# Proceedings

# January 13, 2025

The school board of Clark School District #12-2 convened in regular session starting at the CTE Center and then in the library on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:30pm. The following members were in attendance, Malory McIntire, Lacey Ortberg, Todd Fjelland. Troy Mudgett and Travis Peterson. Also in attendance: Superintendent- Travis Ahrens, Business Manager- Mary Nelson, Elementary Principal –Jon Redmond, MS/HS Principal – Jennifer Heggelund and interested patrons.

2025-081

President Fjelland called the meeting to order at 5:30pm with all members saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tour of CTE Center took place.

No open forum

2025-082

Moved by Ortberg and seconded by McIntire to approve the agenda. All in favor.

No conflicts of interest or waivers.

2025-083

Moved by Mudgett and seconded by Peterson to approve minutes from December 9, 2024, regular board meeting, special meeting minutes from January 6, 2025, and special meeting minutes from January 7, 2025, financial reports as of December 31, 2024. All in favor

2025-084

Moved by McIntire and seconded by Ortberg to approve claim list for payment. All in favor.

2025-085

Moved by Peterson and seconded by McIntire to approve draft #3 Clark School District 2025-2026 school calendar. All in favor.

2025-086

Moved by Ortberg and seconded by Mudgett to discuss and approve update to district policy: JFB & JFB-R(1), JFB-E(1), JFB-E(2) forms; “Education of Homeless Children” All in favor

Discussed 5 year Capital Outlay Plan.

2025-087

Moved by Mudgett and seconded by McIntire to adopt the following resolution in opposition to School Voucher Proposal. All in favor.

WHEREAS South Dakota public schools are a cornerstone of the state and the pride of their communities, welcoming all children, educating and feeding them, connecting them with friends and mentors and helping shape their future while preparing them to be the next generation of our state’s workforce; WHEREAS the proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) – for the 2025 legislative session – is simply a different title for a school voucher program; WHEREAS research indicates school voucher programs consistently fail to improve academic outcomes; WHEREAS the proposed program will be implemented by using millions in public taxpayer dollars to fund non-public schools that may pick and choose who they admit while also charging tuition and raising millions of dollars in scholarship funds or to fund homeschool programs with no transparency or accountability measures to prove success similar to those required of public schools; WHEREAS the state budget, which provides the funding increase for public education, faces constraints due to stagnant revenue collections and as a result, the proposed increase in state aid for public schools is less than the level of inflation; WHEREAS with lower than expected revenue collections creating a lean state budget the introduction of a new, ongoing funding system for a school voucher program will eventually lead to an unbalanced state budget or a decrease in funding for public education; WHEREAS the school voucher program will not stop at the initial amount, as the intention to grow school voucher funding has already been stated even before it has been adopted; WHEREAS the school voucher program’s planned and inevitable growth will be damaging to the future of our public school system, students and communities; WHEREAS we, as School Board members, insist our legislators oppose the proposed school voucher program because of the foreseeable detrimental impact it will have on South Dakota’s public school system at the expense of our students; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Clark School Board, oppose the proposed school voucher program for the 2025 legislative session.

2025-088

Moved by Ortberg and seconded by Peterson to approve work agreement adjustment for Audrye Foster, effective January1, 2025($16.00/hr) All in favor.

2025-089

Moved by McIntire and seconded by Peterson to enter into executive session for superintendent evaluation SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 7:30pm. All in favor.

Open session resumed at 9:10pm.

2025-090

Moved by McIntrie and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the January 13th, 2025, regular meeting at 9:11pm.

ATTEST Mary Nelson  
Board Chairperson, Todd Fjelland Business Manager

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