

# **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

## **Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

### **I. ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. in the Wm. Budd Board Room. Members in attendance were Nicole Green, Mike Edman, Julie Laue, Mari Myren, and Jen Harris. Absent: Dan Brookens. Student school board member, Grace Simpson, was also present.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. MINUTES**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the November 28, 2023 school board meeting minutes.

### **IV. AGENDA**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve the December 12, 2023 school board meeting agenda as amended.

### **V. CELEBRATIONS AND SCHOOL / COMMUNITY REPORTS**

### **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - See attached**

### **VII. FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

#### **A. Audit Report**

Bradley Van Deinse of Eide Bailly was present to share an overview of our district's audit results for the 2022-23 school year. The school district received a clean, unmodified opinion, including the testing completed on our federal ESSER funds. No significant financial changes were reported since the prior year audit. Mr. Van Deinse indicated that Fairmont Area Schools is in good financial standing.

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Jen Harris, and carried to unanimously approve the 2022-2023 audit report.

#### **B. Donations / Grants**

A resolution was offered by Jen Harria, seconded by Mike Edman and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept the following donations: 1) \$5,640 from Myron Moeller earned through the sale of soybeans harvested from the Mayo Health System property. These dollars were donated in support of the FFA Program; 2) \$1,500 from Martin County Farm Bureau Association for the FFA Program.

#### **C. Financial Reports & Bills**

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve/disapprove wire transfers for 11/23/23 - 12/7/23, the November 30, 2023 single checks, and payment of the December 12, 2023 bills.

### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

## IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **World's Best Workforce Update**

Klm Niss updated the Board on our District's progress with goals related to the Five Pillars of the World's Best Workforce. The Five Pillars are 1) School Readiness; 2) Third Grade Literacy (This Pillar will be replaced next year with the Literacy Read Act); 3) Close the Achievement Gap; 4) All Students Graduate; 5) College and Career Readiness.

The goals for each Pillar were set based on criteria and recommendations from the state. While our District did not meet the goals this year, the data presented clearly showed that students are making good academic progress.

### B. **Educational Improvement Plan (EIP)**

Tiffany Harris and Ashley Scheevel headed the committee that developed this year's Educational Improvement Plan. Tiffany Harris shared with board members the committee's decision to set one unified goal this year rather than the elementary and high school setting separate goals. The agreed upon goal is, "The percentage of all students in grades 4-11 at Fairmont Area Schools will increase their overall composite score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in reading from 46% in May, 2023 to 53% in May, 2024." Ms. Harris shared a video developed by the EIP committee showing clips of the learning environment in a variety of classrooms.

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Mike Edman and carried to unanimously approve the 2023-2024 Educational Improvement Plan.

### C. **Policy**

1. **First Reading:** New Policy #621 - Literacy and Read Act

2. **Policy Revisions**

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

A. Policy 514 - Bullying Prohibition

B. Policy 903 - Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites

## X. **PERSONNEL**

### A. **Employment**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve the employment of the following:

1. Tori Nava as a high school special ed paraprofessional, effective 11/27/23

2. Gabriel Martinez, long-term substitute elementary EL teacher, effective 1/15/24

## XI. **BOARD COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS**

Board members reported on recent meetings, including SDCC and Operations Committee.

## XII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

## XIII. **RECESS BOARD MEETING**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve recessing the school board meeting.

#### **XIV.. TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING**

- A. A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue and carried to unanimously approve opening the public Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Jessica Korte, director of finance and business management, presented the Truth in Taxation meeting. Ms. Korte reported an increase in revenue of 4.61% over the 22-23 school year. She provided a breakdown of both expenditures and revenues. Ms. Korte reviewed the many factors impacting the school's tax levy and the variables that cause property taxes to increase or decrease. In conclusion, it was recommended that the Board approve the proposed levy amount of \$6,502.062.47.

- B. A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the 2023 Payable 2024 tax levy in the amount of \$6,502,062.47.
- C. A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren and carried to unanimously approve closing the public Truth in Taxation Hearing.

#### **XV. END BOARD MEETING RECESS**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Jen Harris and carried to unanimously approve ending the board meeting recess.

#### **XVI. CLOSE BOARD MEETING**

A motion was offered by, seconded by Mike Edman, seconded by Jen Harris and carried to unanimously approve closing the board meeting, per MN Statute 13D.04, to enter into a closed session to discuss sale of the Hunt Property.

#### **XVII. OPEN BOARD MEETING**

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

#### **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the school board meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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Mari Myren, Clerk

# **Fairmont Area Schools ISD 2752**

## **School Board Meeting Superintendent's Report**

**November 28, 2023**

### **1. Registration/Enrollment Report**

- a. Number of Enrolled Students for 2023-2024 (*\*as of 11/27/23*)
  - i. FJSHS: 843 (+ 1) (11/14/22: 862 Students)
  - ii. FES: 865 (- 4) (11/14/22: 849 Students)
  - iii. TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1,708 (+/- 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. 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".
- b. The Cardinal Park Fieldhouse project is continuing to make progress. The structure is now enclosed and finishing work on the interior and exterior will continue.

### **3. Open Door Health Center (ODHC) Collaborative Meeting**

- a. The beginning of last week I took part in a collaborative meeting with two representatives from ODHC. The meeting was simply an update of where things are at in the planning process. Our school attorney has provided an updated MOU. An Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6th at which representatives from ODHC will be present to answer any questions. We will then have them attend a board meeting in January as a part of a work session for the entire board to learn more details and have the opportunity to ask questions.

### **4. Fiscal Year 2023 Audit**

- a. The school district's audit for fiscal year 2023 is nearly complete with a few final details to be completed. We are anticipating the completion in the next week with a presentation at our December 12th school board meeting.

### **5. Big South Conference Expansion Update**

- a. Work continues in search of a potential sixteenth member of our conference. We recently attended a work session at a school within our region to provide information related to the conference and sponsored activities. We should know within the next couple of months if continued expansion will take place for the 25-26 school year. In the event a sixteenth conference member is secured, no further expansion would be pursued.

### **6. Fairmont Area Schools Strategic Planning**

- a. No new updates.

### **7. Upcoming Reports & School Events**

- a. Next School Board Meeting(s)
  - i. December 12, 2023 @ 5:15 p.m. - FES Budd Room
    - 1. Truth In Taxation Hearing @ 6:00 p.m. - FES Budd Room