

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING October 13, 2020

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 13, 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 Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the September 22 and 28 school board meeting minutes.

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

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Brown reported that enrollment is down 6 students at the elementary and 2 students at the high school. In addition, we have 253 students who have open enrolled to another school district and 214 students are open enrolled into our District, a net loss of 39 students. Mr. Brown noted that the net loss was over 100 students several years ago and has continued to drop each year.
- Mr. Brown shared information regarding the District's recent directive from the state to move all of our students to distance learning. This was based on our District's COVID case number reaching 91.66, the 2nd highest county number in Minnesota. Mr. Brown reminded the community that the state does not allow any student activities to take place while a school district is in distance learning.

Superintendent Brown, together with school board members, reiterated to the community that while they all wish to see students back in school and back in activities, it is not the school's decision to make. The state sets and enforces the guidelines for determining which learning model districts must follow.

Mr. Brown noted that to date 348 students are registered in the child-care program at Fairmont Elementary. While in distance learning, school districts are required to provide all Tier I essential employees with free child-care for their elementary school age children.

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Nicole Green and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept donated snack boxes for teachers, valued at \$50, from Thrivent of St. James.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve wire transfers for 9/18/20 – 10/8/20, payment of the September, 2020 single checks and the October 13, 2020 bills.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously accept the 2019-2020 preliminary audit until MDE's IT problem is fixed and the final audit is available.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve the 2020-2021 teacher seniority list.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve holding a school board work session on Tuesday, October 27 at 5:00 p.m. in the Wm. Budd room in lieu of the regular school board meeting.

A motion was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Mike Edman and carried to unanimously approve scheduling the 2020 Payable 2021 Truth in Taxation hearing to be held on Tuesday, December 8 following the regular school board meeting and after 6:00 p.m.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to unanimously approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Fairmont Area Schools and Education Minnesota Fairmont to authorize increasing the number of elementary site team leaders from 9 to 10, effective with the 20-21 school year.

A motion was offered by Nicole Green, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the resignation of Alexis Thate, special ed paraprofessional, effective October 9, 2020.

Board members reported on the following: Southern Plains Board Meeting of 9/28; CER Advisory Council Meeting of 10/8; Operations Committee Meeting of 10/13.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Nicole Green and carried to approve adjourning the school board meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Dan Brookens, Clerk