

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING January 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 26, 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. Student board members in attendance were Weston Loughmiller, Morgan Hoong, and Briana Joseph.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the January 12, 2021 school board meeting minutes.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously approve the January 26, 2021 school board meeting agenda with added item.

Jake Tietje, Principal of Program Development, reviewed the timelines established for marketing the district's Vocational Expansion Project referendum election. He noted that to date residents have received 3 brochures in the mail and will also be receiving a Vote Yes postcard. Mr. Tietje has presented information about the referendum to several service clubs and has personally visited 75 local businesses to explain the project and ask for endorsement. Support by these businesses has been outstanding.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Brown shared a report showing that district enrollment is up from last month by 4 students.
- The elementary school is doing very well in their 2nd week of having all students back in-person 5 days a week. Thirty-eight students have remained on distance learning.
- Mr. Brown provided rationale into the decision to remain in hybrid learning at the high school for an additional 2 weeks, increasing the number of in-person days to 4 for all students. Wednesday will remain a distance learning day. Mr. Brown indicated he would plan to have HS students back all in-person 5 days a week on February 15. Board members expressed some frustration with not resuming all in-person starting February 1. Mr. Brown explained that the recommendation received from the MDH was to operate on a rolling hybrid model in which distance learning would be less, but still not full in-person. In following up with board members' comments and concerns about remaining in hybrid learning, Mr. Brown indicated he would schedule a consult yet this week to learn if the district is allowed to implement an all in-person model at an earlier date.

Update following meeting: Mr. Brown did consult with MDH on February 28. The meeting also included HS Principal, Kim Niss and HS Nurse, Nancy Backer. Fairmont was approved to proceed with the following hybrid roll-out plan:

Week of February 1

Grades 7, 8, and 12 will return to school five days a week for two weeks.

Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will continue to attend school in a hybrid model with ½ of the students attending on Monday & Tuesday; the other ½ will be attending school on Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays – students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will attend school online.

Week of February 15

All students in grades 7-12 will attend school 5 days a week.

A resolution was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green, and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a donation of two room dividers, valued at \$50, from Lee Baartz.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve wires/transfers for 1/8/21 – 1/21/21, the December, 2020 budget model, and payment of the January 25, 2021 bills.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the employment of Laura Olsen as a special education paraprofessional at a salary of Step 4, effective January 15, 2021.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve an employee medical leave, effective February 23, 2021 through April 6, 2021 or per medical recommendation.

Board members reported on the following: CER Advisory Council Meeting, Policy Committee Meeting, and SPEC Board Meeting.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to approve adjourning the school board meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk