01 GENERAL FUND	449,017.95	3,166,507.03	(2,580,603.14)	1,034,921.84
02 DEPRECIATION	269,466.36	67.93	-	269,534.29
02 DEPRECIATION CD	506,705.17	14,270.66	-	520,975.83
03 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT	11,489.78	323.59	-	11,813.37
05 ACTIVITY FUND	84,573.22	202,154.93	(232,405.34)	54,322.81
06 NUTRITION FUND	48,786.44	116,744.95	(142,861.05)	22,670.34
07 BOND FUND	456,197.39	506,091.97	(693,151.15)	269,138.21
08 BUILDING FUND	185,634.55	75,848.87	(45,000.00)	216,483.42
08 EL BLDG FUND-NLAF	1,171.44	29.84	-	1,201.28
08 EL BLDG FUND-FIRSTIER	2,960,133.93	28,701.37	(1,704,620.64)	1,284,214.66
08 EL SWEEP ACCT (INTEREST)	147,416.10	33,811.86	-	181,227.96
	5,120,592.33	4,144,553.00	(5,398,641.32)	3,866,504.01

ELM CREEK SCHOOL BOARD TREASURER'S REPORTS
FOR MARCH 11, 2024
FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIALS

GENERAL FUND - ACCT NO. 137766

BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024		\$	994,445.77
RECEIPTS	BUFFALO COUNTY - TAXES	\$	222,375.12
	Dawson County	\$	10,927.87
	ESU 10-SUBPAY	\$	290.00
	PHELPS COUNTY	\$	34,829.20
	Preschool	\$	650.00
	STATE OF NEBRASKA - AID	\$	78,808.00
	TITLE I (GMS)	\$	43,890.00
	STATE OF NEBRASKA - IDEA	\$	4,124.00
	CAREER ED (GMS)	\$	7,500.00
	STATE OF NEBRASKA - SA FFR '22-'23	\$	59,498.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	462,892.19
AVAILABLE BALANCE		\$	1,457,337.96
DISBURSEMENTS:			
	BILLS PAID FEBRUARY 12, 2024	\$	68,277.77
	Payroll	\$	353,682.29
	JAN AUTO DEPOSIT ERR (TO ACTIVITY-FOB PAYMENTS)	\$	450.00
	EFUNDS FEES	\$	6.06
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	422,416.12
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	1,034,921.84

DEPRECIATION FUND - ACCT NO 14832

ACCT 14832	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$	269,534.29
	INTEREST	\$	-
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	269,534.29
CD 7651 (ORIGINAL 31722)	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$	520,975.83
	INTEREST	\$	-
	TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUNDS	\$	-
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	520,975.83
	DEPRECIATION BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	790,510.12

<u>UNEMPLOYMENT CD #7655</u>	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$	11,813.37
(ORIGINAL 2232)	INTEREST	\$	-
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	11,813.37

ELM CREEK SCHOOL BOARD TREASURER'S REPORTS
 FOR MARCH 11, 2024
 FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIALS

<u>BUILDING FUND</u>	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$ 210,282.98
	BUFFALO COUNTY	\$ 4,889.21
	DAWSON COUNTY	\$ 230.62
	RECEIPTS - PHELPS COUNTY	\$ 754.84
	INTEREST	\$ 325.77
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$ 216,483.42
BOND FUND OPENED 01/01/2023	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$ 217,727.05
	RECEIPTS- BUFFALO	\$ 43,842.54
	RECEIPTS-DAWSON CO	\$ 2,491.85
	PHELPS COUNTY	\$ 5,076.77
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$ 269,138.21
ELEM CONSTRUCTION (NLAF)	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$ 1,196.52
	DIV REINVESTMENT	\$ 4.76
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$ 1,201.28
ELEM CONSTRUCTION (FIRSTIER)	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$ 1,353,090.64
	JANUARY 2024 INTEREST EARNED	\$ 3,118.69
	INTEREST TO SWEEP ACCOUNT-DECEMBER	\$ (3,565.02)
	CSI INDUSTRIES	\$ -
	WILKINS ARCHITECTURE DESIGN	\$ (863.46)
	BD CONSTRUCTION	\$ (67,566.19)
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$ 1,284,214.66
SWEEP SAVINGS ACCOUNT	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$ 177,662.94
	EARNED INTEREST ON ACCOUNT	\$ -
	INTEREST TRANSFER FROM CONSTRUCTION ACCT	\$ 3,565.02
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$ 181,227.96

ELM CREEK SCHOOL BOARD TREASURER'S REPORTS
 FOR MARCH 11, 2024
 FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIALS

LUNCH FUND

<u>BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024</u>		\$	6,216.36
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
LUNCH SALES		\$	4,481.60
EFUND PAYMENTS		\$	2,823.60
Federal Reimbursement Breakfast		\$	4,563.76
Federal Reimbursement Lunch		\$	19,825.87
State Reimbursement Lunch		\$	-
State Reimbursement Breakfast		\$	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$	31,694.83
AVAILABLE BALANCE		\$	37,911.19
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Food/Groceries/Milk Etc.		\$	3,271.99
Supplies		\$	1,387.04
Miscellaneous (Reimbursements, Bank Fees)		\$	313.91
Payroll		\$	10,267.91
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$	15,240.85
BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024		\$	22,670.34

MARCH BILLS AS OF 3/5/2024

BERNARD		\$	-
CASHWA (FEB INVOICES)		\$	15,653.68
CASHWA (REIMBURSE ACTIVITY FUND)		\$	28,718.63
DOLLAR GENERAL		\$	-
FOSTERS		\$	472.84
HILAND (MILK)		\$	1,669.01
FEBRUARY PAYROLL (ESTIMATE)		\$	9,500.00
NE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM		\$	-
VILLAGE UNIFORM (TOWELS ETC)		\$	-
		\$	56,014.16

ELM CREEK SCHOOL BOARD TREASURER'S REPORTS
 FOR MARCH 11, 2024
 FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIALS

ACTIVITY FUND (CURRENT CASH BALANCE SUMMARY)

	BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2024	\$	89,684.87
RECEIPTS	ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES	\$	18,704.37
	CLUB & CLASS ACCOUNTS	\$	1,506.37
	DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	\$	6,208.65
	TRANSFER FROM GENERAL	\$	-
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	26,419.39
EXPENSES	ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES	\$	26,065.01
	CLUB & CLASS ACCOUNTS	\$	850.00
	DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	\$	34,866.44
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	61,781.45
	BALANCE FEBRUARY 29, 2024	\$	54,322.81

OLIVIA ANDERSON

RESIGNATION LETTER

March 4th, 2024
Elm Creek Public Schools
230 E Calkins Ave.
Elm Creek, NE 68836

To Elm Creek Public Schools Administration:

Kindly accept this letter as my formal resignation as Instrumental Music Director at Elm Creek Public Schools. This is effective beginning July 1st, 2024.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that I have been given at this position. I would also like to thank you for being supportive of my professional growth. I have met so many amazing people and learned so much in my time here, and I cannot wait to take what I have learned and implement it in my next chapter of life.

Please let me know how I can help in making the transition of responsibilities as seamless as possible for everyone involved.

Best wishes,



Olivia R. Anderson

307-277-8935

livkitterman99@gmail.com

2005 Conflict of Interest

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

1. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

2. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded. Board members who enter into

employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board's policy on the employment of board members.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
 - c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.
 - d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:
 - (1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;
 - (2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and
 - (3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.
3. Contracts with Board Member's Immediate Family.
 - a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
 1. All district employees.
 2. All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.
 4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - 1. The board member does not abuse his or her position.
 - 2. Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
 - i. who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
 - ii. for any unreasonably high salary;
 - iii. who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
 - 3. The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
 - 4. The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
 - 5. The board approves the employment or supervisory position.
- b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

- a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:
 - 1. a public official, public employee, or candidate.
 - 2. a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

3. a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.
 - b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.
 - c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
 - d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.
6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues
- a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
 - b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
 - c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
 - d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
1. The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board

on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.

2. Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

1. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
2. Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and
3. Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.

- b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

8. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:

1. The names of the contracting parties.

2. The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
 3. The date that the contract was approved.
 4. The amount of the contract.
 5. The basic terms of the contract.
- b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.
9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: May 9, 2022

3014

Use of School Property

1. Use of Specific Facilities by Application and Agreement

- a. The district permits non-commercial use of its weight room by individual patrons for their personal health and wellness. Patrons who wish to have access to the weight room must buy the key fob necessary to enter the building and must pay for new fobs as the district rekeys or makes other changes. Individuals who use the weight room must also execute a liability release and waiver. The district understands that it would not be feasible to require a patron to apply to use facilities like the weight room on every occurrence. The facility uses defined in this paragraph are an exception to the general facility use requirements contained in this policy for ease of administration and efficiency. All other facility uses must comply with the other provisions of this policy.
- b. These particular facilities may be used upon only one application and upon signing the district's written waiver and agreement.
- c. Use of these facilities is governed by this and other district policy and the agreement signed by the user. A copy of each agreement will be maintained in the district's central office.

2. General Facilities Use Guidelines

- a. School facilities may be used by various education and community organizations and individuals when it is in the interest of the general public.
- b. School facilities may not be used for personal profit and other commercial purposes. The district opens its facilities to district patrons for the benefit of the public, not commercial uses. Due to the complications created by groups or individuals using district facilities for commercial purposes, these uses are prohibited. Booster clubs and other organizations raising money purely for the support of student groups, as defined below, and not for personal profit are not considered commercial uses but must comply with the district's policies which apply to these groups.

- c. Any person or group using school facilities must assure that it will be responsible for maintaining order, protecting property, and providing security and safety.
- d. Only those organizations and persons who are known to school officials, who have financial resources sufficient to cover all rentals and possible damages, and who are willing to discharge such obligations shall be permitted to use the school facilities and equipment.
- e. The rental fees for school facilities shall be set by the board.
- f. Non-curricular student groups or non-student groups (as those terms are defined below) that wish to use the facility must submit a facility use application which may be obtained from the district's central office. The application must be received by the superintendent prior to the approval of any facility use.
- g. The shop and weight room may not be used by students when school is not in session, unless supervised by a district staff member or a responsible adult upon approval of the superintendent. Use of the shop and weight room in violation of this provision may lead to the students being denied access to these facilities or other consequences permitted by board policy and Nebraska law.
- h. Any person or group using the school facilities, for any purpose, must comply with all of the district's policies, rules, and regulations.

3. Definitions

- . "Curriculum-related student groups" shall mean students participating in school-sponsored activities, supervised by district staff, related to the curriculum, and recognized by the board.
- a.** "Extracurricular student groups" shall mean students participating in an extracurricular activity, sponsored by the district, supervised by district staff, and recognized by the board, such as athletic teams and academic teams which are not otherwise categorized as "curriculum-related student groups."

- c. "Non-curriculum related student groups" shall mean all other groups composed primarily of students who attend the district participating in activities such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, political groups, religious groups, and other similar youth groups.
- d. "Non-student group" shall mean all other groups or individuals who apply to use district facilities.
- e. "Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of schools or his/her designee.

4. Use of School Property by Student Groups

a. Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups

i. Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups may use school facilities at no cost to the group, if they restore the facilities to their prior state after using them.

ii. The district shall bear any costs associated with use by these groups (*e.g.*, the fee paid to a cook or a custodian required to be in attendance).

iii. Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups have priority over non-curriculum related student groups and non-student groups.

b. Non-curriculum related student groups

i. Non-curriculum related student groups may use the school building during non-instructional time. Such use shall be without charge.

1. Such uses shall occur while the building is normally open and there is a minimum of interference with custodians or other student and staff facility use.

2. These groups may use the school buildings in the evening for meetings if the group is sponsored by an adult and the adult (1) files the application

to use the facilities on behalf of the group and (2) assumes responsibility for cleanup and placing the area back in the condition it was in prior to use.

- ii. Non-curriculum related student groups must apply for use of the facilities and secure the superintendent's permission before using school facilities.
- iii. Non-curriculum related student groups may meet only on school premises at times and places determined by the superintendent.
- iv. Non-curriculum related student groups must meet each of the following conditions to secure the superintendent's permission to use school facilities:
 1. The facility use will occur during non-instructional time.
 2. The district has facilities available to accommodate the group.
 3. The use is voluntary and for the general benefit of the student participants.
 4. The use will not substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities and other programs within the school.

1. Use of Facilities by Non-student Groups

- a. The superintendent may authorize the use of any school facilities for non-school activities by non-student groups.
- b. In addition to the guidelines listed elsewhere in this policy and other board policies or administrative protocol, the superintendent will consider the following when making determinations regarding use of district facilities by non-student groups:
 - i. The local education association may hold meetings when classes are not in session and staff members are not on duty.

- ii. Non-student groups which provide education-related programming and services for students and staff may be given priority of use over other outside groups. The superintendent has sole discretion in determining whether proposed uses relate sufficiently to the district's educational standards and programs.
- iii. Non-student groups which provide programming and services for community members and others living within the district may be given priority of use over other outside groups.

b. Denial of access

- i. The superintendent may limit or deny access to school buildings, grounds, and activities to any person whom the superintendent deems to be using the facilities inappropriately and contrary to the district's mission.
- ii. Upon determining that a person or group has engaged in, or is engaging in conduct that constitutes grounds for exclusion under this policy, the superintendent shall take such action as he or she determines appropriate, including directing the person to cease engaging in the conduct or to leave the school premises or activity immediately. The superintendent may request assistance from law enforcement authorities to remove an offending person from the school grounds. A person who enters school premises in violation of these conditions shall be deemed to be trespassing.
- iii. The superintendent shall have the authority to fix the time when, and the conditions under which, the offending person may return to school premises.
 - 1. Students, staff, and community members may use or lease school equipment for non-school use only if they have received the prior permission of the superintendent.

2. Proof of Insurance

- a. When any non-curriculum related or non-student group utilizes school district facilities, the group submitting the facility use application may be asked to provide proof of insurance up to the current tort claims limits applicable to political subdivision in the State of Nebraska. Currently, those limits are \$1,000,000 per person for any number of claims arising out of a

single occurrence and \$5,000,000 for all claims arising out of a single occurrence.

b. The district may require the non-curriculum related or non-student group to include the district as an additional insured on any such policies and may refuse access to its facilities until proof of satisfaction of this requirement is submitted to the superintendent.

3. No Fees for Admission

a. Non-curriculum related and non-student groups may not charge a fee to participate in or be a spectator at any recreational activity, event, or other such gathering occurring on district grounds unless approved in advance by the superintendent.

b. If the district retains control over the area of the premises in which the non-curricular and non-student group desires to use, meaning the district provides supervision, staffing, custodial services, or otherwise maintains its control during the group's use of the facilities, the group may not charge a fee for admission under any circumstances.

c. Non-curricular and non-student groups may charge for parking or vehicle entry onto the premises unless otherwise prohibited by the superintendent.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020 _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

4027
Part-Time Certified Employees

Percentage of Time. The percentage of time that a teacher works will be determined by calculating the amount of time that the teacher is required to be at school to teach or supervise classes, plus any assigned preparation time, as a percentage of the entire school day. Extracurricular assignments shall not be considered in determining a teacher's percentage of time. Part-time and temporary teachers may or may not be assigned preparation time, at the sole discretion of the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Acquiring Permanent Status. A part-time teacher may become a permanent certificated employee pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

Salary. The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by reference to the negotiated agreement between the district and the teacher's association. The percentage of time a part-time teacher is required to be on duty shall be determined by the board of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Horizontal Movement on the Salary Schedule. A part-time teacher may qualify for movement horizontally on the salary schedule by earning graduate hours of college credit as set forth in the guidelines of the school district's salary schedule, and according to the applicable district policies.

Attendance at In-service Meetings, Faculty Meetings, and School Activities. A part-time teacher is responsible for attending in-service meetings, faculty meetings, and school activities that take place outside the teacher's assigned duty hours without additional compensation. A part-time teacher is responsible for performing such tasks as selling or taking tickets, and will be compensated for such tasks pursuant to the policy, practice or negotiated agreement of the school district.

Continuation of Employment. The school district administration and board will deal with the continuation of a part-time teacher's employment pursuant to state statute and the procedures prescribed for full-time employees in these policies.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4028 Substitute Teachers

A substitute teacher is an educator who possesses the required certification from the Nebraska Department of Education and is employed to fill a teaching position on a temporary basis. The board shall establish the pay and benefits for substitute teachers.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4029 Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees

The board of education recognizes the "salary schedule" and related provisions for compensation currently in effect resulting from negotiations between the board and the education association. This policy is intended to supplement the terms and conditions contained in the collective bargaining agreement. If there is any conflict between the terms of this policy and the collective bargaining agreement, the terms of the negotiated agreement shall control.

Horizontal Advancement. Teachers who wish to advance horizontally on the salary schedule are encouraged to notify the superintendent in writing of their movement on the salary schedule prior to June 1 of the preceding school year. The teacher must furnish the superintendent with college transcripts by September 10 for the teacher to qualify to move horizontally on the salary schedule. If an institution will not issue an official transcript by September 10, the teacher must provide the superintendent with written confirmation by September 10 from a college official attesting that the teacher has satisfactorily completed the courses.

Movement Past the BA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the BA column shall be enrolled in courses that relate to education, as determined by the superintendent. Teachers are encouraged to inform the superintendent of their enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Movement Past the MA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the MA column must be enrolled in course work that relates to education. Teachers are encouraged to inform the superintendent of their

enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Superintendent's Review. The superintendent shall review all requests for advancement on the salary schedule resulting from a teacher's acquiring additional teaching experience or for completion of college courses, and shall report all changes to the board of education annually.

Vertical Advancement. A teacher may advance only one step vertically on the schedule in any year.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4030 Evaluation of Certificated Employees

All certificated employees to be evaluated shall be notified annually in writing of the evaluation process. A certificated administrator, with the exception of the local board of education when it is evaluating the superintendent, will observe and evaluate each probationary certificated employee for a full instructional period once each semester and each permanent certificated employee for a full instructional period once each school year. If the probationary certificated employee is a superintendent, he or she shall be evaluated twice during the first year of employment and at least once annually thereafter. The evaluation will include, but not be limited to evaluating the employee's instructional performance, classroom organization and management, personal conduct, and professional conduct. Evaluation of instructional performance and classroom organization and management is applicable to teachers only. The administrator will provide the employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions and a timeline for correcting the deficiencies and improving performance, and sufficient time to improve. The evaluation form will include notice that the employee may respond to the evaluation in writing.

The school district will train administrators in evaluation annually through meetings with the superintendent or other administrator, attendance at regional, state or national workshops, or any other method approved by the superintendent.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

Entire Instructional Period. For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Actual Classroom Observation. Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certificated employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

This policy and the evaluation instrument shall be included in the teacher handbook which will be distributed to staff members upon their employment and annually thereafter.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4032 Professional Growth

Every six years, permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six semester hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth.

The board of education believes the goal of professional self-improvement to be inherent in the responsibilities of each certificated district employee.

Other professional growth activities which may count toward the six-year requirement include non-credit courses, lecture series, workshops,

conferences, study groups, local in-service courses, committee service, supervising a student teacher, serving with professional groups, travel of significant educational value, and membership in professional organizations. The employee must receive prior approval from the building principal for any of these activities to count toward professional growth.

No professional growth units will be awarded if the applicant has been paid for a non-college activity either by released time or by an additional amount paid by the school district.

One unit of professional growth credit will generally be equivalent to ten hours of personal time spent on an educational activity.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4034 Staff Handbook

The superintendent or designee shall annually formulate, review and revise a staff handbook that will contain information about the district's employment policies and practices. The staff handbook is an extension of these policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4037 Reduction In Force

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certificated staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of certificated staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced. However, the employment of a permanent employee may not be terminated through a reduction in force while a probationary employee is retained to render a service that the

permanent employee is qualified to perform by reason of certification and endorsement, or when certification is not applicable, by reason of college credits in the teaching area.

1. **Definition of Reduction in Force.** A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated staff members, even if the number of percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hirings or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in the termination of employment or an amendment to an employee's contract reducing the extent of the employee's employment.

2. **Restriction of Right to Administrative Position.** Due to the confidential and unique personal working relationship necessary between the administration and the board of education, a certificated employee who is not currently serving in a predominantly administrative capacity shall have no rights under this policy to any administrative position within the school system.

3. **Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.

1.
 - a. Programs to be offered;
 - b. Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Nebraska Teaching Certificate;
 - c. State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
 - d. Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
 - e. Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
 - f. The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certificated employees;

g. Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.

4. **Consideration of Uninterrupted Service.** If, after consideration of the criteria listed above, it is the opinion of the superintendent that there is no significant difference between or among certificated employees being considered for reduction, the employee(s) with the longest uninterrupted service to the district shall be retained.

2.

a. Uninterrupted length of service is defined as the number of continuous full-time equivalent years of employment in the district as a teacher.

b. A full-time equivalent year is defined as employment on a full-time basis for an entire school year.

c. Less than full-time employment reduces the teacher's full-time equivalent employment for a school year. For example, a teacher employed on a half-time basis would be credited with half a year full-time equivalent employment.

d. A break in service will terminate a teacher's seniority and length of service under this provision. That period of time when a teacher is on a leave of absence shall not constitute a break in service; however, any years of absences or fractions of years of leave of absence will not count as years of employment for the purposes of determining the length of a teacher's uninterrupted service.

5. **Rights of Recall.**

. Any certificated employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect.

a. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.

b. Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year of years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district.

c. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

6. Current Teaching Certificate.

. Upon initial employment with the district, each certificated employee shall file a copy of his or her teaching certificate, including endorsements with the superintendent of schools.

a. The employee shall be responsible for filing any changes in certification or endorsements with the superintendent.

7. Address Records.

. A certificated employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.

a) If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4038

Classified Staff Defined

The term "classified staff" means all employees other than certificated teachers and administrators. Classified staff employees are employed at will, and their employment may be amended or terminated at any time and without any cause.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4039

Employment of Classified Staff

The superintendent or designee shall hire classified staff to meet personnel needs consistent with the district's budget, instructional needs, and non-

instructional operations. The superintendent or designee shall obtain a criminal history record that includes information from the Nebraska State Patrol for all individuals that are to be employed as pupil transportation vehicle drivers (except certificated Nebraska school administrators or teachers) and keep a copy of that record on file and shall update it during the calendar year that coincides with the expiration of the driver's motor vehicle operator's license. Otherwise, the superintendent or designee may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any classified staff applicant. Criminal history or background checks shall occur only after the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This policy shall not prevent the school district from requiring an applicant to disclose his or her criminal record or history relating to sexual or physical abuse prior to any minimum employment qualification determination.

The superintendent or designee shall discipline and discharge classified staff as appropriate.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4040

Employment Terms for Classified Staff

Each position listed below shall be hired by the superintendent on the terms stated in the individual employment contract.

Paraprofessional
Maintenance
Custodian
Secretary
District Bookkeeper
Bus Driver
Van Driver
Food Service
Nurse

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4042

Employee Social Security Numbers

Nebraska law prohibits employers from using or publishing an employee's social security number except under certain specified circumstances. This district shall comply with this law and take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of employees' social security numbers. However, neither state law nor this policy prohibits the district from using the last four digits of an employee's social security number as an employee identification number or in any other reasonable manner.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4043

Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students

School district employees and student teachers or interns ("employees") are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. Employees are required to establish and maintain professional boundaries with students and must have appropriate relationships with students. They may be friendly with students, but they are the students' teachers, not their friends, and they must take care to see that this line does not become blurred. This applies to employees' conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The posting or publication of messages or pictures or other images that diminish an employee's professionalism or ability to maintain the respect of students and parents may impair his or her ability to be an effective employee. Employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner supportive of the best interests of students.

Sexual Relationships Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in any relationship that involves sexual contact or sexual penetration with a student while the student is a current student and for a minimum of one year after the date of the student's graduation or the date the student otherwise ceases enrollment. Sexual contact has the same

meaning as in section 28-318, and sexual penetration has the same meaning as in section 28-318.

Grooming Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in grooming with students. Grooming means building trust with a student and individuals close to the student in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the student, with the ultimate goal of engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration with the student, regardless of when in the student's life the sexual contact or sexual penetration would take place.

Unless an employee can clearly and convincingly demonstrate a legitimate educational purpose, grooming behaviors and related conduct that are a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Communicating about sex when the discussion is not required by a specific aspect of the curriculum.
- Joking about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Displaying sexually inappropriate material or objects.
- Making any sexual advance, whether written, verbal, or physical or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature.
- Kissing of any kind.
- Dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the district.
- Intruding on a student's personal space (e.g. by touching unnecessarily, moving too close, staring at a portion of the student's body, or engaging in other behavior that makes the student uncomfortable).
- Initiating unwanted physical contact with a student.
- Communicating electronically (e.g. by e-mail, text messaging, or through social media) on a matter that does not pertain to school.
- Playing favorites or permitting a specific student to engage in conduct that is not tolerated from other students.
- Discussing the employee's personal issues or problems that should normally be discussed with adults.
- Giving a student a gift of a personal nature.
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's vehicle without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Taking a student on an outing without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.

- Inviting a student to the employee's residence without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents and a school administrator.
- Going to a student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Repeatedly seeking to be alone with a student.
- Being alone in a room with an individual student at school with the door closed.
- Any after-school hours activity with only one student.
- Any other behavior which exploits the special position of trust and authority between an employee and student.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behavior which exploits a student is unacceptable. If in doubt, ask yourself, "Would I be doing this if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

Communication Between Employees and Students. The preferred methods for employees to communicate with students are in person, school email or an app approved by the administration.

Employee communications with students through a communication system generally are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients and not just to one student. The burden to demonstrate the appropriateness of a communication with a student only shall rest with the employee.

Reporting a Policy Violation. Anyone may report suspected grooming, other unacceptable employee conduct, or any violation of this policy as follows:

School District. Reports may be made to a principal, the superintendent, or the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, or email.

Nebraska Department of Education. Reports may be made at: Nebraska Department of Education, Attn: Certification Investigations' Office, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln NE 68509 or Nde.investigations@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Reports may be made by calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 652-1999.

Law Enforcement. Reports the county sheriff's office at (308) 826-8555, or the Nebraska State Patrol at (308) 385-6000.

An employee is required to make a report to a principal or the superintendent if the employee reasonably believes that another employee has violated or may have violated this policy. Minor concerns or violations shall be reported within 24 hours. Major concerns or violations shall be reported immediately. Violations committed by or concerns about the superintendent shall be reported to the school board president.

A student who feels his or her boundaries have been violated should directly inform the offender that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offender or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, administrator, counselor, the Title IX coordinator, or other school employee with whom she or he feels comfortable.

Retaliation Prohibited. Retaliation for good faith reports or complaints made as a result of this policy is prohibited. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally make a false report shall be subject to discipline as provided by district policy and state law.

Policy Violations. Any violation of this policy by an employee may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment and/or referral to the Nebraska Department of Education, which may result in the suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate. Any violation involving sexual or other abuse will result in referral to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, law enforcement, or both.

Policy Verification. Employees shall verify that they have received, reviewed, and understood this policy by signing an acknowledgment document indicating the same.

No Limits on Reports to NDE. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any certificated employee's duty to report any known violation of the standards of professional practices (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, commonly known as Rule 27) adopted by the Nebraska Board of Education.

Adopted on: March 11, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

4044

Political Activity by Staff Members

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

The following activities are prohibited during an employee's work time (including duty-free lunch and planning periods):

1. Soliciting votes or contributions for or against a particular candidate or ballot proposition.
2. Discussing with students opinions regarding a political candidate or ballot proposition unless the topic is part of the approved curriculum.
3. Preparing, displaying, wearing or distributing campaign literature, materials, or signs for or against a candidate or ballot proposition (this prohibition does not apply to bumper stickers on personal vehicles).
4. Soliciting volunteers to assist with a campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot proposition.
5. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, petition, rally, or event.
6. Other prohibited political activity as defined by state law.

The following activities are prohibited at all times:

1. Using any school district resources including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, copy machines, computers or e-mail accounts, for political campaign activities.

2. Using school district property or facilities for any political campaign activities, unless such use is approved pursuant to school board rules or policy.

3. Spending district funds to urge votes to vote for or against a candidate or ballot proposition

4. Requiring employees to engage in political campaign activities as part of their job duties.

5. Providing employees with additional compensation or benefits for engaging in political activities.

6. Representing an employee's personal political position as the position of the school district or the board of education.

7. Engaging in any other activity prohibited by state law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4045
Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: September 11, 2023
Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4046

Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter “the committee”) may conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may conduct internet searches using candidates’ full names and any aliases. The committee may also search candidates’ full names and any aliases on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networking websites.

2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants’ names.

3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants’ social networking pages, blogs, or other on-line media and will not require applicants for employment to provide the district with their username or password to personal social media accounts.

4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.

5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:
 - a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors, or employers;

- b. Discriminatory, harassing, or demeaning behavior or comments;
- c. Unprofessional, lewd, or obscene behavior or remarks;
- d. Criminal activity;
- e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought; and
- f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.

6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4048

Assessment Administration and Security

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

1. Assessment Responsibilities

- a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:
 - overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, training all staff who administer assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within required testing windows;

- obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members;
 - informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures; and
 - signing and enforcing the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Agreement.
- b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:
- complying with the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures;
 - taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments; and
 - ensuring the security of all test materials.

2. Security Violations and Cheating

Classroom assessments

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

b. State Accountability Tests

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicions to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4050 Overtime and Compensatory Time

Employees who are "non-exempt" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and who work more than 40 hours in a workweek will be paid at the rate of time-and-one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours or will be provided compensatory time. All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor. Scheduled holidays, vacation days, time off for jury duty, and time off for sickness, emergencies or other personal reasons will not be considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

The district may grant compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half (1½) hours off for each hour of overtime the employee worked. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 hours of compensatory time, which represents 160 hours of actual overtime worked. When an employee has accrued 240 hours of compensatory time, the district shall pay him/her at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times his/her regular rate of pay for each additional hour of overtime. An employee who asks to use compensatory time shall be permitted to use it within a reasonable period after the request if its use does not unduly disrupt the district's operations.

Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than: (1) the average regular hourly rate paid to the employee during the last three years of his/her employment, or (2) the final regular hourly rate paid to the employee, whichever is higher.

Payment for unused compensatory time shall be at the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour of compensatory time, not one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4051

Staff and District Social Media Use

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. This policy is intended to ensure (1) appropriate use of social media by staff and (2) appropriate control of social media accounts belonging to or affiliated with the district. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff Computer and Internet Usage.

I. Personal Versus School-Affiliated Social Media Use

a. Personal Social Media Use

. The school district will not require staff members or applicants for employment to provide the district with their username and password to personal social media accounts.

i. The district will not require staff to add anyone to the list of contacts associated with the staff member's personal social media accounts or require a staff member to change the settings on his or her personal social media accounts so that others can or cannot view their accounts.

ii. Staff members whose personal social media use interferes with the orderly operation of the school or who use social media in ways that are not protected by the First Amendment may be subject to discipline by the district.

iii. Staff members who wish to begin using or to continue using the school district name, programs, mascot, image or likeness as part of any social media profile must notify their supervising administrator of the use, and must secure the administrator's permission to do so.

b. School-Affiliated Social Media Use

i. Any social media account which purports to be "the official" account of the school district (e.g., "Buffaloes Wrestling"), or any of its programs, classes or entities will be considered to be an account that is used exclusively for the school district's business purpose. Staff members may not use "official" accounts for personal use.

ii. Staff may be required to provide their supervising administrator with the username and password to school-affiliated social media accounts.

- iii. Staff may be required to interact with specified individuals on school-affiliated social media accounts.
- iv. When staff use school-affiliated social media accounts to comment on school-related matters, they do not do so as private citizens and are therefore not entitled to First Amendment protections.

II. Staff Expectations in Use of Social Media – Applicable to Both Personal and School-Affiliated Use

a. General Use and Conditions

Staff must comply with all board policies, contract provisions, and applicable rules of professional conduct in their social media usage. They must comply with the board’s policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in both physical and digital environments.

Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information in order to make sure that the publication does not violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act or any other laws. Staff must also comply with all applicable state and federal record retention requirements, even with regard to personal social media usage.

Staff must comply with all applicable laws prohibiting the use or disclosure of impermissible content, such as copyright laws, accountability and disclosure laws, and any other law governing the use of resources of a political subdivision. Questions about appropriate content should be referred to the staff member’s supervising administrator.

b. Acceptable Use

- i. Staff may use social media for instructional purposes.
- ii. Staff may use social media for school-related communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.
- iii. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources, which may include social media, into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on social media is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter.

c. Unacceptable Use

- i. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material while at school, on school-owned device or on school-affiliated social media accounts.
- ii. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
- iii. Staff shall not access social media networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on school-owned devices or during school time unless such access is for an educational activity which has been preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to using chat rooms, message boards, or instant messaging in social media applications and includes posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices.

III. School-Affiliated Digital Content

a. General Use and Conditions for School-Affiliated Accounts

Staff must obtain the permission of their supervising administration prior to creating, publishing, or using any school-affiliated web pages, microblogs, social media pages or handles, or any other digital content which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any content which identifies the school district by name in the account name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated accounts and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff may not provide the username and password to school-affiliated accounts to any unauthorized individual, including students and volunteers.

b. Moderation of Third Party Content

- i. The purpose of school-related social media accounts is to disseminate information. No school-related or school-affiliated social media account covered by this policy shall permit comments by the public unless otherwise approved by the superintendent. All comment functions for applications such as Facebook and Instagram must be turned to "off" without this approval.
- ii. In the event the superintendent permits content created by anyone other than the administrator of the account to appear on the account's

pages, such as comments made by students, parents, and patrons, the account administrator must monitor the content to ensure it complies with this policy. Posts, comments, or any other content made on the account's pages may be removed when the content meets any of the following conditions:

Is obscene, lewd, or appeals to prurient interests;

Contains information relating to a student matter or personnel matter which is protected under or prohibited by state or federal law;

Contains threatening, harassing, or discriminatory words or phrases;

Incites or is reasonably anticipated to incite violence, illegal activity, or a material and substantial disruption to school operations or activities; or

Contains any other threat to the safety of students and staff.

Every account administrator must keep a copy of any removed content and must provide a copy to the superintendent along with written notification for the reason the post has been removed. All questions about the appropriateness of removal must be directed to the superintendent.

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Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4052

Job References to Prospective Employers

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.

If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district may provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may

provide additional truthful information to prospective employers of current and former employees in accordance with this policy.

Employees Suspected of Sexual Misconduct Against a Minor or Student

Apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files or unless otherwise permitted by law, the district and any employee, contractor, or agent of the school district is prohibited from providing any employee any assistance in obtaining a new job if the school district or the individual acting for the school district has probable cause to believe said employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4053 Conflict of Interest

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:

1. A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

2. A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the employee or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

- b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.
- c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes

2. Contracts with the School District.

- a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.
- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - 1. The employee does not abuse his or her position.
 - i. Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:

ii who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;

iii. for any unreasonably high salary;

iv. who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

3. The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.

4. The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.

The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

b. No employee shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

1. a public official, public employee, or candidate.

2. a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

3. a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or above is associated.

b. No employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

- c. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public employment or any confidential information received through the public employment to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself or a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
- d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.

6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

- a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
- c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
- d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
- e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

- 7. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4054

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Reporting Procedure. School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Contents of the Report. The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

Legal Immunity. Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

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Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4056

Resignation of Certificated Staff

Certificated staff members who know they will not be returning to employment at the school district for the following school year are encouraged to submit their resignations as early as possible, to enable the board to find suitable replacements.

As a general matter, the board will not release certificated staff members after March 1st from their contractual obligations. The superintendent has the discretion to release certified staff from their contract after March 1st in cases with extenuating circumstances. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Professional Practices Committee of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4057

Superintendent Evaluation

The board shall observe and evaluate the superintendent based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period at least twice during his first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the board. For the purposes of this policy, "actual classroom observation" shall mean observing the superintendent performing activities that are typical of his or her position. An "entire instructional period" for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of some aspect of the superintendent's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Purpose. The purposes of the formal job evaluation are:

1. To provide a means of rational, structured communication between the board and superintendent to create a more constructive and effective working relationship.
2. To provide a basis for commending, rewarding and reinforcing good work, as well as identifying areas where the superintendent needs to improve.
3. To clarify the superintendent's role and inform the superintendent of the board's expectations.

Dates. Unless otherwise provided for in the superintendent's employment contract, the first year evaluations should take place (1) during the first semester of the academic year; on or before the December board meeting, and (2) during the second semester of the academic year; on or before the June board meeting. Annual evaluations shall take place at a board meeting held during the month before the date in the superintendent's employment contract by which the board must notify the superintendent of its intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of the contract. In the absence of such a contract provision, the annual evaluation should take place at or prior to the March board meeting. The Superintendent shall remind the Board members in writing at least 45 days before the date of each upcoming evaluation and shall make his evaluation an agenda item for the board meeting.

Evaluation Document. The superintendent shall submit a recommended evaluation document to the board. The board shall meet and discuss the proposed document with the superintendent. The board may amend and adopt the proposed evaluation document. The board may amend the document or adopt a new document without amending this policy. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation document to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Evaluation Procedures. Each board member shall have the opportunity to complete a draft evaluation document. The board president shall compile the individual draft evaluations into a single and final evaluation, provide a copy to the superintendent, and discuss it with him or her. The superintendent's evaluation may be conducted in closed session if it is necessary to prevent needless injury to the superintendent's reputation and if he or she has not requested it be done in open session.

Deficiencies. If deficiencies are noted in the superintendent's work performance, the board shall provide the superintendent at the time of the observation with a list of deficiencies and a list of suggestions for improvement and assistance in overcoming the deficiencies. The board shall also provide the superintendent with follow-up evaluations and assistance when deficiencies remain, a timeline for improvement, and sufficient time to improve. In the alternative, the board may rely upon the superintendent's education, training, and expertise and require him or her to submit a "list of suggestions for improvement" or plan of improvement for the board's consideration.

Personnel File. The evaluation shall be signed by the board president (or other member of the board) and the superintendent. The superintendent shall place a copy of the evaluation in his or her personnel file. The superintendent may provide a written response to the evaluation to the board. A copy of the response shall also be placed in the superintendent's personnel file. The board may meet with the superintendent to discuss the written response.

Policy Limitation. The evaluation procedures are included in this policy as a result of the board's statutory obligation to evaluate the superintendent and do not give the superintendent any rights not provided by statute. The board's failure to comply with any procedures provided in this policy but not required by law shall not prohibit the board from taking any action regarding the superintendent's employment, up to and including the nonrenewal, amendment, or cancellation of the employment contract.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: April 22, 2021

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4058
Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4059
Suicide Prevention Training

All public school employees who interact with students and any other appropriate personnel are required to complete at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training every year. The superintendent will determine the appropriate personnel required to receive the training. The training materials for this training must be included in the Nebraska Department of Education's list of approved training materials.

These employees must complete the training designated by the school district or superintendent no later than the Wednesday before Thanksgiving of each school year or within 30 days of their initial employment, whichever is later. Failure to complete this training may subject the employee to employment-related discipline.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: September 11, 2023

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4060 School Vehicle Use

Pupil Transportation Vehicles. The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. See Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91 – Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 91") Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92 – Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 92"), available on NDE's website (www.education.ne.gov). A pupil transportation vehicle is any vehicle utilized to carry school children as sponsored and approved by the school board and that conforms to the Nebraska Department of Education definitions of pupil transportation vehicles listed as School Bus, Activity Bus, Small Vehicle, or Coach Bus.

School Vehicles Other Than Those Transporting Students. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials (collectively "school personnel") who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. School district vehicles may not be used for personal purposes unless the vehicle, or the use of it, is provided to an employee as a condition of an employment contract or it is leased to school personnel as allowed by law. School personnel must operate school vehicles in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Driver Qualifications. School personnel who wish to use a vehicle owned or leased by the school district and who are not transporting students must:

- Possess and provide a copy of a valid Motor Vehicle operator's license.
- Be able to read and comprehend driving regulations and written test questions.

- Obtain and provide a copy of his or her current driving record from the department of motor vehicles at least one time per school year to the superintendent or his or her designee.
- Be at least 19 years of age.

School personnel must notify the superintendent or his or her designee about any change in their driving status or eligibility.

School personnel who have been convicted of any of the following or who meet any of the following conditions will not be allowed to drive a school district vehicle:

- If the citation or conviction occurred at any time—Motor vehicle homicide or driving under the influence – 3rd or subsequent offense;

The superintendent or his or her designee has the discretion to prohibit school personnel from driving a school vehicle for a citation or arrest for the above offenses or any other offense or reason. The superintendent or his or her designee will make the final determination about the use of school district vehicles.

Electronic Communication While Driving. Unless the superintendent or a principal grants an exception to allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon an employee's duties and responsibilities, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, text messages or other visual media.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances. The use of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. The use or possession of any alcohol or controlled substance (unless legally prescribed to school personnel by a physician) is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. All drivers shall follow and be subject to Drug Free Workplace Policy and Drug Policy Regarding Drivers Policy.

Traffic Accidents, Infractions, Violations, or Citations. School personnel who receive a citation or warning citation from a law enforcement officer or are involved in an accident while operating a school vehicle must report the citation to the superintendent or his or her designee as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours of receipt. The superintendent must report his or her accidents, infractions, violations, or citations to the board president.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4061

Workplace or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness and Return to Work

Reporting Workplace Injuries. Staff members who are injured while performing duties or who witness workplace injuries must report them to the superintendent or superintendent's designee as soon as possible after being injured or witnessing an injury. Staff members must prepare written statements regarding the injuries they sustained or witnessed when they are asked to do so by the school district. Failure to report a workplace injury as a witness will constitute insubordination and neglect of duty and may result in adverse employment action up to and including termination or cancellation of employment. Failure to report workplace injuries may also result in delayed or forfeited benefits to which an employee may otherwise be entitled.

Returning to Work after Workplace Injuries or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness. Staff members whose injuries or illness prevent them from completing any or all of their duties, whether or not incurred at work, may be permitted to continue working or may be offered modified duty positions as required by law or as determined appropriate by the superintendent. This policy does not guarantee a limited or modified assignment during the recovery period unless it is otherwise required by law. The employee may be required to provide a return to work certification or report from their treating physician which delineates any restrictions, modifications, or accommodations needed to allow the employee to perform the essential functions of their position.

Termination After Workplace Injuries or Illness. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract, employees may be terminated after suffering a workplace injury or illness when the district has a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for doing so. Such reasons include but are not limited to:

- Necessity to fill the position to maintain continuous services as required by law or district policy or standards;
- Performance deficiencies of the employee unrelated to the injury or illness;
- Unavailability of substitute or replacement employees;

- When the absence will negatively impact students' educational experience or opportunities; or
- Any other reason not otherwise prohibited by law.

The district may make such employment determinations regardless of whether the employee has returned to work and regardless of whether a medical professional has certified that the employee has reached maximum medical improvement. In the event the injury or illness lasts beyond the amount of leave time provided by the district and by the Family Medical Leave Act, which is generally no greater than 12 weeks, the employee may be terminated even if the employee remains eligible for Workers' Compensation under state law or short or long-term disability under a policy available through the district. In no event will an employee be terminated as retaliation for filing a Workers' Compensation claim.

Termination After Non-Workplace Injuries. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract or prohibited by law, employees who are unable to perform any of the essential functions of their positions with reasonable accommodation(s) due to injury or illness occurring outside of the workplace may be terminated. The employee's position or a similar position will be held open only as required by law, such as the Family Medical Leave Act.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4062 Locker Room Supervision

Staff members, coaches, sponsors, and students must comply with the requirements of this policy while using locker rooms at the school district or at other locations.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must appropriately supervise students in locker rooms and other locations where students dress, change, or engage in similar activities. This supervision must occur at all times during curricular and extracurricular activities and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Entering and walking through the entire locker room at regular and irregular intervals to provide direct supervision and to assess student behavior.
- Maintaining an orderly locker room free from "horseplay" and other prohibited conduct.
- Maintaining a visual presence.

- Adequately addressing any misbehaviors.
- Escorting students to and from the locker room and the activity or instructional area.
- Unlocking the locker room so that students may enter, and locking the locker room after all students have exited the locker room.
- Searching the locker room to determine that all students have exited the locker room before locking it.
- Ensuring that the locker room remains locked during any activity.

If a student is found missing during an activity, the staff member, coach, or sponsor or adult designee shall check the locker room for the missing student.

The locker room must be locked at all times when unsupervised.

Only students whose team or activity is currently playing or are in-season or who are involved in a school-sponsored activity that requires or allows presence in the locker room are allowed access to the locker room before or after the regular school day.

Students are not allowed to enter or reenter the locker room without appropriate supervision.

If the staff member, coach, or sponsor is the opposite sex of the students, he or she may designate another adult of the same sex as the students to provide the required locker room supervision. This delegation does not remove ultimate responsibility from the staff member, coach, or sponsor who is subject to the obligations under this policy to ensure that such obligations are met. By allowing their students to participate in an activity with a cross-gender coach, parents/guardians consent to the entry of the staff member or his or her designee into the locker room at any time as necessary to maintain student safety and order.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must remain with students until they are picked up by the parent, guardian, or other authorized person or the student leaves in his or her own transportation. Students must never be left unattended after a game, practice, or other school-sponsored activity. In other words, the staff member, coach, or sponsor should be the first one to arrive at the activity and the last one to leave.

Cell phones and other devices with visual or auditory recording capability may not be used in the locker room at any time or for any reason.

Under no circumstance may a staff member, coach, or sponsor delegate any responsibility under this policy to a student or other minor.

School administrators or their designees may make random checks to assess policy compliance.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Reviewed on: _____

Amended on: March 11, 2024

5052 School Wellness Policy

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.
- f. Nutrition Topics shall be integrated within the health education curriculum and taught at every grade level (k-12)

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

- i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards
 - ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and

advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, Fundraisers or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs)

- a. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), all foods and beverages sold during the school day as part of a fundraiser or for any other purpose in competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs must meet the nutrition standards of those programs.
- b. Fundraiser food or beverages are NOT exempt from the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Therefore, if food is sold as a fundraiser:
 - (1) It shall not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
 - (2) It shall not be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period beginning one half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and/or lunch and lasting until one half hour after the serving of breakfast and/or lunch.
 - (3) The sale of food items during the school day shall meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition requirements
 - (4) This restriction does not apply to food sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to

bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)

9. School Lunch Program

- a. Meals served through the school lunch program will comply with the National School lunch and Breakfast Standards.
- b. The District will take steps to protect the privacy of students who qualify for free and reduced meals.
- c. Free water is available in the cafeteria during meals.
- d. The District will attempt to purchase locally produced foods.
- e. After obtaining food, students will have at least 20 minutes to eat.

10. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;
- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

11. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

12. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

13. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) [found at https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2](https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2).

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: March 11, 2024

Reviewed on: _____

2005 Conflict of Interest

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

1. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.
2. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded. Board members who enter into

employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board's policy on the employment of board members.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
 - c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.
 - d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:
 - (1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;
 - (2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and
 - (3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.
3. Contracts with Board Member's Immediate Family.
 - a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
 1. All district employees.
 2. All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.
 4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 1. The board member does not abuse his or her position.
 2. Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
 - i. who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
 - ii. for any unreasonably high salary;
 - iii. who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
 3. The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
 4. The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
 5. The board approves the employment or supervisory position.
- b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

- a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:
 1. a public official, public employee, or candidate.
 2. a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

3. a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.
 - b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.
 - c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
 - d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.
6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues
- a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
 - b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
 - c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
 - d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
1. The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board

on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.

2. Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

1. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
2. Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and
3. Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.

- b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

8. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:

1. The names of the contracting parties.

2. The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
 3. The date that the contract was approved.
 4. The amount of the contract.
 5. The basic terms of the contract.
- b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.
9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: May 9, 2022

3014
Use of School Property

1. Use of Specific Facilities by Application and Agreement
 - a. The district permits non-commercial use of the weight room by individual patrons for their personal health and wellness. The district understands that it would not be feasible to require a patron to apply to use facilities like the weight room on every occurrence. Patrons who wish to have access to the weight room must pay an annual (March 1 to February 28) fee set by the Board for a key fob. The facility uses defined in this paragraph are an exception to the general facility use requirements contained in this policy for ease of administration and efficiency. All other facility uses must comply with the other provisions of this policy.
 - b. The weight room facilities may only be used after completion of the district's written waiver and agreement form and payment of the fee. Information must be updated and fee paid yearly between January 1 and February 28. Any agreement signed after February 28th will only be valid until the following March 1, no prorated fee will be offered
 - c. Use of these facilities is governed by this and other district policy and the agreement signed by the user. A copy of each agreement will be maintained in the district's central office.
2. General Facilities Use Guidelines
 - a. School facilities may be used by various education and community organizations and individuals when it is in the interest of the general public.
 - b. School facilities may not be used for personal profit and other commercial purposes. The district opens its facilities to district patrons for the benefit of the public, not commercial uses. Due to the complications created by groups or individuals using district facilities for commercial purposes, these uses are prohibited. Booster clubs and other organizations raising money purely for the support of student groups, as defined below, and not for personal profit are not considered commercial uses but must comply with the district's policies which apply to these groups.

- c. Any person or group using school facilities must assure that it will be responsible for maintaining order, protecting property, and providing security and safety.
- d. Only those organizations and persons who are known to school officials, who have financial resources sufficient to cover all rentals and possible damages, and who are willing to discharge such obligations shall be permitted to use the school facilities and equipment.
- e. The rental fees for school facilities shall be set by the board.
- f. Non-curricular student groups or non-student groups (as those terms are defined below) that wish to use the facility must submit a facility use application which may be obtained from the district's central office. The application must be received by the superintendent prior to the approval of any facility use.
- g. The shop and weight room may not be used by students when school is not in session, unless supervised by a district staff member or a responsible adult upon approval of the superintendent. Use of the shop and weight room in violation of this provision may lead to the students being denied access to these facilities or other consequences permitted by board policy and Nebraska law.
- h. Any person or group using the school facilities, for any purpose, must comply with all of the district's policies, rules, and regulations.

3. Definitions

- a. "Curriculum-related student groups" shall mean students participating in school-sponsored activities, supervised by district staff, related to the curriculum, and recognized by the board.
- b. "Extracurricular student groups" shall mean students participating in an extracurricular activity, sponsored by the district, supervised by district staff, and recognized by the board, such as athletic teams and academic teams which are not otherwise categorized as "curriculum-related student groups."
- c. "Non-curriculum related student groups" shall mean all other groups comprised primarily of students who attend the district participating in activities such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, political groups, religious groups, and other similar youth groups.
- d. "Non-student group" shall mean all other groups or individuals who apply to use district facilities.
- e. "Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of schools or his/her designee.

4. Use of School Property by Student Groups

- a. Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups
 - i.) Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups may use school facilities at no cost to the group, if they restore the facilities to their prior state after using them.
 - ii.) The district shall bear any costs associated with use by these groups (*e.g.*, the fee paid to a cook or a custodian required to be in attendance).
 - iii.) Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups have priority over non-curriculum related student groups and non-student groups.
- b. Non-curriculum related student groups
 - i. Non-curriculum related student groups may use the school

building during non-instructional time. Such use shall be without charge.

(1) Such uses shall occur while the building is normally open and there is a minimum of interference with custodians or other student and staff facility use.

(2) These groups may use the school buildings in the evening for meetings if the group is sponsored by an adult and the adult (1) files the application to use the facilities on behalf of the group and (2) assumes responsibility for cleanup and placing the area back in the condition it was in prior to use.

ii. Non-curriculum related student groups must apply for use of the facilities and secure the superintendent's permission before using school facilities.

iii. Non-curriculum related student groups may meet only on school premises at times and places determined by the superintendent.

iv. Non-curriculum related student groups must meet each of the following conditions to secure the superintendent's permission to use school facilities:

(1) The facility use will occur during non-instructional time.

(2) The district has facilities available to accommodate the group.

(3) The use is voluntary and for the general benefit of the student participants.

(4) The use will not substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities and other programs within the school.

5. Use of facilities by non-student groups

a. The superintendent may authorize the use of any school facilities

for non-school activities by non-student groups.

- b. In addition to the guidelines listed elsewhere in this policy and other board policies or administrative protocol, the superintendent will consider the following when making determinations regarding use of district facilities by non-student groups:
 - i. The local education association may hold meetings when classes are not in session and staff members are not on duty.
 - ii. Non-student groups which provide education-related programming and services for students and staff may be given priority of use over other outside groups. The superintendent has sole discretion in determining whether proposed uses relate sufficiently to the district's educational standards and programs.
 - iii. Non-student groups which provide programming and services for community members and others living within the district may be given priority of use over other outside groups.
- c. Denial of access
 - i. The superintendent may limit or deny access to school buildings, grounds, and activities to any person whom the superintendent deems to be using the facilities inappropriately and contrary to the district's mission.
 - ii. Upon determining that a person or group has engaged in, or is engaging in conduct that constitutes grounds for exclusion under this policy, the superintendent shall take such action as he or she determines appropriate, including directing the person to cease engaging in the conduct or to leave the school premises or activity immediately. The superintendent may request assistance from law enforcement authorities to remove an offending person from the school grounds. A person who enters school premises in violation of these conditions shall be deemed to be trespassing.

- iii. The superintendent shall have the authority to fix the time when, and the conditions under which, the offending person may return to school premises.
- 6. Students, staff, and community members may use or lease school equipment for non-school use only if they have received the prior permission of the superintendent.
- 7. Proof of Insurance
 - a. When any non-curriculum related or non-student group utilizes school district facilities, the group submitting the facility use application may be asked to provide proof of insurance up to the current tort claims limits applicable to political subdivision in the State of Nebraska. Currently, those limits are \$1,000,000 per person for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence and \$5,000,000 for all claims arising out of a single occurrence.
 - b. The district may require the non-curriculum related or non-student group to include the district as an additional insured on any such policies and may refuse access to its facilities until proof of satisfaction of this requirement is submitted to the superintendent.
- 8. No Fees for Admission
 - a. Non-curriculum related and non-student groups may not charge a fee to participate in or be a spectator at any recreational activity, event, or other such gathering occurring on district grounds unless approved in advance by the superintendent.
 - b. If the district retains control over the area of the premises in which the non-curricular and non-student group desires to use, meaning the district provides supervision, staffing, custodial services, or otherwise maintains its control during the group's use of the facilities, the group may not charge a fee for admission under any circumstances.
 - c. Non-curricular and non-student groups may charge for parking or vehicle entry onto the premises unless otherwise prohibited by the superintendent.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

4027
Part-Time Certified Employees

Percentage of Time. The percentage of time that a teacher works will be determined by calculating the amount of time that the teacher is required to be at school to teach or supervise classes, plus any assigned preparation time, as a percentage of the entire school day. Extracurricular assignments shall not be considered in determining a teacher's percentage of time. Part-time and temporary teachers may or may not be assigned preparation time, at the sole discretion of the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Acquiring Permanent Status. A part-time teacher may become a permanent certificated employee pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

Salary. The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by reference to the negotiated agreement between the district and the teacher's association. The percentage of time a part-time teacher is required to be on duty shall be determined by the board of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Horizontal Movement on the Salary Schedule. A part-time teacher may qualify for movement horizontally on the salary schedule by earning graduate hours of college credit as set forth in the guidelines of the school district's salary schedule, and according to the applicable district policies.

Attendance at In-service Meetings, Faculty Meetings, and School Activities. A part-time teacher is responsible for attending in-service meetings, faculty meetings, and school activities that take place outside the teacher's assigned duty hours without additional compensation. A part-time teacher is responsible for performing such tasks as selling or taking tickets, and will be compensated for such tasks pursuant to the policy, practice or negotiated agreement of the school district.

Continuation of Employment. The school district administration and board will deal with the continuation of a part-time teacher's employment pursuant to state statute and the procedures prescribed for full-time employees in these policies.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4028 Substitute Teachers

A substitute teacher is an educator who possesses the required certification from the Nebraska Department of Education and is employed to fill a teaching position on a temporary basis. The board shall establish the pay and benefits for substitute teachers.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4029 Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees

The board of education recognizes the "salary schedule" and related provisions for compensation currently in effect resulting from negotiations between the board and the education association. This policy is intended to supplement the terms and conditions contained in the collective bargaining agreement. If there is any conflict between the terms of this policy and the collective bargaining agreement, the terms of the negotiated agreement shall control.

Horizontal Advancement. Teachers who wish to advance horizontally on the salary schedule are encouraged to notify the superintendent in writing of their movement on the salary schedule prior to June 1 of the preceding school year. The teacher must furnish the superintendent with college transcripts by September 10 for the teacher to qualify to move horizontally on the salary schedule. If an institution will not issue an official transcript by September 10, the teacher must provide the superintendent with written confirmation by September 10 from a college official attesting that the teacher has satisfactorily completed the courses.

Movement Past the BA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the BA column shall be enrolled in courses that relate to education, as determined by the superintendent. Teachers are encouraged to inform the superintendent of their enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Movement Past the MA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the MA column must be enrolled in course work that relates to education. Teachers are encouraged to inform the superintendent of their

enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Superintendent's Review. The superintendent shall review all requests for advancement on the salary schedule resulting from a teacher's acquiring additional teaching experience or for completion of college courses, and shall report all changes to the board of education annually.

Vertical Advancement. A teacher may advance only one step vertically on the schedule in any year.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4030 Evaluation of Certificated Employees

All certificated employees to be evaluated shall be notified annually in writing of the evaluation process. A certificated administrator, with the exception of the local board of education when it is evaluating the superintendent, will observe and evaluate each probationary certificated employee for a full instructional period once each semester and each permanent certificated employee for a full instructional period once each school year. If the probationary certificated employee is a superintendent, he or she shall be evaluated twice during the first year of employment and at least once annually thereafter. The evaluation will include, but not be limited to evaluating the employee's instructional performance, classroom organization and management, personal conduct, and professional conduct. Evaluation of instructional performance and classroom organization and management is applicable to teachers only. The administrator will provide the employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions and a timeline for correcting the deficiencies and improving performance, and sufficient time to improve. The evaluation form will include notice that the employee may respond to the evaluation in writing.

The school district will train administrators in evaluation annually through meetings with the superintendent or other administrator, attendance at regional, state or national workshops, or any other method approved by the superintendent.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

Entire Instructional Period. For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Actual Classroom Observation. Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certificated employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

This policy and the evaluation instrument shall be included in the teacher handbook which will be distributed to staff members upon their employment and annually thereafter.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4032 Professional Growth

Every six years, permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six semester hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth.

The board of education believes the goal of professional self-improvement to be inherent in the responsibilities of each certificated district employee.

Other professional growth activities which may count toward the six-year requirement include non-credit courses, lecture series, workshops,

conferences, study groups, local in-service courses, committee service, supervising a student teacher, serving with professional groups, travel of significant educational value, and membership in professional organizations. The employee must receive prior approval from the building principal for any of these activities to count toward professional growth.

No professional growth units will be awarded if the applicant has been paid for a non-college activity either by released time or by an additional amount paid by the school district.

One unit of professional growth credit will generally be equivalent to ten hours of personal time spent on an educational activity.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4034 Staff Handbook

The superintendent or designee shall annually formulate, review and revise a staff handbook that will contain information about the district's employment policies and practices. The staff handbook is an extension of these policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4037 Reduction In Force

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certificated staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of certificated staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced. However, the employment of a permanent employee may not be terminated through a reduction in force while a probationary employee is retained to render a service that the

permanent employee is qualified to perform by reason of certification and endorsement, or when certification is not applicable, by reason of college credits in the teaching area.

1. **Definition of Reduction in Force.** A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated staff members, even if the number of percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hirings or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in the termination of employment or an amendment to an employee's contract reducing the extent of the employee's employment.

2. **Restriction of Right to Administrative Position.** Due to the confidential and unique personal working relationship necessary between the administration and the board of education, a certificated employee who is not currently serving in a predominantly administrative capacity shall have no rights under this policy to any administrative position within the school system.

3. **Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.

1.
 - a. Programs to be offered;
 - b. Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Nebraska Teaching Certificate;
 - c. State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
 - d. Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
 - e. Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
 - f. The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certificated employees;

g. Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.

4. **Consideration of Uninterrupted Service.** If, after consideration of the criteria listed above, it is the opinion of the superintendent that there is no significant difference between or among certificated employees being considered for reduction, the employee(s) with the longest uninterrupted service to the district shall be retained.

2.

a. Uninterrupted length of service is defined as the number of continuous full-time equivalent years of employment in the district as a teacher.

b. A full-time equivalent year is defined as employment on a full-time basis for an entire school year.

c. Less than full-time employment reduces the teacher's full-time equivalent employment for a school year. For example, a teacher employed on a half-time basis would be credited with half a year full-time equivalent employment.

d. A break in service will terminate a teacher's seniority and length of service under this provision. That period of time when a teacher is on a leave of absence shall not constitute a break in service; however, any years of absences or fractions of years of leave of absence will not count as years of employment for the purposes of determining the length of a teacher's uninterrupted service.

5. **Rights of Recall.**

. Any certificated employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect.

a. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.

b. Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year of years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district.

c. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

6. Current Teaching Certificate.

. Upon initial employment with the district, each certificated employee shall file a copy of his or her teaching certificate, including endorsements with the superintendent of schools.

a. The employee shall be responsible for filing any changes in certification or endorsements with the superintendent.

7. Address Records.

. A certificated employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.

a) If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4038

Classified Staff Defined

The term "classified staff" means all employees other than certificated teachers and administrators. Classified staff employees are employed at will, and their employment may be amended or terminated at any time and without any cause.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4039

Employment of Classified Staff

The superintendent or designee shall hire classified staff to meet personnel needs consistent with the district's budget, instructional needs, and non-

instructional operations. The superintendent or designee shall obtain a criminal history record that includes information from the Nebraska State Patrol for all individuals that are to be employed as pupil transportation vehicle drivers (except certificated Nebraska school administrators or teachers) and keep a copy of that record on file and shall update it during the calendar year that coincides with the expiration of the driver's motor vehicle operator's license. Otherwise, the superintendent or designee may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any classified staff applicant. Criminal history or background checks shall occur only after the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This policy shall not prevent the school district from requiring an applicant to disclose his or her criminal record or history relating to sexual or physical abuse prior to any minimum employment qualification determination.

The superintendent or designee shall discipline and discharge classified staff as appropriate.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4040

Employment Terms for Classified Staff

Each position listed below shall be hired by the superintendent on the terms stated in the individual employment contract.

Paraprofessional
Maintenance
Custodian
Secretary
District Bookkeeper
Bus Driver
Van Driver
Food Service
Nurse

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4042

Employee Social Security Numbers

Nebraska law prohibits employers from using or publishing an employee's social security number except under certain specified circumstances. This district shall comply with this law and take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of employees' social security numbers. However, neither state law nor this policy prohibits the district from using the last four digits of an employee's social security number as an employee identification number or in any other reasonable manner.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4043

Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students

School district employees and student teachers or interns ("employees") are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. Employees are required to establish and maintain professional boundaries with students and must have appropriate relationships with students. They may be friendly with students, but they are the students' teachers, not their friends, and they must take care to see that this line does not become blurred. This applies to employees' conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The posting or publication of messages or pictures or other images that diminish an employee's professionalism or ability to maintain the respect of students and parents may impair his or her ability to be an effective employee. Employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner supportive of the best interests of students.

Sexual Relationships Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in any relationship that involves sexual contact or sexual penetration with a student while the student is a current student and for a minimum of one year after the date of the student's graduation or the date the student otherwise ceases enrollment. Sexual contact has the same

meaning as in section 28-318, and sexual penetration has the same meaning as in section 28-318.

Grooming Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in grooming with students. Grooming means building trust with a student and individuals close to the student in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the student, with the ultimate goal of engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration with the student, regardless of when in the student's life the sexual contact or sexual penetration would take place.

Unless an employee can clearly and convincingly demonstrate a legitimate educational purpose, grooming behaviors and related conduct that are a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Communicating about sex when the discussion is not required by a specific aspect of the curriculum.
- Joking about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Displaying sexually inappropriate material or objects.
- Making any sexual advance, whether written, verbal, or physical or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature.
- Kissing of any kind.
- Dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the district.
- Intruding on a student's personal space (e.g. by touching unnecessarily, moving too close, staring at a portion of the student's body, or engaging in other behavior that makes the student uncomfortable).
- Initiating unwanted physical contact with a student.
- Communicating electronically (e.g. by e-mail, text messaging, or through social media) on a matter that does not pertain to school.
- Playing favorites or permitting a specific student to engage in conduct that is not tolerated from other students.
- Discussing the employee's personal issues or problems that should normally be discussed with adults.
- Giving a student a gift of a personal nature.
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's vehicle without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Taking a student on an outing without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.

- Inviting a student to the employee's residence without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents and a school administrator.
- Going to a student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Repeatedly seeking to be alone with a student.
- Being alone in a room with an individual student at school with the door closed.
- Any after-school hours activity with only one student.
- Any other behavior which exploits the special position of trust and authority between an employee and student.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behavior which exploits a student is unacceptable. If in doubt, ask yourself, "Would I be doing this if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

Communication Between Employees and Students. The preferred methods for employees to communicate with students are in person, school email or an app approved by the administration.

Employee communications with students through a communication system generally are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients and not just to one student. The burden to demonstrate the appropriateness of a communication with a student only shall rest with the employee.

Reporting a Policy Violation. Anyone may report suspected grooming, other unacceptable employee conduct, or any violation of this policy as follows:

School District. Reports may be made to a principal, the superintendent, or the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, or email.

Nebraska Department of Education. Reports may be made at: Nebraska Department of Education, Attn: Certification Investigations' Office, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln NE 68509 or Nde.investigations@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Reports may be made by calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 652-1999.

Law Enforcement. Reports the county sheriff's office at (308) 826-8555, or the Nebraska State Patrol at (308) 385-6000.

An employee is required to make a report to a principal or the superintendent if the employee reasonably believes that another employee has violated or may have violated this policy. Minor concerns or violations shall be reported within 24 hours. Major concerns or violations shall be reported immediately. Violations committed by or concerns about the superintendent shall be reported to the school board president.

A student who feels his or her boundaries have been violated should directly inform the offender that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offender or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, administrator, counselor, the Title IX coordinator, or other school employee with whom she or he feels comfortable.

Retaliation Prohibited. Retaliation for good faith reports or complaints made as a result of this policy is prohibited. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally make a false report shall be subject to discipline as provided by district policy and state law.

Policy Violations. Any violation of this policy by an employee may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment and/or referral to the Nebraska Department of Education, which may result in the suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate. Any violation involving sexual or other abuse will result in referral to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, law enforcement, or both.

Policy Verification. Employees shall verify that they have received, reviewed, and understood this policy by signing an acknowledgment document indicating the same.

No Limits on Reports to NDE. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any certificated employee's duty to report any known violation of the standards of professional practices (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, commonly known as Rule 27) adopted by the Nebraska Board of Education.

Adopted on: March 11, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

4044

Political Activity by Staff Members

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

The following activities are prohibited during an employee's work time (including duty-free lunch and planning periods):

1. Soliciting votes or contributions for or against a particular candidate or ballot proposition.
2. Discussing with students opinions regarding a political candidate or ballot proposition unless the topic is part of the approved curriculum.
3. Preparing, displaying, wearing or distributing campaign literature, materials, or signs for or against a candidate or ballot proposition (this prohibition does not apply to bumper stickers on personal vehicles).
4. Soliciting volunteers to assist with a campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot proposition.
5. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, petition, rally, or event.
6. Other prohibited political activity as defined by state law.

The following activities are prohibited at all times:

1. Using any school district resources including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, copy machines, computers or e-mail accounts, for political campaign activities.

2. Using school district property or facilities for any political campaign activities, unless such use is approved pursuant to school board rules or policy.

3. Spending district funds to urge votes to vote for or against a candidate or ballot proposition

4. Requiring employees to engage in political campaign activities as part of their job duties.

5. Providing employees with additional compensation or benefits for engaging in political activities.

6. Representing an employee's personal political position as the position of the school district or the board of education.

7. Engaging in any other activity prohibited by state law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4045
Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: September 11, 2023
Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4046

Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter “the committee”) may conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may conduct internet searches using candidates’ full names and any aliases. The committee may also search candidates’ full names and any aliases on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networking websites.

2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants’ names.

3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants’ social networking pages, blogs, or other on-line media and will not require applicants for employment to provide the district with their username or password to personal social media accounts.

4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.

5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:
 - a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors, or employers;

- b. Discriminatory, harassing, or demeaning behavior or comments;
- c. Unprofessional, lewd, or obscene behavior or remarks;
- d. Criminal activity;
- e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought; and
- f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.

6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4048

Assessment Administration and Security

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

1. Assessment Responsibilities

- a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:
 - overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, training all staff who administer assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within required testing windows;

- obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members;
 - informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures; and
 - signing and enforcing the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Agreement.
- b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:
- complying with the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures;
 - taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments; and
 - ensuring the security of all test materials.

2. Security Violations and Cheating

Classroom assessments

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

b. State Accountability Tests

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicions to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4050 Overtime and Compensatory Time

Employees who are "non-exempt" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and who work more than 40 hours in a workweek will be paid at the rate of time-and-one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours or will be provided compensatory time. All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor. Scheduled holidays, vacation days, time off for jury duty, and time off for sickness, emergencies or other personal reasons will not be considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

The district may grant compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half (1½) hours off for each hour of overtime the employee worked. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 hours of compensatory time, which represents 160 hours of actual overtime worked. When an employee has accrued 240 hours of compensatory time, the district shall pay him/her at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times his/her regular rate of pay for each additional hour of overtime. An employee who asks to use compensatory time shall be permitted to use it within a reasonable period after the request if its use does not unduly disrupt the district's operations.

Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than: (1) the average regular hourly rate paid to the employee during the last three years of his/her employment, or (2) the final regular hourly rate paid to the employee, whichever is higher.

Payment for unused compensatory time shall be at the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour of compensatory time, not one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4051

Staff and District Social Media Use

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. This policy is intended to ensure (1) appropriate use of social media by staff and (2) appropriate control of social media accounts belonging to or affiliated with the district. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff Computer and Internet Usage.

I. Personal Versus School-Affiliated Social Media Use

a. Personal Social Media Use

. The school district will not require staff members or applicants for employment to provide the district with their username and password to personal social media accounts.

i. The district will not require staff to add anyone to the list of contacts associated with the staff member's personal social media accounts or require a staff member to change the settings on his or her personal social media accounts so that others can or cannot view their accounts.

ii. Staff members whose personal social media use interferes with the orderly operation of the school or who use social media in ways that are not protected by the First Amendment may be subject to discipline by the district.

iii. Staff members who wish to begin using or to continue using the school district name, programs, mascot, image or likeness as part of any social media profile must notify their supervising administrator of the use, and must secure the administrator's permission to do so.

b. School-Affiliated Social Media Use

i. Any social media account which purports to be "the official" account of the school district (e.g., "Buffaloes Wrestling"), or any of its programs, classes or entities will be considered to be an account that is used exclusively for the school district's business purpose. Staff members may not use "official" accounts for personal use.

ii. Staff may be required to provide their supervising administrator with the username and password to school-affiliated social media accounts.

- iii. Staff may be required to interact with specified individuals on school-affiliated social media accounts.
- iv. When staff use school-affiliated social media accounts to comment on school-related matters, they do not do so as private citizens and are therefore not entitled to First Amendment protections.

II. Staff Expectations in Use of Social Media – Applicable to Both Personal and School-Affiliated Use

a. General Use and Conditions

Staff must comply with all board policies, contract provisions, and applicable rules of professional conduct in their social media usage. They must comply with the board’s policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in both physical and digital environments.

Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information in order to make sure that the publication does not violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act or any other laws. Staff must also comply with all applicable state and federal record retention requirements, even with regard to personal social media usage.

Staff must comply with all applicable laws prohibiting the use or disclosure of impermissible content, such as copyright laws, accountability and disclosure laws, and any other law governing the use of resources of a political subdivision. Questions about appropriate content should be referred to the staff member’s supervising administrator.

b. Acceptable Use

- i. Staff may use social media for instructional purposes.
- ii. Staff may use social media for school-related communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.
- iii. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources, which may include social media, into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on social media is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter.

c. Unacceptable Use

- i. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material while at school, on school-owned device or on school-affiliated social media accounts.
- ii. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
- iii. Staff shall not access social media networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on school-owned devices or during school time unless such access is for an educational activity which has been preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to using chat rooms, message boards, or instant messaging in social media applications and includes posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices.

III. School-Affiliated Digital Content

a. General Use and Conditions for School-Affiliated Accounts

Staff must obtain the permission of their supervising administration prior to creating, publishing, or using any school-affiliated web pages, microblogs, social media pages or handles, or any other digital content which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any content which identifies the school district by name in the account name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated accounts and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff may not provide the username and password to school-affiliated accounts to any unauthorized individual, including students and volunteers.

b. Moderation of Third Party Content

- i. The purpose of school-related social media accounts is to disseminate information. No school-related or school-affiliated social media account covered by this policy shall permit comments by the public unless otherwise approved by the superintendent. All comment functions for applications such as Facebook and Instagram must be turned to "off" without this approval.
- ii. In the event the superintendent permits content created by anyone other than the administrator of the account to appear on the account's

pages, such as comments made by students, parents, and patrons, the account administrator must monitor the content to ensure it complies with this policy. Posts, comments, or any other content made on the account's pages may be removed when the content meets any of the following conditions:

Is obscene, lewd, or appeals to prurient interests;

Contains information relating to a student matter or personnel matter which is protected under or prohibited by state or federal law;

Contains threatening, harassing, or discriminatory words or phrases;

Incites or is reasonably anticipated to incite violence, illegal activity, or a material and substantial disruption to school operations or activities; or

Contains any other threat to the safety of students and staff.

Every account administrator must keep a copy of any removed content and must provide a copy to the superintendent along with written notification for the reason the post has been removed. All questions about the appropriateness of removal must be directed to the superintendent.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4052

Job References to Prospective Employers

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.

If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district may provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may

provide additional truthful information to prospective employers of current and former employees in accordance with this policy.

Employees Suspected of Sexual Misconduct Against a Minor or Student

Apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files or unless otherwise permitted by law, the district and any employee, contractor, or agent of the school district is prohibited from providing any employee any assistance in obtaining a new job if the school district or the individual acting for the school district has probable cause to believe said employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4053 Conflict of Interest

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:

1. A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

2. A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the employee or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

- b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.
- c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes

2. Contracts with the School District.

- a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.
- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - 1. The employee does not abuse his or her position.
 - i. Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:

ii who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;

iii. for any unreasonably high salary;

iv. who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

3. The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.

4. The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.

The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

b. No employee shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

1. a public official, public employee, or candidate.

2. a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

3. a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or above is associated.

b. No employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

- c. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public employment or any confidential information received through the public employment to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself or a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
- d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.

6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

- a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
- c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
- d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
- e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4054

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Reporting Procedure. School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Contents of the Report. The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

Legal Immunity. Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4056 Resignation of Certificated Staff

Certificated staff members who know they will not be returning to employment at the school district for the following school year are encouraged to submit their resignations as early as possible, to enable the board to find suitable replacements.

As a general matter, the board will not release certificated staff members after March 1st from their contractual obligations. The superintendent has the discretion to release certified staff from their contract after March 1st in cases with extenuating circumstances. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Professional Practices Committee of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4057 Superintendent Evaluation

The board shall observe and evaluate the superintendent based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period at least twice during his first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the board. For the purposes of this policy, "actual classroom observation" shall mean observing the superintendent performing activities that are typical of his or her position. An "entire instructional period" for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of some aspect of the superintendent's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Purpose. The purposes of the formal job evaluation are:

1. To provide a means of rational, structured communication between the board and superintendent to create a more constructive and effective working relationship.
2. To provide a basis for commending, rewarding and reinforcing good work, as well as identifying areas where the superintendent needs to improve.
3. To clarify the superintendent's role and inform the superintendent of the board's expectations.

Dates. Unless otherwise provided for in the superintendent's employment contract, the first year evaluations should take place (1) during the first semester of the academic year; on or before the December board meeting, and (2) during the second semester of the academic year; on or before the June board meeting. Annual evaluations shall take place at a board meeting held during the month before the date in the superintendent's employment contract by which the board must notify the superintendent of its intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of the contract. In the absence of such a contract provision, the annual evaluation should take place at or prior to the March board meeting. The Superintendent shall remind the Board members in writing at least 45 days before the date of each upcoming evaluation and shall make his evaluation an agenda item for the board meeting.

Evaluation Document. The superintendent shall submit a recommended evaluation document to the board. The board shall meet and discuss the proposed document with the superintendent. The board may amend and adopt the proposed evaluation document. The board may amend the document or adopt a new document without amending this policy. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation document to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Evaluation Procedures. Each board member shall have the opportunity to complete a draft evaluation document. The board president shall compile the individual draft evaluations into a single and final evaluation, provide a copy to the superintendent, and discuss it with him or her. The superintendent's evaluation may be conducted in closed session if it is necessary to prevent needless injury to the superintendent's reputation and if he or she has not requested it be done in open session.

Deficiencies. If deficiencies are noted in the superintendent's work performance, the board shall provide the superintendent at the time of the observation with a list of deficiencies and a list of suggestions for improvement and assistance in overcoming the deficiencies. The board shall also provide the superintendent with follow-up evaluations and assistance when deficiencies remain, a timeline for improvement, and sufficient time to improve. In the alternative, the board may rely upon the superintendent's education, training, and expertise and require him or her to submit a "list of suggestions for improvement" or plan of improvement for the board's consideration.

Personnel File. The evaluation shall be signed by the board president (or other member of the board) and the superintendent. The superintendent shall place a copy of the evaluation in his or her personnel file. The superintendent may provide a written response to the evaluation to the board. A copy of the response shall also be placed in the superintendent's personnel file. The board may meet with the superintendent to discuss the written response.

Policy Limitation. The evaluation procedures are included in this policy as a result of the board's statutory obligation to evaluate the superintendent and do not give the superintendent any rights not provided by statute. The board's failure to comply with any procedures provided in this policy but not required by law shall not prohibit the board from taking any action regarding the superintendent's employment, up to and including the nonrenewal, amendment, or cancellation of the employment contract.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: April 22, 2021

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4058
Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4059
Suicide Prevention Training

All public school employees who interact with students and any other appropriate personnel are required to complete at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training every year. The superintendent will determine the appropriate personnel required to receive the training. The training materials for this training must be included in the Nebraska Department of Education's list of approved training materials.

These employees must complete the training designated by the school district or superintendent no later than the Wednesday before Thanksgiving of each school year or within 30 days of their initial employment, whichever is later. Failure to complete this training may subject the employee to employment-related discipline.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: September 11, 2023

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4060 School Vehicle Use

Pupil Transportation Vehicles. The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. See Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91 – Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 91") Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92 – Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 92"), available on NDE's website (www.education.ne.gov). A pupil transportation vehicle is any vehicle utilized to carry school children as sponsored and approved by the school board and that conforms to the Nebraska Department of Education definitions of pupil transportation vehicles listed as School Bus, Activity Bus, Small Vehicle, or Coach Bus.

School Vehicles Other Than Those Transporting Students. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials (collectively "school personnel") who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. School district vehicles may not be used for personal purposes unless the vehicle, or the use of it, is provided to an employee as a condition of an employment contract or it is leased to school personnel as allowed by law. School personnel must operate school vehicles in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Driver Qualifications. School personnel who wish to use a vehicle owned or leased by the school district and who are not transporting students must:

- Possess and provide a copy of a valid Motor Vehicle operator's license.
- Be able to read and comprehend driving regulations and written test questions.

- Obtain and provide a copy of his or her current driving record from the department of motor vehicles at least one time per school year to the superintendent or his or her designee.
- Be at least 19 years of age.

School personnel must notify the superintendent or his or her designee about any change in their driving status or eligibility.

School personnel who have been convicted of any of the following or who meet any of the following conditions will not be allowed to drive a school district vehicle:

- If the citation or conviction occurred at any time—Motor vehicle homicide or driving under the influence – 3rd or subsequent offense;

The superintendent or his or her designee has the discretion to prohibit school personnel from driving a school vehicle for a citation or arrest for the above offenses or any other offense or reason. The superintendent or his or her designee will make the final determination about the use of school district vehicles.

Electronic Communication While Driving. Unless the superintendent or a principal grants an exception to allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon an employee's duties and responsibilities, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, text messages or other visual media.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances. The use of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. The use or possession of any alcohol or controlled substance (unless legally prescribed to school personnel by a physician) is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. All drivers shall follow and be subject to Drug Free Workplace Policy and Drug Policy Regarding Drivers Policy.

Traffic Accidents, Infractions, Violations, or Citations. School personnel who receive a citation or warning citation from a law enforcement officer or are involved in an accident while operating a school vehicle must report the citation to the superintendent or his or her designee as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours of receipt. The superintendent must report his or her accidents, infractions, violations, or citations to the board president.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4061

Workplace or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness and Return to Work

Reporting Workplace Injuries. Staff members who are injured while performing duties or who witness workplace injuries must report them to the superintendent or superintendent's designee as soon as possible after being injured or witnessing an injury. Staff members must prepare written statements regarding the injuries they sustained or witnessed when they are asked to do so by the school district. Failure to report a workplace injury as a witness will constitute insubordination and neglect of duty and may result in adverse employment action up to and including termination or cancellation of employment. Failure to report workplace injuries may also result in delayed or forfeited benefits to which an employee may otherwise be entitled.

Returning to Work after Workplace Injuries or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness. Staff members whose injuries or illness prevent them from completing any or all of their duties, whether or not incurred at work, may be permitted to continue working or may be offered modified duty positions as required by law or as determined appropriate by the superintendent. This policy does not guarantee a limited or modified assignment during the recovery period unless it is otherwise required by law. The employee may be required to provide a return to work certification or report from their treating physician which delineates any restrictions, modifications, or accommodations needed to allow the employee to perform the essential functions of their position.

Termination After Workplace Injuries or Illness. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract, employees may be terminated after suffering a workplace injury or illness when the district has a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for doing so. Such reasons include but are not limited to:

- Necessity to fill the position to maintain continuous services as required by law or district policy or standards;
- Performance deficiencies of the employee unrelated to the injury or illness;
- Unavailability of substitute or replacement employees;

- When the absence will negatively impact students' educational experience or opportunities; or
- Any other reason not otherwise prohibited by law.

The district may make such employment determinations regardless of whether the employee has returned to work and regardless of whether a medical professional has certified that the employee has reached maximum medical improvement. In the event the injury or illness lasts beyond the amount of leave time provided by the district and by the Family Medical Leave Act, which is generally no greater than 12 weeks, the employee may be terminated even if the employee remains eligible for Workers' Compensation under state law or short or long-term disability under a policy available through the district. In no event will an employee be terminated as retaliation for filing a Workers' Compensation claim.

Termination After Non-Workplace Injuries. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract or prohibited by law, employees who are unable to perform any of the essential functions of their positions with reasonable accommodation(s) due to injury or illness occurring outside of the workplace may be terminated. The employee's position or a similar position will be held open only as required by law, such as the Family Medical Leave Act.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: March 11, 2024

4062 Locker Room Supervision

Staff members, coaches, sponsors, and students must comply with the requirements of this policy while using locker rooms at the school district or at other locations.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must appropriately supervise students in locker rooms and other locations where students dress, change, or engage in similar activities. This supervision must occur at all times during curricular and extracurricular activities and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Entering and walking through the entire locker room at regular and irregular intervals to provide direct supervision and to assess student behavior.
- Maintaining an orderly locker room free from "horseplay" and other prohibited conduct.
- Maintaining a visual presence.

- Adequately addressing any misbehaviors.
- Escorting students to and from the locker room and the activity or instructional area.
- Unlocking the locker room so that students may enter, and locking the locker room after all students have exited the locker room.
- Searching the locker room to determine that all students have exited the locker room before locking it.
- Ensuring that the locker room remains locked during any activity.

If a student is found missing during an activity, the staff member, coach, or sponsor or adult designee shall check the locker room for the missing student.

The locker room must be locked at all times when unsupervised.

Only students whose team or activity is currently playing or are in-season or who are involved in a school-sponsored activity that requires or allows presence in the locker room are allowed access to the locker room before or after the regular school day.

Students are not allowed to enter or reenter the locker room without appropriate supervision.

If the staff member, coach, or sponsor is the opposite sex of the students, he or she may designate another adult of the same sex as the students to provide the required locker room supervision. This delegation does not remove ultimate responsibility from the staff member, coach, or sponsor who is subject to the obligations under this policy to ensure that such obligations are met. By allowing their students to participate in an activity with a cross-gender coach, parents/guardians consent to the entry of the staff member or his or her designee into the locker room at any time as necessary to maintain student safety and order.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must remain with students until they are picked up by the parent, guardian, or other authorized person or the student leaves in his or her own transportation. Students must never be left unattended after a game, practice, or other school-sponsored activity. In other words, the staff member, coach, or sponsor should be the first one to arrive at the activity and the last one to leave.

Cell phones and other devices with visual or auditory recording capability may not be used in the locker room at any time or for any reason.

Under no circumstance may a staff member, coach, or sponsor delegate any responsibility under this policy to a student or other minor.

School administrators or their designees may make random checks to assess policy compliance.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Reviewed on: _____

Amended on: March 11, 2024

5052 School Wellness Policy

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.
- f. Nutrition Topics shall be integrated within the health education curriculum and taught at every grade level (k-12)

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

- i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards
 - ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and

advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, Fundraisers or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs)

- a. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), all foods and beverages sold during the school day as part of a fundraiser or for any other purpose in competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs must meet the nutrition standards of those programs.
- b. Fundraiser food or beverages are NOT exempt from the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Therefore, if food is sold as a fundraiser:
 - (1) It shall not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
 - (2) It shall not be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period beginning one half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and/or lunch and lasting until one half hour after the serving of breakfast and/or lunch.
 - (3) The sale of food items during the school day shall meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition requirements
 - (4) This restriction does not apply to food sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to

bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)

9. School Lunch Program

- a. Meals served through the school lunch program will comply with the National School lunch and Breakfast Standards.
- b. The District will take steps to protect the privacy of students who qualify for free and reduced meals.
- c. Free water is available in the cafeteria during meals.
- d. The District will attempt to purchase locally produced foods.
- e. After obtaining food, students will have at least 20 minutes to eat.

10. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;
- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

11. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

12. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

13. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) [found at https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2](https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2).

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: March 11, 2024

Reviewed on: _____