

**Board of Education Special Meeting  
Monday, August 30, 2021 4:30 PM**

**Bayard High School Library  
726 4th Avenue  
Bayard, NE 69334**

Notice is hereby given that a Board of Education Special Meeting of the School District of Bayard in the Counties of Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, and Banner in the State of Nebraska will be held on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 4:30 PM in the Bayard High School Library located at 726 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bayard, NE 69334, which meeting shall be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Superintendent, located at 726 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bayard, NE 69334.

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening the Meeting
  - I.A. Call to Order
  - I.B. Open Meetings Act
  - I.C. Notice of Meeting
  - I.D. Roll Call
  - I.E. Status of Absent Board Members
- II. Statement of Purpose of the Meeting: To Discuss, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action in Regard to Consideration of Patron Request for the Board to take a Formal Position Opposing the State Board of Education's Proposed Health Standards
- III. Discuss, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action in Regard to Consideration of Patron Request for the Board to take a Formal Position Opposing the State Board of Education's Proposed Health Standards
- IV. Adjournment

**The Bayard Public Schools Board of Education reserves the right to convene a Closed Session for purposes in accordance with 84-1410(1). The Board of Education also reserves the right to change the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Presiding Officer of the Board of Education.**

**Board of Education – Special Meeting  
Bayard Public Schools**

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I.E. Status of Absent Board Members

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Bayard Public Schools is committed to providing curriculum consistent with constituents' expectations.

The Bayard Public School board will not accept or formally adopt the Nebraska Department of Education Health Education Standards as presented. The board has revised our policy on academic standards to ensure curriculum for Health Education will continue to be determined at the local district level using a combination of reliable, appropriate resources.

The board and administration of Bayard Public Schools will continue to monitor any developments regarding the Nebraska Department of Education's proposed Health Education Standards. This monitoring will not impact or nullify the above position statement.



August 30, 2021

State Board of Education

Nebraska Department of Education

% Ryan Floor

P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Re: Public Comment Regarding the Draft Nebraska Health Standards

Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

As members of the Board of Education of Bayard Public Schools, we would like to respectfully share our concerns regarding the disconnect between the recent drafts of proposed health standards and the continued opposition to the proposed drafts expressed by stakeholders in our community.

Nebraska students and families have long benefited from a focus on local control that promotes community involvement and investment in policy and decision making. That is why our board and many of our stakeholders are so troubled by the recently promulgated draft Nebraska Health Standards, and why we are writing to address some of our concerns with the contents of these Standards.

Curricular areas such as comprehensive sex education should be addressed with students in a manner consistent with the values of their families and communities at the time in their development that it is appropriate to do so. These are discussions and decisions that would, and should, vary from family to family and school district to school district if they are to be had honestly, productively, and in good faith. It is our intention to continue to provide these learning opportunities in a manner that is consistent with the practices established at the local level here in our community. To provide a clear position on this matter, our Board of Education has revised our policy on academic standards to clearly assert local control over academic standards and expectations beyond the four academic areas required by state statute.

In light of this, we continue to be concerned that the State Board would be putting a spotlight on any school or community's variance of discussion or of introduction to these issues if it approves the proposed standards in their





current form. While such standards outside the core curriculum are not binding on a district, they express and establish expectations from the State Board that inevitably will be imposed upon schools irrespective of their advisory nature and sensitive subject matter. The State Board would be asking each school district to account for the State Board's decision and answer to groups of various interests and opinions as they question any adherence to, or divergence from, the proposed Standards.

As a result, the proposed Standards would undermine the buy-in of local citizens and their school boards in making curricular decisions consistent with community values. We are also concerned that such expectations would devolve into another unfunded mandate imposed upon public school districts and their communities during a time of fiscal uncertainty and operational adversity. That the proposed standards do not reflect or defer to the judgment of the leaders of our families and communities is the result of a development process that focused on a top-down approach and failed to consider the input of all stakeholders. We would respectfully request that the State Board consider our concerns and the input of other stakeholders who were left out of this process prior to approving or adopting any standards related to these sensitive issues.

Respectfully,

Bayard Public Schools Board of Education

Kim Kildow, President

Carolyn Applegate, Vice President

Becky Henkel, Secretary

Donna Stuart, Treasurer

Kim Burry, Board Member

Joe Applegate, Board Member

