

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 9, 2018

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Members in attendance were Rufus Rodriguez, Nicole Green, Del Ellis, Julie Laue, and Dan Brookens. Absent: Danielle Schutz.

A motion was offered by Del Ellis, seconded by Nicole Green, and carried to approve the September 25, 2018 school board meeting minutes.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Dan Brookens, and carried to approve the October 9, 2018 school board meeting agenda.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Brown provided an enrollment update. Total numbers are down 43 students from this time last year.
- Board members received a document showing that the total number of students open enrolled into our District is 199 and the total number open enrolled out is 211. The open enrolled out figure includes 30 students who are taking a full load of online courses outside of our schools. There was discussion as to whether our District could become licensed to offer some of the online courses that students are taking off-site. Superintendent Brown will research that option.
- Mr. Brown referenced our District's agreement with Minnesota West for this school year. Three new CIS classes are being offered at the high school, for a total of 20 classes. Students choosing to take all 20 CIS courses would have the ability to earn 71 college credits during their high school career.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green, and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a donation of children's & adult clothing, a value of \$740, from D & S Trophies for Fairmont Elementary School.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Julie Laue, and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept 10 head phones for 2nd grade, a \$50 value, donated by Holly Hazard.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Del Ellis and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a donation from the Martin County Pork Producers of \$200 pork certificates for each Fairmont Elementary and Fairmont Jr./Sr. High School.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Del Ellis and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a donation of 55 books for 2nd grade from Capstone Publishing, a value a \$550.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Del Ellis and carried to unanimously approve the wire transfers for 9/22/18 – 10/4/18 and payment of the October 9, 2018 bills.

A motion was offered by Del Ellis, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously approve the resignation of Bianca Nagel, paraprofessional, effective October 5, 2018.

A motion was offered by Del Ellis, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve the resignation of Taleah Fitzloff, Title I aide, effective October 12, 2018.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Del Ellis and carried to unanimously approve the employment of Christina Gonzalez to serve as a paraprofessional at Fairmont Elementary at a salary of Step 7, effective October 8, 2018.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Nicole Green, and carried to unanimously approve entering into an agreement with School Management Services (SMS) for a period beginning October 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 for a fee of \$60,000.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Del Ellis and carried to unanimously approve the employment of Chris Muhvich as business manager at an annual salary of \$75,000, effective April 1, 2019.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve a medical leave request for Tiffany Harris beginning on or about January 21, 2019 and extending through April 12, 2019 or per medical recommendation.

Jodi Kristenson, instructional coach, provided an overview of the 2017-18 Student Achievement Report. She recapped the fall to spring growth that was evident with the MCA testing. Math & Reading scores have continually improved over the past years. Science test scores have improved slightly, but not at the same rate as math & reading. Ms. Kristenson suggested that it may be time for a detailed review of our science curriculum. Our growth rates in all three areas have exceeded the state averages and that of most neighboring districts. Ms. Kristenson also shared some results of the Fast Bridge testing, which were also positive. 82% of our students met growth targets in math and 76% in reading. Board member Nicole Green asked a question about declining test scores between grades 6-8. Ms. Kristenson acknowledged that this decline has been an ongoing trend and believes it can be attributed to the fact that students are adjusting to moving between classes during those years. She did indicate that test scores catch up again quickly after 8th grade and students are achieving very well by graduation. In conclusion, Ms. Kristenson indicated our District has much to celebrate with the steady increase in test scores, a trend that is not common throughout the state.

Kaleen Schultz, SDCC Chair, provided an overview of the 2018-19 Educational Improvement Plan (EIP). She explained the committee process used to develop the Plan and the number of people who contributed their time and input. This year's district goal is, "By May, 2019 student achievement of free and reduced sub group will increase by 3% on the MCA assessment in reading and math." Ms. Schultz shared the action plan developed by the committee to meet this district goal and the site goals established for both Fairmont Elementary and the Jr./Sr. High School. Members of the school board Curriculum Committee requested to meet with SDCC members to further review the EIP to ensure that their committee work aligns with that of SDCC.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Dan Brookens, and carried to unanimously approve the 2017-2018 Student Achievement Report.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Del Ellis and carried to unanimously approve the 2018-2019 Educational Improvement Plan.

Board members reported on the following: Staff Welfare Committee Meeting (10/2); SDCC Meeting (10/8); Board / HS Student Breakfast (10/9).

One item from the Staff Welfare Meeting was highlighted by Superintendent Brown and board members. It was approved that all children age 18 and under will now be given free admission into school activities, effective October 10, 2018. This includes students from any school district, public, parochial, and home school. This decision was made in an effort to encourage more students and families to attend activities.

A motion was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green, and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the school board meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Del Ellis, Clerk