

**Minutes of the Board of Education of the
Oelrichs School District 23-3
Regular Board Meeting
March 17, 2025**

Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Oelrichs School District 23-3 met in regular session on March 17, 2025, in the High School Science Room. The meeting was called to order by John Cope, Board President, at 5:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members Present: John Cope, Katie Merdanian (left at 5:55 to attend equalization meeting), Marty Schommer, and Lance Tlustos.

Members Absent: Dave Osmotherly

Administration Present: Dr. Mitchell Stone and Business Manager Sword.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve February 13, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

**All actions recorded in these minutes were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.*

Public Participation – no participation.

Old Business

High School Construction Stone updated the board on the current status of the construction research and repair.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to approve paying HKH Global up to \$40,000. Motion carried.

Board Reports Merdanian gave an update on Communities that Care and BHSSC. She invited the members to attend BHSSC tour scheduled for May 5.

Administration Reports: Dr. Stone and CTE Teacher Levy attended the state CTE/Perkins meeting. They will be working to expand the opportunities for our students in the CTE programs.

Dr. Stone attended NAFIS in Washington DC. There is talk of splitting the programs; Military to Dept. of Defense; Indian Lands to Dept. of Interior; and Federal Property to Dept. of Treasury. It is still too early to determine the impact of any possible changes at the federal level. Stone visited with staff from Senator Thunes office sharing concerns about future funding from Impact Aid and block grants such as Title Programs and IDEA.

Stone informed the board about the attendance incentive trip to Flag and Wheels, attended by 70 students. They are very thankful for the board's support of the incentive rewards. Sword read a letter prepared by Teacher Cope reflecting on the positive experience the rewards give students.

Stone has been invited and plans to attend a meeting in Chamberlain to learn about the possibilities of establishing a six-man football team.

Nancy Fleming has been organizing Prom it is scheduled for April 12. The theme for the Prom is casino night.

The next teacher professional development day is April 4. The board discussed providing a meal in celebration of teacher appreciation.

Financials

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to accept the unaudited financial reports and pay all invoiced claims. Motion carried.

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	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Plus</u> <u>Receipts</u>	<u>(transfer) adjust</u>	<u>Less</u> <u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
General Fund	37,437.13	160,665.61	600,000 (95.50)	206,686.21	591,321.03
Capital Outlay	463,055.91	2,183.36		13,413.61	451,825.66
Special Education	93,445.06	4,724.87		22,838.04	75,331.89
Impact Aid	7,539,636.34	22,708.53	(600,000)		6,962,344.87
Food Service	14,245.48	10,393.12		17,780.13	6,858.47
Custodial Balance:	19,136.25	553.71			19,689.96

Policy GCDB:

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos, to approve Policy GCDB: Criminal Background Investigation. Motion carried.

Facility Rental

The Oelrichs Historical Society thanked the board for repairing the roof of the historic water pump house. They are grateful for the preservation of the building that was once an important part of the town.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to approve the Application for Rental of School Facility to Katie Merdanian/Oelrichs Historical Society for the purpose of the History Conference on April 12, waiving all fees. Merdanian abstained for reasons of conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Contracts

Sword presented the following employee health plans:

Optilegra's plan will be renewed with no changes in the current rates.

BHEBC health insurance rates will increase 5%. Plan A single monthly rate will increase from \$730 to \$770 per month.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to provide Black Hills Educational Benefits Cooperative Group Health Plan A and Plan D to employees, with the district paying the premium payment up to \$770 per month, per employee towards their insurance plan for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the contract for occupational therapy provided by Branda Selan for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to approve the contract for speech therapy provided by Sand Canyon Therapy for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to approve Leon Schwartz to be the after-school weightlifting instructor paid \$15 per hour. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to approve an additional 100 hours, paid at \$75 an hour, to Darla Peterson for school year 2024-2025. Motion carried.

Personnel

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve the head track coach contract to Buff Tewahade for \$4,043. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to accept the resignation on Joel Ballasy effective June 30, 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to accept the resignation of Sherry Crofut effective June 30, 2025. Motion carried.

Negotiations

Merdanian and Tlustos have been appointed to negotiate with the teachers on behalf of the board.

Adjournment

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Motion carried.

Attested to by CEO/Superintendent Stone.

Pursuant to SDCL 17-2-28 the approximate cost of publishing this legal notice is \$

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