

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

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

A regular meeting of the Fairmont Area Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 13, at 5:15 p.m. in the Wm. Budd Board Room. Members in attendance were Nicole Green, Mike Edman, Julie Laue, Mari Myren, Dan Brookens, and Jen Harris. Student school board member, Grace Simpson, was also present.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **MINUTES**

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve the January 23, 2024 school board meeting minutes.

IV. **AGENDA**

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Dan Brookens and carried to unanimously approve the February 13, 2024 school board meeting agenda, as amended.

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

A. **7th / 8th Grade Play - Sara Gudahl & Molly Bleess**

Sara Gudahl, director, and Molly Bleess, asst. director, shared information about the upcoming 7th / 8th grade play, *Stone Dragon Stew*. Three of the actors were also present, Carter Simmering, Jenna Fett, and Sophie Streit. Ms. Gudahl indicated that the play was again opened up to 6th grade students. The cast totals 21, including veteran actors and those who are participating for the first time. Ms. Gudahl was excited to report that the play is 100% student produced, making the performance an even greater learning experience.

B. **School Board Member Appreciation Month**

1. On behalf of Education Minnesota Fairmont, elementary teachers Jessica Schmidt, Laurie Scott, and Michelle Traetow recognized and thanked board members for their continuous support of education. Board members were presented with a card designed by 6th grade students and a state of Minnesota magnet, crafted by high school art students.
2. Superintendent Traetow honored school board members by sharing a proclamation declaring February to be School Board Recognition Month and by presenting each board member with a MSBA Certificate of Appreciation.

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

VII. **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

A. **Donations / Grants**

A resolution was introduced by Dan Brookens, seconded by Jen Harris, and adopted on a unanimous roll call vote to accept a \$584 donation from the Fairmont Youth Foundation in support of the high school weightlifting program.

B. **Financial Reports & Bills**

Jessica Korte, Director of Finance and Business Management, reviewed the February 13, 2024 financial reports.

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve wire transfers for 1/18/24 - 2/7/24, the January 31, 2024 single checks, and payment of the February 13, 2024 bills.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **School Depository**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve designating Bremer Bank as a depository of school funds and authorizing the superintendent and business manager to sign release agreements for pledged securities for collateral purposes and to initiate and approve electronic fund transfers.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. **Retirement**

A motion was offered by Mari Myren, seconded by Mike Edman, and carried to unanimously accept the retirement of Judy Kopischke, superintendent's administrative assistant, effective June 30, 2024.

B. **Employment**

A motion was offered by Jen Harris, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve employment of the following:

1. Mary Cole, student accounting technician
Effective: April 1, 2024 Salary: Step 10
2. Stacy Bailey, long-term substitute elementary teacher
Effective: On or about March 21 - end of school year Salary: BA, Step 1

C. **Employee Contracts**

1. A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to unanimously approve a two-year contract for Education Minnesota Fairmont for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.
2. A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve a two-year contract for the CER Director for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.
3. A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Mari Myren, and carried to unanimously approve a two-year contract for the Community Outreach Liaison for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

XI. **BOARD COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS**

- A. **Policy Committee Meeting** - 1/30 (Julie)
- B. **SDCC Meeting** - 2/6 (Nicole)
- C. **CER Advisory Council Meeting** - 2/8 (Mari)

XII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was offered by Mike Edman, seconded by Dan Brookens, and carried to unanimously approve adjourning the school board meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mari Myren, Clerk

Fairmont Area Schools ISD 2752

School Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

February 13, 2024

1. Registration/Enrollment Report

- a. Number of Enrolled Students for 2023-2024 (**as of 2/12/24*)
 - i. FJSHS: 830 (- 5) (2/13/23: 865 Students)
 - ii. FES: 871 (+ 3) (1/23/23: 871 Students)
 - iii. TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1,701 (- 2) (1/23/23: 1,736 Students)

 - iv. 22-23 Enrollment Range: Low = 1,711 (Nov.); High = 1,736 (Feb.)
 - 1. Student Enrollment Range = 25
 - v. 23-24 Enrollment Range: Low = 1,701 (Feb.); High = 1,713 (Oct.)
 - 1. Student Enrollment Range = 12

2. Buildings & Grounds Updates

- a. The softball fieldhouse project is approximately three-fourths of the way completed. Insulation is complete and glass board is installed in the restrooms and concessions area.
- b. Our gymnasium floor resurfacing project is estimated just under budget and a final floor design is currently being decided on.
- c. Final quotes have been gathered for the elementary east playground replacement. We will be using some of our remaining ESSER funds for this project.
- d. The Performing Arts Center stage/orchestra pit opening is being researched, and we are awaiting a second quote for the stage lighting project.
- e. Our redesigned Robotics/STEM lab (former wood shop) is in progress as a result of receiving a Schmeckle Foundation Grant in combination with the use of ESSER funds for programming before and after school.

3. Activities Update

- a. The Big South Conference member schools are continuing to work together to develop an operational system that is beneficial to all. The conference activities directors and superintendents continue to engage in dialogue to work toward operational parameters that support all activities as we welcome two new member schools in the fall of 2024.

4. AG Advisory Committee Meeting

- a. On February 26th, this committee will meet to discuss details of the operation of the Hunt Farm property owned by the school district. The committee has taken on the leadership to develop a plan for our students to be directly involved in the farming and management of the land. The goal is to have a plan finalized for the upcoming planting season.

5. Achievement & Integration

- a. Based on district enrollment data submitted in fall 2022, Fairmont Area schools has been asked to submit an Achievement & Integration (A & I) plan to the MN Department of Education under Minnesota's School Desegregation/Integration rules. We are asked to participate in the A&I program and develop a plan to increase racial and economic integration and reduce any achievement disparities that may be present. Reducing achievement disparities for specific student groups and increasing integration is the dual purpose of the A&I program.
- b. Fairmont Area Schools qualified for this program due to the fact the district-wide enrollment of protected students is more than 20 percentage points higher than enrollment in any one of our adjoining school districts (Minn. R. 3535.0110, subp. 7). For the purposes of the Achievement and Integration (A&I) program, protected students are defined as African/Black Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, Chicano/Latino Americans, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and multiracial (Minn. R. 3535.0110, subp. 4).
- c. Districts receive funding to implement the strategies in their plans. A&I revenue is 70 percent state aid and 30 percent local levy.

6. Upcoming Reports & School Events

- a. Next School Board Meeting(s)
 - i. February 27, 2024 @ 5:15 p.m. - FES Budd Room