

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
March 13, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

The Regular Board meeting of the Fremont Board of Education was called to order by President, Jennifer Scott, at 7:13 p.m.

Present: Kim Rasch, Carrie Crosley, Michael Campeau, Pete Slovinski, Jen Scott, Justin Visser and Steve Paulsen

Absent: None

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

Approval of Agenda

6859 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Steve to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Public Participation

- None

Recognitions/Presentations

Jodi Ferris, Pathfinder Principal, discussed how enrollment has increased since January.

- Behavior – 94% of the students are doing very well.
- There were seven teacher pregnancies this year, some of whom have had their babies. All classes are covered.
- PTO fundraiser was a success despite the snow days that week.
- March is reading month – have had a lot of activities and guest readers.
- The 100th day of school was celebrated.
- Academic progress is being made. The MAP test from fall to winter indicated a 5% increase for students. 68% of our students are at or above grade level at this time.
- Second grade reading levels are looking good right now.
- ELA – there are kindergarten assistants who are being worked with by Ann Pettis to streamline the process and align with curriculum.
- The incoming kindergarten class has quite a few students who have severe physical needs. Jodi has been doing a lot of visits with those parents.
- We are investigating a Young 5's program for next year - looking at GSRP students, there appear to be 37 students. DK classrooms will not be an add – we will have two DK classrooms and 6 sections of kindergarten rather than 8 sections of kindergarten.

- Still working on finding a math program in order to have it in place for the 2024-2025 school year.

Kim asked regarding the incoming enrollment since January – where were the students coming from? A lot of students are coming from out of state and doubling up since there is inadequate housing in the area.

Jenn asked regarding the DK classrooms and how to cover them. Jodi does have current kindergarten teachers who are interested in teaching those classes.

Jenn asked if there was anything else the staff/building needed to support the incoming students. Jodi is looking into what will be needed for the medically fragile students. We may need to hire a school nurse to support these students.

Pete asked if there was something else needed. Jodi would like to see a Resiliency Coach to help coach teachers with classroom management. The county's direction is restorative practices, and there just are not enough adults to accommodate that practice adequately. Brad did advise the Board that there is some At Risk money to hire a Resiliency Coach, and he is working on that.

Kim asked regarding the attendance issue. Jodi is contacting the parents where she doesn't know the back story – strep throats with no fever that turns into scarlet fever, family vacations. Jodi calls parents and investigates the reasons for the childrens' absences.

Jackie Roseberry from the Fremont Public Library advised the Board that they have just finished up their adult reading month.

- She passed out an infographic with their 2022 numbers which were increased from 2020.
- She passed out her newsletter that highlights new services. They are providing Transparent Languages that any student can access with a library card.
- The library board just passed a policy that any student attending Fremont Public Schools, whether they live in the district or not, can obtain a library card.
- Library cards can be applied for and obtained on-line.
- Wi-Fi hotspots can now be checked out at the library – they currently have five of them. They will work anywhere in the continental USA where Verizon provides service – they are Verizon hotspots.
- All books are fine free – no overdue fines on any printed material.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6860 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Michael to approve the consent agenda items:

- A. Approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

B. Approve the disbursements for the month of February in the amount of \$2,065,955.51

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Brad Jacobs, Superintendent

Brad introduced Lorenzo Rodriguez as the new Technology Director. We did a study with Plante Moran which we just received. Brad sent a copy to Lorenzo and Kyle to read and discuss. Lorenzo advised the Board that the top priority was to get the office cleaned up. There is a company coming from Indiana on Thursday to pick up the outdated equipment. The servers have been updated – they have one more to take care of this weekend. As far as the web content filtering, there are units in School Dude that are from 2007 that will be looked into as well. We may move to a different platform for that.

Winter sports are wrapping up. Spring sports started today. Boys Basketball unfortunately lost tonight, but won the Districts. Wrestling had two boys place at the state tournament. Swimming had a state champion in freestyle.

Professional Development committee is meeting Wednesday. The main focus is to decide if there is a better way to provide DPPD rather than half days on Fridays.

School Safety is going well. Matt Hendrie is doing a great job with that. The district Safety Team is working on organizing for their own buildings and helping Matt with this.

We will do the same thing for a Tech Committee next year.

We are three weeks from spring break.

Julie Reams, Director of Finance

Julie handed out the financial report. The fund balance went up due to the special ed percentage from the State being increased. We were also awarded safety and security grants that are included in that.

Brad did explain that some of that safety money will be used for a district radio system that is the same system the busses are on so anyone can get in contact with anyone throughout the district. The other safety project is to fence in PF and DB playgrounds.

Board Committee Reports

Finance/Personnel – Met February 2. Next meeting will be scheduled before spring break.

Facilities/Policy – Met tonight. Pete advised that no facilities were discussed. The committee met with Wes Zerlaut, Middle School Principal, and reviewed the handbook for the middle school regarding how students are expected to act. There is a rubric on how things should be managed and by whom. The committee will be going over the handbooks from each building, and any changes will be brought to the Board in order for the Board to be informed.

Steve asked if each student was given a copy of the handbook. Wes advised that the handbook is electronically posted on the website as well as being posted in each classroom and reviewed at the beginning of the school year.

Next meeting will be March 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Action Agenda

6861 - Motion by Michael and seconded by Pete to approve the Fremont High School classes for 2023-2024.

Pete asked if there were any changes, and Brad will ask Scott regarding that.

Ayes – 7; Nays -0; Motion passed.

6862 - Motion by Michael and seconded by Pete to approve the Updated Board Policy Manual.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Board Communications/Discussion

- A. Jenn advised the Board that March is the Daisy Brook Reads Month. The book they are reading is a story involving a school board, and Board members are welcome on March 27 at 1:45 p.m. to answer any questions students might have.
- B. NCASB dinner is March 23 at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Superintendent Evaluation – each member has an evaluation packet to complete. Brad completed his self-evaluation and distributed it to the Board members.
- D. Board picture

Adjournment

6863 - Motion by Kim and seconded by Justin to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary