

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the District Library.

Members present:	Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, Stevens
Members absent:	None
Administrators present:	Supt/HS Principal Don Willett GS/JH Principal Dave Crouse Board Secretary Tammie McCormick
Community members present:	Evan Miller, Jarrett Bollinger, Courtney Wherley, Braden Wherley, Eric Hanneman, Stephanie Carithers, Wes Carithers

Presentation and public testimony regarding the FY24 budget.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Musson, to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The regular board meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the District Library.

Members present:	Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, Stevens
Members absent:	None
Administrators present:	Supt/HS Principal Don Willett GS/JH Principal Dave Crouse Board Secretary Tammie McCormick
Community members present:	Evan Miller, Jarrett Bollinger, Courtney Wherley, Braden Wherley, Eric Hanneman, Stephanie Carithers, Wes Carithers

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: 8.2 The dates should be November 1-3; 8.3 Recommend approving Behavioral Policies and Procedures

Motion by Prather, seconded by Shaw, to approve the consent agenda items (minutes, bills, payroll) as presented. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Tommi Gorsuch, the High School Student of the Month, was not able to attend.

Eric Hanneman, Wes Carithers, Stephanie Carithers and Braden Wherley were introduced as new staff members.

Wes Carithers, Jarrett Bollinger, and Evan Miller requested permission for the FFA members to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 1-3.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Prather, to approve the FY24 budget. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Cameron, to allow FFA to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 1-3. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Stevens, to approve the Behavioral Policies and Procedures. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The Principal Report from Mr. Crouse included:

- Progress Reports went out Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Miles of Smiles dentistry program will be here Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> is the end of the first nine weeks.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball has started. Both teams are 2-0.
- Junior high cross country is doing very well, having several students run personal best already this season.

The Principal/Superintendent Report from Mr. Willett included:

- The Astoria Chapter of the National Honor Society will be holding a blood drive on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, in the high school gym from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome to give blood.
- Homecoming week is next week. Our student council has several fun activities planned for the week, culminating in a lunch and game day on Friday morning. We will be going to VIT on Friday afternoon for the powder puff game. The football team will face Princeville on Friday night, and VIT will host the Homecoming Dance on Saturday from 7:00 to 10:00 in the gym. Coronation of King and Queen will be at 6:30 in the VIT gym.
- Total enrollment in the district is 271, up from 270 last year. We have 80 in the high school, 57 in the junior high, and 134 in the elementary.
- High school students have taken their first round of MAP testing in math, reading, and language. The data we receive from these assessments will help our teachers understand the strengths and weaknesses of our students, and they will be able to address their needs. This assessment process will be given again in early December and early May to show progress of the students throughout the school year.
- Our final round of ESSER III federal funds have been allotted. We are in the process of determining the best way to spend the funds from a district perspective.
- All our athletic teams have had a good start to their respective seasons. All are competing hard and experiencing success early in their season. VIT is the site for the Fulton County Volleyball Tournament this year. It will start Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Continued luck and health to all our athletes.

The State Report Card was discussed.

A discussion was held on renewing CDs.

The December board meeting will be moved to the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The FFA would like to have a sweet corn plot on the corner lot.

The board was given a list of district stipends.

We received our report from our HLS annual inspection.

Discussion was held on esports.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Musson, to go into closed session at 7:15 p.m. for the following purpose:

- Appointments, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees.

Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Prather, to convene into closed session at 7:15 p.m. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Shaw, to adjourn the closed session at 7:57 p.m. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Prather, to approve the minutes of the closed session. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to hire Casey Welscher as District Dean of Students. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Musson, to accept Ellen Ehrgott's letter of retirement, at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Musson, to hire Josh Grant as part-time band instructor for early-bird high school band. Cameron, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Musson, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:06 p.m. All members voted aye. Motion passed.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.