

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
September 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

The Regular Board meeting of the Fremont Board of Education was called to order by President, Jennifer Scott, at 7:01 pm

Present: Jennifer Scott, Kim Rasch, Carrie Crosley, Justin Visser, Jared Hanna, Steve Paulsen and Pete Slovinski

Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Jennifer Scott.

Approval of Agenda

6918– Motion by Pete and seconded by Steve to approve the agenda.

Amendment was suggested by Justin and the motion was made by Pete and second by Steve for a moment of silence in honor of 9/11/2001

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Public Participation

- April Storms shared her concerns about volleyball. She read a prepared statement.
- Nicole Hansen shared her concerns about volleyball. She also shared a prepared statement.
- Andrea McGraw shared her concerns about the volleyball from an outside perspective. She read a prepared statement.

Recognitions/Presentations..... NONE

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6919 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Carrie to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023, Board of Education regular meeting
- B. Approve the disbursements from the month of August in the amount of \$2,611,594.07
- C. Approval of New Hires from August 14, 2023 to September 9, 2023

Hardy, Connor, Quest
Heather Robart, Daisy Brook
Maynard, Ashley, High School
Peters, Scott JR, Middle School

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Brad Reyburn, Superintendent

Brad spoke regarding new hires and how they now be going be on the agenda moving forward. Brad will provide the board with resume's, applications and the names of the members on the interview committee.

Brad also brought to the board's attention that what is in the policy on suspensions and expulsions is not what is currently being followed. What the policy states is:

Suspensions 10 days or less will be handled at building level

Suspensions 11-59 days will go before the superintendent

Suspensions greater than 59 days will go before the board.

The board will think on what Brad presented and email him with any questions or concerns.

Brad also explained the NCRESA CTC/MMC programs that offers options of flexibility to 2nd year students to have certain credits waived with the completion of their program.

He took a moment to acknowledge the audience members that spoke on their concerns to let them know that they were heard and he is aware of the situation.

Julie Reams, Director of Finance:

Julie shared the financial reports from the month of August. She has closed the books from last year and the auditors have started today on FPS's audit. There should be \$500,000 more on the books than what is currently showing once the audit is done. The biggest change in the projected budget is personal ... wages and compensations.

She also explained the Title 3 monies and the excess in Esser funds, \$100, 000, that needs to be spent soon do to deadlines.

Board Committee Reports:

Finance/Personnel – Met 8/31/2023

- Principal Sherman started the meeting with a presentation of possibly starting an E-Sports team at FHS. This is becoming a popular with many schools in the area. He stated that this is targeted for students that are not usually connected to the school through traditional school activities. Some of the schools currently participating in E-Sports are Ludington, Big Rapids, Muskegon, Lakeview, Orchard, View, Mona Shores, Coopersville and Sparta. They are looking at using an open room that is next to the library and that this room does have the needed wiring need for the computers that are utilized in gaming. There is a high cost to getting the needed computers to get started and they are looking at grant money to help offset the cost. They have room for approximately 20 computers. The league will run from September to December and open to all grades 9-12. Eligibility would be weekly and would run through the Athletic Office. They have a coach interested in the position and would be in charge of the travel schedule. Total startup cost is approximately \$30,000 with all the league fees, computers, hardware, travel, and coaching

(on pilot basis). Principal Sherman stated that this activity will build teamwork and increase positive mental health among the players.

- Enrollment for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year is still unknown, but for the first and second day of school there were a total of 40 students between grades k-12, including Quest that did not show that were enrolled in the school district. A majority of the students that did not show were 9th grade and 7th grade. Hopefully these numbers will go down and these students come to school. These numbers will change because Quest Virtual had not taken attendance prior to the finance committee meeting.
- The estimated fund balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$3,792,896. There is still some expenditures that have not been taken out as of July 1, 2023.
- General Fund is still in the works as there is an update on pay that needs to be included in the general fund.
- ESSER Funds are at approximately \$116,250
- Quest had a person start and then never showed up and was let go.
- The committee discussed the new hires that are on tonight's agenda
- Rest of the meeting was spent discussing the volleyball concerns.

Facilities/Policy – Met 9/7/2023

Facilities

- The committee met early on 9/7/23 and reviewed the list of projects currently underway. Brad stated he will be meeting regularly with maintenance staff to stay on top of necessary projects as school has begun.
- Door numbers have been under review and updating for Middle School and Pine Street.
- Additionally, there is a focus to change from key fobs to badges. The concept will be the same but the ID badges will be more versatile.
- Brad let the committee know the Facilities supervisor for FPS will be held on the 20th and the 21st of September. He is planning on having principals and directors attend the interviews, along with a board member if possible.
- Brad also let the committee know there will be a facility study performed by the State of Michigan. This is a study that will allow the state to see what needs the district has. There is no cost to the district for the study. They are doing this for rural schools in the state.
- Brad updated the committee that the portable classroom on the Pine Street Property is in the process of being emptied out and will be removed shortly. This building has started to become an insurance liability. There is discussion of building smaller storage units on the property, but that has yet to be finalized.

- Policy updates will be completed 2 times a year December/January and July/August
- Staff Handbook is coming soon
- Brad will be contacting the MASB in December to help us start the strategic plan.

Action Agenda

6920 – Motion by Steve to approve the action item and seconded by Pete

- A. Approval of the High School Athletic Handbook.
This was approved with the idea that the handbook will be revised and brought back to the board.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6921 – Motion by Jared to approve the action item and seconded by Pete.

- B. Approval of the Middle School Athletic Handbook
This was approved with the idea that the handbook will be revised and brought back to the board.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6922 – Motion by Pete to approve the action item and seconded by Jared

- C. Approval of Quest High School and Quest Virtual Course Description Books

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6923 – Motion by Justin to approve the action item and seconded by Steve

- D. Approval of CTC/NCRESA Agreement

#6924 – Motion by Jared to approve the action item and seconded by Kim

- E. Approval of \$30,000 to 40,000 to support the startup of E-Sports Team at the High School.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Board Communications/Discussion

Staff Tailgate Date: September 15 at the football field weather permitting. The weather looks amazing. Harry will lead the set up of tables and other equipment needed for that event. Jose Escalante will be providing the meat and BBQ sauce. The board will provide buns, chips, hot dogs, cookies, donuts and water. Dinner will be served from 6-7. Staff members and immediately family will get into the game free of charge. A few board members will be yard games to set up for staff and families to use before the game.

Harvest Parade Date: September 28. The board will be walking in the parade that evening handing out candy. Chris Howell will be driving the bus carrying back up candy. Candy has been ordered to hand out. Parade starts at 6pm. Please meet the bus at Christian School at 5:30 pm

Adjournment

6925 - Motion by Steve and seconded by Kim to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary