

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING January 12, 2021

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Members in attendance were Rufus Rodriguez, Nicole Green, Dan Brookens, Julie Laue, Mari Myren, and Mike Edman.

Superintendent Brown administered the Oath of Office to board members Julie Laue, Dan Brookens, and Nicole Green, all of whom were recently elected to another 4-year term.

Election of Officers

Nicole Green nominated Rufus Rodriguez for President. Julie Laue moved that the nominations cease and Rufus Rodriguez be elected President on a unanimous ballot. Mari Myren seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julie Laue nominated Nicole Green for Vice-President. Mari Myren moved that the nominations cease and Nicole Green be elected Vice-President on a unanimous ballot. Dan Brookens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julie Laue nominated Mari Myren for Clerk. Nicole Green moved that the nominations cease and Mari Myren be elected Clerk on a unanimous ballot. Dan Brookens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nicole Green nominated Julie Laue for Treasurer. Mari Myren moved that the nominations cease and Julie Laue be elected Treasurer on a unanimous ballot. Dan Brookens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve the December 8, 2020 school board meeting minutes.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve the January 12, 2021 school board meeting agenda.

Building principals provided the Board with an update on plans for students returning to school on January 18, with the elementary school returning to an in-person model and the high school a hybrid model. Principals at both buildings agreed that the safety precautions and procedures implemented during in-person learning in the fall would remain in place. Principals have communicated the change in learning models to their families and have asked for confirmation from parents who wish to keep their students in distance learning. Initially, teachers will focus on student assessment and attendance and will review safety procedures.

Superintendent Brown was asked to share the rationale for bringing elementary students back to in-person learning while the high school would return only to hybrid. Mr. Brown explained that with 300+ students currently in the elementary building for child-care, only minor adjustments will be needed to have all students return on Monday. Starting the high school out in hybrid provides them with some additional preparation time before the full student body returns to the building.

As required by law, Superintendent Brown shared with the public MDE's response to the District's Review and Comment, which Fairmont had been submitted in support of the holding a special bond election on February 9. The District provided MDE with detailed rationale for asking residents to vote for a proposed \$6.7M Vocational Trades Project. Mr. Brown reported that the Review and Comment was approved by MDE, allowing the District to move forward with a majority-vote special election on February 9.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a \$500 donation from Grace Lutheran Church Missions for CER Adult Literacy and a \$13,854.50 donation from the Fairmont Athletic Booster Club for financial and goods support during 2020.

Business Manager Chris Muhvich presented the financial reports and provided an overview of the proposed adopted budget for 2020-21.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve wires/transfers for 12/4/20 – 1/7/21, the December 31, 2020 single checks, payment of the December 22, 2020 and January 12, 2021 bills and the November, 2020 budget model.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget.

A motion was offered by Rufus Rodriguez, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve school board committee assignments for 2021 as follows:

Board Governance	Rufus	Nicole	
Staff Welfare	Rufus	Julie	Mike
Operations	Dan	Nicole	Mari
Curriculum	Rufus	Nicole	Mari
Policy	Julie	Nicole	Mike
Athletic Council	Dan		
Legislative Rep	Mike		
Continuing Education	Nicole		
So. Plains Co-op Board	Julie		
CER	Mari		
SDCC	Nicole		

A resolution was introduced by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to appoint election judges for the February 9, 2021 school district special election.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve revisions to 1) Policy 303 – Superintendent Selection and 2) Policy 506 – Student Discipline.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously approve employment of the following:

1. Abraham Sepulveda
ELL Instructor BA, Step 4 Eff: 1/4/21
2. Synthia Sepulveda
ELL Instructor BA, Step 4 Eff: 1/4/21
3. Winter Athletic Coaches

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve a medical leave for an elementary ed teacher, effective on or about March 10, 2021 and extending through June 3, 2021 or per medical recommendation.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve a medical leave for a special ed paraprofessional, beginning January 18, 2021 and extending through February 26, 2021 or per medical recommendation.

Board members reported on the following meetings: CER Advisory Council, SDCC, Policy Committee, and Operations Committee.

In other business, Morgan Hoong and Briana Joseph indicated that they received nearly 70% response to the student survey they had distributed. The survey was for the purpose of gaining feedback from students as to how they are coping with distance learning. Morgan and Briana shared the results with HS principals and intend to send the survey out again, perhaps monthly, so students' thoughts and opinions can continue to be heard.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk