

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

I. ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. in the Wm. Budd Board Room. Members in attendance were Nicole Green, Mike Edman, Julie Laue, Dan Brookens, Mari Myren, and Jen Harris. Student board member Grace Simpson was also in attendance.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. MINUTES

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the October 24, 2023 school board meeting minutes.

IV. AGENDA

A motion was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve the November 14, 2023 school board meeting agenda.

V. CELEBRATIONS AND SCHOOL / COMMUNITY REPORTS

A student activities report was provided by activities director, Mat Mahoney. He reported that the fall season was again very successful with 438 students participating on athletic teams. Numbers also remain high in the area of Fine Arts. In particular, 60% of students grades 7-12 participate in band, orchestra, or choir. This year's high school musical includes a cast of 114 students. Student participation numbers are also coming in high for winter activities, though there always tends to be a small drop-off from the fall season.

Other highlights noted by Mr. Mahoney included use of the new online Hudl system, which allows practices to be recorded and games to be live streamed. Additional equipment is being purchased that will enhance Hudl and help to ensure it is a viable system for all sports. Mr. Mahoney is working to secure additional AED units for the District. The goal is to have an AED unit available at every sporting event. It was noted that lack of bus drivers remains an issue for activity transportation. Cooperation between school districts and MMB has kept the situation manageable. In closing, Mr. Mahoney indicated that he has very much appreciated the assignment as a full time AD. He feels he is better able to stay ahead of the game when not having to divide his time between AD duties and teaching.

High school teacher, Brian Wille, shared information about his 8th grade Leadership Course. The course was developed as the result of a survey in which students voiced their desire for a greater sense of community at the high school. Mr. Wille embeds the leadership course into his social studies curriculum as well. Leadership in this course is defined as, "Being the best version of yourself in living your own life." Mr. Wille attributes much of the success of this course to his junior & senior student helpers. These helpers work with the 8th graders on the concepts being taught and serve as mentors to the younger students. Mr. Wille aspires to eventually bring this leadership course to the elementary school. Board members commended Mr. Wille for his initiative in developing this course and thanked him for making it a success.

Associate high school principal, Brooke Schultz, reported on the 7th Grade Cardinal Buddies Program. This is a program that had been in place at the high school many years ago and was started up again this year. Seventh grade students are paired with upper level English students. The older student serves as a mentor to his/her 7th grade "Cardinal Buddy" throughout the school year. They typically meet once or twice a month to work on character building. The Buddies have been seen playing games together, creating secret handshakes, working on theater projects, and sharing memes. Mrs. Schultz indicated that the program is creating camaraderie and good friendships. Faculty have also embraced the program, which has been instrumental in its success.

Superintendent Andy Traetow presented a proclamation declaring November 13 - 17 as National Education Week. He thanked local businesses and individuals who provided tokens of appreciation to District staff. He noted that our District's success in providing high quality education is due to the work done by amazing staff members and collaborative efforts with our families and communities.

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CALENDAR - See Attached**

VII. **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

A. **Donations / Grants**

A resolution was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Julie Laue and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a \$12,500 grant for Robotics from the Valero Benefit for Children.

B. **Financial Reports & Bills**

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve wire transfers for 10/19/23 - 11/8/23, and payment of the November 14, 2023 bills.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **New Policy**

A motion was offered by Jen Harris, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve adoption of new policy #624, Online Instruction.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Policy Revisions**

A motion was offered by Jen Harris, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the following revised policies:

1. Policy 709 Student Transportation Safety Policy
2. Policy 806 Crisis Management

B. **Consideration of Hunt Farm Sale**

A resolution was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens and adopted on a 5-1 roll call vote to direct administration and legal counsel to subdivide Property Parcel ID No. 160310700 into the portion of the property to be used for school purposes and the portion of the property to be sold by an auctioneering company. Any final agreement for the sale of the property shall be brought back to the School Board for approval. Proceeds from the sale of the land would remain in the Hunt Family Fund with restricted use for student scholarships and enrichments as indicated in the initial gift. Aye votes were cast by Jen Harris, Dan Brookens, Mike Edman, Mari Myren, and Nicole Green. A nay vote was cast by Julie Laue.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. **Resignation**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens, and carried to unanimously accept the resignation of Courtney Williams, high school paraprofessional, effective November 1, 2023.

B. **Employment**

A motion was offered by Dan Brookens, seconded by Jen Harris and carried to unanimously approve employment of winter coaches for the 23-24 school year.

XI. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **CER Meeting** - Oct. 12 (Mari)
- B. **Policy Committee Meeting** - Oct. 25 (Jen)
- C. **Teacher Negotiation Meeting** - Oct. 30, Nov. 8 & 13 (Mike)
- D. **Board / HS Student Council Listening Session** - Nov. 8 (Julie)

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the school board meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk

Fairmont Area Schools ISD 2752

School Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

November 14, 2023

1. Registration/Enrollment Report

- a. Number of Enrolled Students for 2023-2024 (**as of 11/13/23*)
 - i. FJSHS: 842 (+ 5) (11/14/22: 862 Students)
 - ii. FES: 869 (- 5) (11/14/22: 849 Students)
 - iii. TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1,711 (+/- 0) (11/14/22: 1,711 Students)
 - iv. 22-23 Enrollment Range: Low = 1,711; High = 1,736 (Range = 25)

2. Buildings & Grounds Updates

- a. Over a year after initial occupancy was granted, final punch list items continue to be completed on our CTE building.
- b. Work continues on exterior lighting related to our spectator entrance project. Some of the canopy lighting needs to be replaced as well as the addition of signage indicating "spectator entrance".
- c. The Cardinal Park Fieldhouse project is continuing to make progress. The walls and trusses are currently being constructed with the goal of having the structure enclosed before the winter weather is upon us.
- d. We are beginning to research replacement equipment for the east playground at Fairmont Elementary. Tyler Garrison, director of buildings and grounds, will be meeting with recreation companies in the near future.
- e. Planning has begun for the scheduled gymnasium maintenance at FJSHS. Quotes are being gathered for painting and refurbishing the gymnasium floor. This process is to be completed on wood floors approximately every twelve to fifteen years.
- f. We are already organizing work for summer of 2024 which includes glycol replacement in our heating system at FJSHS. This will be a similar process to what was completed at FES during the summer of 2023.

3. Fairmont Lakes Foundation

- a. We recently submitted a letter of support for our local Fairmont Lakes Foundation. The foundation is seeking grant dollars for a shoreline project they are working on that would add native vegetation around our run-off areas to promote natural filtration and additional habitat for aquatic species. There is also the potential for our students to engage in various components of this project.

4. MN Motor Bus & Martin County Roads Meeting

- a. We recently met with representatives from MN Motor Bus and our Martin County Roads/Highway department. This was our annual fall meeting to review rural bus routes in accordance with plow routes and timing of departures. This is a great collaboration to ensure we are communicating efficiently during inclement weather and that we are adequately covering the county in our assessment of road conditions.

5. Fairmont Area Schools Strategic Planning

- a. We continue to work through application of components encompassed in our strategic plan. We will be revisiting components of the strategic plan at a future school board work session.

6. Upcoming Reports & School Events

- a. Next School Board Meeting(s)
 - i. November 28, 2023 @ 5:15 p.m. - FES Budd Room