

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING July 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 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 attending were Weston Loughmiller, Morgan Hoong, and Briana Joseph.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the June 9, 2020 school board meeting minutes.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the July 14, 2020 school board meeting agenda.

Superintendent Brown acknowledged three staff members who have served our District for 25 years: Tyler Garrison, Traci Schultz, and Lori Tesdahl.

Claire Theobald, History Day Coordinator, introduced Isaac Sheard and Blaze Geiger, Jr. High students who placed 4th in the National History Day contest. Isaac and Blaze presented the amazing display of their “Breaking Barriers of Space – Apollo 11” project. They talked about the many happenings that have occurred with regard to space travel, research, and politics since the launch of Sputnik in 1957. The project included models of Apollo 11 and the Mars Rover built out of Legos and a 56-page annotated bibliography.

Superintendent’s Report

- Superintendent Brown commended the Fairmont Sentinel for the nice article they did on the expansion of the Kehrberg Prairie Land at the high school. Many trees have been removed to provide for this land, which will be used for instructional purposes with science classes.
- In light of COVID-19, staff surveys were distributed last week asking for feedback regarding instructional models for the start of this school year and staff’s comfort level in returning to work. Mr. Brown shared results of that survey with board members.
- Board members were invited to attend the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, July 29. Along with administrators, a group of teacher representatives will be present at that meeting. The agenda will include detailed planning for the start of school this fall.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green, and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a donation from Fairmont Awards of four recognition bells for this year’s retiring teachers.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the wire transfers for 6/5/20 – 7/9/20, June and July, 200 single checks, April & May, 2020 budget models, and bills for June 23 and July 14, 2020.

A motion was offered by Rufus Rodriguez, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the following organizational items for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Designate the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month as regularly scheduled school board meetings to be held at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.
2. Designate the following banks as depositories of school funds and authorize the superintendent and business manager to sign release agreements for pledged securities for collateral purposes and initiate and approve electronic fund transfers:

**U.S. Bank, Fairmont
Profinium, Fairmont
First Farmers/Merchants
Bank, Fairmont**

**Bank Midwest, Fairmont
State Bank, Ceylon
CCF Bank, Fairmont**

**U.S. Bank, Mpls.
State Bank, Fairmont
Ameritrade Institutional
and Ehlers Investment**

3. Set the compensation for school board members at \$1,800 and \$2,400 for School Board President. Compensation for each additional meeting pertaining to school board matters is set at \$50 for a partial day and \$100 for a full day
4. Designate the Fairmont Sentinel as the official newspaper for Independent School District 2752
5. Designate Mat Mahoney as Title IX Compliance Officer/Human Rights Officer for Independent School District 2752
6. Designate Chris Muhvich as District Transportation Safety Director
7. Designate Kim Niss as 504 Coordinator.
8. Designate Michelle Rosen as Federal Programs Administrator as provided under Public Law 107-110
9. Designate Joseph Brown, Sr. as Home School Coordinator
10. Designate Nancy Backer as the Homeless Students Liaison
11. Designate Chris Muhvich as HIPAA Compliance Officer
12. Designate Tyler Garrison as the Health & Safety Coordinator
13. Set the stipend for junior high athletic officials at \$65 per event
14. Set the stipend for interpreters at \$25 per hour
15. Set the stipend for test proctoring at \$14 per hour
16. Set the stipend for tutoring at \$35 per hour
17. Set the student / summer help rate at \$10.50 per hour
18. Authorize payment of bills between board meetings for the purpose of obtaining a discount or a required prepayment on an order, or to avoid penalty charges. The District is also authorized to pay board bills in the event a board meeting is not held. The superintendent and business manager are authorized to approve the processing of payments for invoices submitted under contracts approved by the Board and under circumstances when it is deemed necessary and appropriate to proceed with a payment.

Co-high school principals Jake Tietje and Alex Schmidt shared recommended changes to this year's High School Student Handbook. They plan at some point in the future to convert the handbook into a website, allowing for easier access and a more user-friendly format.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the 2020-21 High School Student Handbook.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve naming Mary Cole as the MDE Identified Official with Authority to authorize user access to MDE secure websites.

A resolution was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and adopted to unanimously approve the District's Ten-Year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance plan for FY22.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the 2020-21 payroll/benefit management agreement with Southern Plains Education Cooperative.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to approve renewal of the following MSBA resources for the 2020-21 school year:

1. MSBA Membership at a fee of \$6,092
2. MSBA Policy Services at a fee of \$715

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to approve/accept the following:

1. Employment of Robert Michael Borchardt as a master electrician to work 2 days per week at a salary of \$28/hour
2. Retirement of Kathy Totzke, special ed paraprofessional, effective July 31, 2020
3. Retirement of Jean Morris, bus driver, effective June 2, 2020
4. Resignation of Julie Clarey, elementary teacher, effective June 5, 2020

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to approve two-year contract settlements for 2020-21 and 2021-22 as follows:

1. Media Technicians
2. Aides
3. Community Outreach Coordinator
4. Performing Arts Center Manager

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to approve increasing the contract for Julie Becker, payroll accountant, from 40% to 60% for the 2020-21 school year.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve moving to a closed session at 6:10 p.m. for the superintendent evaluation process.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve adjourning the closed session and re-opening the board meeting at 7:21 p.m.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve adjourning the school board meeting at 7:22 p.m.