

DISTRICT OR-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

SUMMARY OF MAY 8, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

- Special thanks to Mrs. Gill Rose and her yearbook students for putting together a year-end video of student activities. Ms. Walter also shared information about projects that the elementary students were engaged in at Bennet. Writing letters to soldiers, raising money to improve the playground, and other things were concrete example of the great things are students and staff continue accomplish in the district. The staff and student presentations at the board meetings this year were highlights for our board members and we plan to continue these student and staff presentations in future board meetings. These board presentations should begin again in the fall.
- The Superintendent's Report highlighted updates from the legislature and progress on the "Community Unity" panels for Palmyra, Bennet, and Douglas. Mr. Hart also provided a construction update on the beginning of construction work at the high school and the elementary school. Construction will commence as soon as school is out on May 18th and will continue through the summer and throughout the **2024-2025** school year. An update on the Olson Complex was also discussed.
- Teacher Appreciation Week was **Monday, May 8th—Friday, May 12th**. A special thank you to our teachers for the work they do for our students, families, and the community was recently published in the Voice News. We greatly appreciate the work of all of our staff and the support of the community for our school district!
- Our district recently hosted a Nebraska Department of Education Continuous Improvement External Team Visit in April to provide feedback and recommendations on the completed **2018-2023** Continuous Improvement cycle. This visited included observations and suggestions from educational officials around the area. The visit concluded with professional feedback for next steps for the **2023-2028** cycle. This visit culminated with a written summary and the district being successfully accredited for the next five years!
- The board accepted the resignation of **Mrs. Sadie Conn** (Third Grade Teacher at Bennet Elementary School). Special thanks to Mrs. Conn for her tremendous service and dedication to our students, our district, and our community. We wish Mrs. Conn the best of luck in her future endeavors!
- The board approved a teaching contract for **Mr. Cody Pester**. Mr. Pester will be one of the 5th grade teachers at Bennet Elementary School. This position was added to accommodate the increase of student numbers at that grade level. Biographies about each teacher will be posted on our school website and social media channels in the coming weeks. Mr. Pester comes to us from Lincoln and he will also be coaching wrestling at the high school. In the fall. We are excited to have Mr. Pester join our teaching team for the **2023-2024** school year.
- A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 22nd 2023 to discuss final building expansion costs at both Bennet Elementary and Palmyra High School. An overview of the current expansion plans are currently posted on our school website at www.districtor1.org and district social media channels. More information about the upcoming schedule for construction will be discussed at our June regular board meeting.
- The board reviewed board policy #5006 regarding option enrollment and approved the Option Enrollment Appendix for the **2023-2024** school year.

More information regarding this meeting is available at [HTTPS://MEETING.SPARQDATA.COM/PUBLIC/ORGANIZATION/174](https://MEETING.SPARQDATA.COM/PUBLIC/ORGANIZATION/174)