

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2023

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.. in the City Hall Chambers. Members in attendance were Nicole Green, Mari Myren, Julie Laue, Jen Harris, and Dan Brookens. Absent: Mike Edman. Student school board member Solveig Senf was also present.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the April 25, 2023 school board meeting minutes.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the May 9, 2023 school board meeting agenda.

Superintendent Traetow and school board members recognized this year's retirees and 25 year employees with a commemorative plaque made by the high school CTE department and a selection of sweet delicacies prepared by the high school culinary class. Retirees were Anne Holm, Bethany Huse, Tom Seifert, and Dawn Waterbury. Twenty-five year employees present were Bob Bonin, Kim Niss, Kandice Petschke, and Angie Simmering. Unable to attend were Jenni Diegnau and Scott Geerdes.

Jeanne Garbers, culinary arts teacher, shared some of the experiences her students have enjoyed this year. The class attended a culinary skills challenge in Marshall, MN. The event included opportunities for competition and breakout sessions. Several Fairmont students placed in their divisions. Most recently, class members learned how to prepare a Hmong stir fry dish and now have plans to share the recipe and the preparation process with students in Ms. Gudahl's class.

Speech coaches, Kathleen Walker and Erik Walker, shared an overview of their team's very successful season, which culminated in 16 students qualifying for the state competition held on April 29. Nine of those qualifiers were first time state tournament participants. Seven team members who were state qualifiers attended the meeting to share highlights of their speech experiences, both at state and with their high school team.

Nick Pease, agriculture teacher, briefed the Board on activities that took place at the state FFA Convention at the U of M Campus in St. Paul April 23-25. Four Fairmont FFA teams qualified for the national competition. The teams earned 3 silver and 1 bronze medal. Four individuals were recipients of the FFA State Degree, which is the highest degree awarded in FFA. Mr. Pease closed by thanking community members who, in one way or another, helped make the conference experience a big success.

Superintendent's Report: See attached.

Superintendent Traetow reviewed the financial reports.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve wire transfers for 4/20/23 - 5/3/23 and payment of the May 9, 2023 bills.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve Thursday, June 1, 2023 as the last day of school for senior students who have assignments completed, fines paid, detention time served, and are on track to graduate.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Jen Harris and carried to unanimously approve the 2023 summer school board meeting schedule.

A resolution was introduced by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to nonrenew the contract of probationary teacher Audrey Nawrocki at the end of the 22-23 school.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the employment of Megan Hawkins as a high school social studies teacher, effective 8/28/23 at a salary of BA, Step 1.

Board members reported on the following: SDCC Meeting of 5/2 and Staff Welfare Committee Meeting of 5/3.

In other business, Superintendent Traetow acknowledged and thanked Solveig Senf for her two-year service as a student school board member. He and board members voiced their appreciation for her input at board meetings and for the fine job she did representing her fellow students.

A motion was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the school board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk

Fairmont Area Schools ISD 2752

School Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

May 9, 2023

1. Registration/Enrollment Report

- a. **PRELIMINARY** Number of Enrolled Students for 2022-2023 (**as of 5/8/23*)
 - i. **FJSHS: 867 (+1) (5/10/22: 833 Students)**
 - ii. **FES: 866 (+3) (5/10/22: 861 Students)**
 - iii. **TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1,733 (+4) (5/10/22: 1,694 Students)**
 - iv. **22-23 Enrollment Range: Low = 1,714; High = 1,736 (Range = 22)**
 - v. **Kindergarten Round Up Preliminary Registration: 95**

2. Buildings & Grounds Updates

- a. *No New Updates*

3. Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funds

- a. Our school district's deadline for obligating these funds is September 20, 2024 and all funds need to be expended by November 30, 2024. A recent publication by the Association of School Business Officials cited the importance of acknowledging this timeframe and implications of these funds going away. As a school district, we have been mindful of aligning our expenditures with the state aligned priority areas and have focused on investing in as many projects as possible that will sustain themselves beyond the expiration of these funds. With that being stated, we still have an expectation to continue to balance our budget with and without these added one time funds. Our goal is to build and create a sustainable model that best serves our students, staff, and community, and that premise will guide our decision making moving forward.
- b. It is important to note that we are focused on, and mindful of, being fiscally responsible as a school district in order to maintain and enhance the opportunities our students experience at Fairmont Area Schools. Knowing our ESSER III federal funds will expire in just over a year, we have begun making adjustments to limit allocating those funds to ongoing expenses. It is important for us to be strategic in our decisions to put us in a place for successfully supporting the growth of our students, staff, and community for years to come.

4. Fairmont Area Schools Strategic Planning

- a. The next strategic planning team meeting will be held Thursday, May 11th.

5. 2023-2024 School Calendar

- a. 2022-2023 School Calendar Update
 - i. As previously communicated, June 5th and 6th will now be scheduled school days for students. Given the provisions for these added days, and the fact we are still within the required number of hours in the student school year, the final school day will be a half day for students. Detailed communication was shared with families last week.
 - ii. Elementary 12:00 p.m.
 - iii. JR/SR High 12:15 p.m.

6. Cardinal Community Days

- a. The Jr.-Sr. High School Cardinals Give Back Day will be on Friday, May 19th.

7. Upcoming Reports & School Events

- a. **School Activities Review & Scheduling Update**
- b. **Next School Board Meeting(s)**
 - i. **May 23, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. - FES Budd Room (Strategic Planning Work Session)**