

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Wm. Budd Room at Fairmont Elementary. School Board Members in attendance were Nicole Green, Mari Myren, Julie Laue, and Jen Harris. Student school board members Abi Peyman and Grace Simpson were also present.

MINUTES

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve the June 13, 2023 school board meeting minutes.

AGENDA

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the July 11, 2023 school board meeting agenda.

CELEBRATIONS AND SCHOOL / COMMUNITY REPORTS - None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - See Attached

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports & Bills - Jessica (Julie)

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve wire transfers for 6/8/23 - 7/5/23, June 30, 2023 single checks, and payment of the June 27 and July 11, 2023 bills.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A Organizational Items (Mike)

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Jen Harris, and carried to unanimously approve the following items for the 2023-2024 school year:

1. Change the starting time for school board members from the current 5:00 p.m. time to 5:15 p.m., effective September 12, 2023.
2. Set the stipend for interpreters at \$30 per hour
3. Set the stipend for test proctoring at \$20 per hour
4. Set the stipend for tutoring at \$35 per hour
5. Set the student / summer help rate at \$15 per hour, effective 1/1/24
6. Set the stipend for peer tutoring at \$13 per hour

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Appointment of Student School Board Members** (Nicole)
A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve appointing Abi Peyman and Grace Simpson to serve as student school board members for the 2023-24 school year.
- B. **Meal Prices** (Jen)
A motion was offered by Jen Harris, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve meal prices for the 2023-24 school year.

PERSONNEL

- A. **Retirement** (Mari)
A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously accept the retirement of Liz Hartke, paraprofessional, effective August 31, 2023.
- B. **Resignation** (Jen)
A motion was offered by Jen Harris, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously accept the resignation of Mary Best, paraprofessional, effective June 6, 2023.
- C. **Employment** (Julie)
1. A motion was offered by Julie Laue seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve employment of the following long-term substitute teachers:
 - a. Kevin Kristenson, effective 8/28/23 - 9/29/23 BA, Step 1
 - b. Bob Millette, effective 10/2/23 - 10/18/23 BA, Step 1
 - c. Jennifer Streit, effective on or about 9/18/23 - 12/21/23 BA, Step 1
 - d. Stacy Bailey, effective on or about 10/2/23 - 12/21/23 BA, Step 1
 - e. Marilyn Fritzinger, effective on or about 1/2/24 - 3/27/24 BA, Step 1
 2. A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Jen Harris, and carried to unanimously approve employment of coaches for the 2023-24 fall sports teams.
 3. A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve employment of the following paraprofessionals, effective for the 23-24 school year and at a salary of Step 1:
 - a. Tiah Weringa - Fairmont Elementary
 - b. Abby Ehlert - Fairmont Jr.-Sr. High School
 - c. Natalie Brown - Fairmont Elementary

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Curriculum Committee Meeting** - 7/20 (Jen)
B. **Staff Welfare Committee Meeting** - 7/21 (Mari)
C. **Teacher Negotiations** - 7/31 (Nicole)

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Jen Harris, and carried to unanimously approve/disapprove adjourning the school board meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk

Fairmont Area Schools ISD 2752

School Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

August 8, 2023

1. Registration/Enrollment Report

- a. **PRELIMINARY** Number of Enrolled Students for 2023-2024 (*as of 8/8/23)
 - i. FJSHS: 899 (6/13/23: 865 Students)
 - ii. FES: 878 (6/13/23: 865 Students)
 - iii. **TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1,777 (+47) (6/6/22: 1,730 Students)**
 - iv. **22-23 Enrollment Range: Low = 1,714; High = 1,736 (Range = 22)**

2. Buildings & Grounds Updates (*provided by Tyler Garrison*)

- a. Progress is being made on our outdoor projects as well as our annual building preparations for the start of the school year. Our custodial and maintenance staff is continuing to do an amazing job preparing the physical state of our buildings and grounds for the start of the school year. A full Buildings & Grounds Report will be provided at our next school board meeting.

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.

4. FY 2024 Preliminary Budget (*Reported Previously*)

- a. 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 one year, we have begun making adjustments to limit allocating those funds to ongoing expenses. Our fiscal year 2023 budget reduced school district expenditures by approximately \$600,000; our preliminary fiscal year 2024 budget is scheduled to reduce expenditures by an additional \$700,000; this planning is a direct result of four consecutive years of deficit spending and the upcoming expiration of ESSER III federal funds.
- b. In reducing our expenditures, we have been able to maintain our current programs and course offerings while right-sizing our staffing model according to the size and resources of our school district. This is extremely important for us as we build toward the future and continue to focus on providing our students the best possible education experience we can offer. We will continue to analyze our financial outlook and respond accordingly to be good stewards of our resources. 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.
- c. Education Finance appropriations from the 2023 legislative session resulted in a 4% per pupil formula increase in FY '24 and a 2% per pupil formula increase for FY '25. The legislative session also provided increases to the cross-subsidy aid factors as well as funding allocated for specified areas. While we are grateful for these increases, we are still working to understand the parameters of new legislation and identified areas in which we must provide programming and allocate the newly assigned revenue to meet the needs of the enacted legislation.

- d. Our preliminary budget does plan for a surplus which allows for the potential of replenishing assigned funds that direct spending to areas of curriculum, classroom technology, district technology, and equipment costs in the vocational and fine arts. Without this planning these accounts may continue to diminish, potentially limiting our ability to provide adequate resources in these areas in the future. It is important for us to work to maintain a healthy fund balance in order to support our students, and our staff as they bring new ideas forward to meet with current and future needs of our learners.

5. Fairmont Area Schools Strategic Planning

- a. Our goal through this process has been to design and deliver the desired daily experience and outcomes for students, families and staff in bridging the difference between what is and what ought to be. We are also creating a plan that is adaptive, responsive, and proactive to the local needs of our school district and learning communities.
- b. The plan will continue to be developed into the school year as we work to gather baseline data related to our Vision Card measurables. We are also finalizing the Operational Plan as well as our theories of action. Our vision, mission, and values are in the final draft stages.

6. Cardinal Prime: Before & After School Enrichment Program

- a. We are continuing to move forward with planning for this program to be piloted during the 2023-2024 school year. Details have been finalized and worked out with staffing, program capacity, and year two pricing. Information was available for families during registration, we've worked with the Sentinel on an upcoming story, and a Q&A session will be scheduled for the end of this week. Enrollment on the CER website will be open on Monday, August 14th for families of students entering grades K-6 in the fall.

7. Open Door Health Center Update

- a. The next step in this potential partnership is for representatives of the Open Door Health Center to draft an operational agreement to be shared with the school district. Once received, we will review the document, make any recommended adjustments, and pass it along to our school legal representative for review. The operational agreement will then be brought before the Operations Committee for review and comment. The subsequent step would then be to schedule a meeting with Open Door Health Center and the committee to address any questions. Open Door Health Center would then attend a future school board meeting where a Memorandum of Understanding would be brought before the full board for final approval. Additional information will be provided to the school board during the process as we progress through each step.

8. Upcoming Reports & School Events

- a. School Activities Preview
- b. **Next School Board Meeting(s)**
 - i. **August 22, 2023 @ 5:15 p.m. - FES Budd Room**