

FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
May 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The Special Board meeting of the Fremont board of Education was called to order by President Jennifer Scott at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Scott, Pete Slovinski, Michael Campeau, Kim Rasch, Carrie Crosley, and Steve Paulsen

Absent: Justin Visser

President Jennifer Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

6873 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Mike to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Recognitions/Presentations

- Bob Herrera of the MASB presented some recommendations on the superintendent search with a power point. Timeline is extremely tight with the desire for an August 1 deadline. He advised that he has told those interested parties who have been calling that the Board has expressed the desire for an external candidate. The search process is being condensed to about nine weeks – Preparation, Recruitment, Interview and Decision. Transparency is key. Discussion regarding the anonymity of an on-line survey for stakeholders – felt that the survey was the best option for receiving stakeholder input. Will get the link up on the website and sent out. Will possibly have another Board meeting on May 30 in order to meet with Bob again to go over survey results and decide on the Superintendent profile. Next meeting dates May 30 at 6:00 p.m. and June 13 at 6:00 p.m. Barb to send out the link for the survey tomorrow morning.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6874 – Motion by Kim and seconded by Pete to approve the consent agenda items:

- A. Approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Board of Education meeting.
- B. Approve the disbursements for the month of April in the amount of \$5,315,398.03.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed

Leadership Reports

Brad Jacobs, Superintendent:

- Brad advised the Board that we will need to have a Finance committee meeting shortly before the Budget hearing in June.

Julie Reams, Director of Finance

- Julie handed out the financial report. CDs at Horizon Bank were rolled over for another year.

Board Committee Reports

- Finance/Personnel – Met May 2 with Bob Herrera and approved the preliminary posting for the Superintendent.
- Facilities/Policy – Met May 15. Pete advised the Board that Ryan Ergang and Harry Braafhart met with the committee and discussed what they are looking at as far as modifying bathrooms. Most likely we will need to bring in an architect due to state regulations on changing bathrooms.....must go through a full plan review due to building codes. Looking at securing privacy in all bathrooms regarding gaps in doors, blocking off any extra views with what can be adjusted without what is a change. Looking at changing teacher bathrooms to being privacy bathrooms without key locks for student use. Possibly \$10,000 - \$15,000 district wide and \$500 per lock. Policy was not able to meet tonight.

Action Agenda

6875 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Carrie to Designate Michael as the District’s Election Representative and Carrie as the Alternate for the NCRESA Biennial Election on June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6876 – Motion by Steve and seconded by Michael to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Newaygo County Schools of Choice Standards for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6877 – Motion by Carrie and seconded by Steve to approve participation in Schools of Choice – Section 105c (Cross County) for the 2023-2024 school year with a limited number of seats available.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6878 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Carrie to approve the Resolution for NCRESA Budget Adoption.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

#6879 – Motion by Steve and seconded by Michael to approve the purchase of two busses.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed

Board Communication/Discussion

- A. The Board discussed the Fremont Library Board opening. Jen sent out an e-mail regarding this. We, as a school district, elect two community members to be on the Library Board. Don Farmer is resigning as he is relocating out of the area.
- B. Bathroom update – The outside doors have been put on the middle school bathrooms. Pete gave an update in his facilities report. Will have to bring in an architect regarding occupancy and ADA compliance. Steve discussed that with enrollment, birth certificates are necessary and students will need to use the bathroom of the sex on their birth certificates. They did have unisex bathrooms. Steve advised the Board that his daughter is afraid to use the bathroom and that does concern him. Kim discussed that East Kentwood has a policy that only those students who have had surgery can use the bathrooms of the gender with which they identify.
- C. Graduation Date reminders – May 21 is high school graduation at 2:00 p.m. Quest graduation is May 23 at the Dogwood Center at 6:00 p.m.
- D. Change the June meeting to June 19 for the Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m. at the high school cafeteria with first round interviews.

Public Comments

- 1. Nicole Hall spoke regarding Hitler and grooming children. Felt that children are being indoctrinated by the State approved curriculum and testing.
- 2. Ed Wosinski thanked the Board for their service. As community members talk about engagement, the Board is doing that.
- 3. Keith Huntoon would like to meet with Steve regarding not being able to violate one student's civil rights by giving another one civil rights. Felt that the policies that Steve spoke about are the only viable options. Wants something else done other than what the Board is doing.
- 4. Kimberly Cargill spoke regarding discussing the bathroom situation and changing the policy. But her question is what is the policy going to be regarding athletic teams and the Athletic Department....and it is coming and needs to be addressed.
- 5. Ryleigh Hall who has been homeschooled for 3-4 years and is in touch with her friends who go to the public school. We were put on this earth to spread the Word of God.

6. Lori Ward subs in the school and she talked about the vaping. Questions the spending of the money to alter the bathrooms for such a small population of the student body.

Adjournment

6880 – Motion by Kim and seconded by Pete to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Ayes – 6; Nays -0; Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary