

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
November 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 7:00 pm.

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

Absent: Steve Paulsen

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

Approval of Agenda

#6931– Motion by Pete and seconded by Carrie to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Public Participation: NONE

Recognitions/Presentations:

Zack Fredrickson CPA from the UHY Accounting Firm presented on our audit and their findings. He talked about several items with in the budget that they covered during our audit. Each board member was given a budget booklet describing their findings.

We had 2 findings this year.... Pg 48 shows two things that were overbudget.

One was not our fault because we were doubled up on payments due to receiving monies for the Renaissance project and we had to pay money back.

Other was a discrepancy in the contract with OAK concerning prevailing wages. We are having an amendment drawn up to clarify that.

This is an amendment to the contract AIA Document A132-2009 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, Construction Manager as Advisor Edition made as of the day of month in the year between the Owner, Fremont Public Schools, and the Contractor for the following project: Fremont Public Schools – Pathfinder Elementary and Middle School Mech Upgrades

The amendment shall be:

In the AIA Document A132-2009 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, Construction Manager as Advisor Edition add the following paragraph to the contract:

Revise page 9 paragraph 9.9 to include Davis Bacon wage schedule for Newaygo County

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6932– Motion by Pete and seconded by Justin to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023 Board of Education regular meeting
- B. Approve the disbursements from the month of October in the amount of \$3,012,800.88
- C. Approval of New Hires from October 6, 2023 to November 6, 2023.

Hayley Twigg, Pathfinder

Amira Plotts, Pathfinder

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Brad Reyburn, Superintendent:

Brad began by thanking the board for all their hard work and he appreciates all they do.

He discussed the budget information that was presented and that Julie and he met with Sara Dixon from the Fremont Area Foundation to get a better understanding on what we have in grant monies and how many of those funds are allocated, which ones are renewable, which ones are 1 time only monies and which ones are dwindling.

Brad also shared that he met with the RWDSU union rep about health insurance for the support staff and he explained that that is not an option for us as a district to pay for that.

He also shared his idea for the need for a PR person to help the district spin the positive stories. So much good is happening across the district on a daily basis but the administration does not have time to create posts and upload items. He mentioned that the only 2 post on the district Facebook pages are about the 2 safety incidents that have happened. It was questioned how we would pay for that position and for this year we can use advise funds.

It was also brought up that our web site is bigger than it needs to be and clumsy to navigate. How can we fix that? There is going to be more discussion on all of this in December.

Julie Reams, Director of Finance:

Updated the working budget and went several months out so there is a better picture of where we stand. She shared what state aid drops off this month. We do have an addition of \$519,000 to the fund balance.

One noticeable change is the 63,000 to help offset the retirement wages.

We have used all the safe and mental health grant monies from last year and are now looking to see how to best use this year's monies.

The Esser 3 monies are all budgeted out.

Wages... Right now, we have 1.1 million dollars in wages that is being paid from Esser funds. Soon there needs to be a discussion on how this is going to affect staffing.

Board Committee Reports:
Finance/Personnel – Met 11/09/2023

We discussed change order #6 from Tower Pinkster and OAK. It was discussed at the last SBM that we would not be paying the \$65,932 that was billed from Tower Pinkster and OAK.

Original Bid: \$2,705,035

Original Contingency: \$243,454 (9%)

Change Orders

1. \$213,664
2. \$29,790
3. \$55,697
4. \$68,866
5. \$2,500
6. \$65,932

Total: \$436,449 (16.1%)

As of June 2023, we have paid up to change order #5.

Looking to get a 23G grant for summer programs. Unsure on the amount as of right now.

Might be able to get a grant from the Fremont Area Foundation to file in the gap in the General Fund.

Personnel Portion

Jared Hudson had East Kentwood come to explain their weightlifting program. It's a general training class that would be used as class credit during school and kids could utilize it after school with the benefit of having the staff there to oversee it. Brad is going to make a trip to East Kentwood to see how this program runs and will let us know when in case anyone would like to join.

The pay scale for staff that works outside normal hours is very inconsistent. Brad has gone through to try to make it more consistent across the board. The changes are as follow:

Staff that stay afterschool to teach outside of the contract will be paid \$31.14 an hour

Lunch duty and other extras will be \$30 an hour o \$300 a day for IEP writing

PD after school \$50 an hour w a 4-hour cap.

Covering someone else's prep hour \$20 an hour for elementary and \$25 for secondary

We also discussed the Elementary Art teachers desire to work year-round in one school. And as much as we would love to do that and know that the kids love it, we just do not have the funds. Which brought us into looking at the staff that we are trying to keep and figure out a way to pay for when the ESSER funds run out in the all to near future

Facilities/Policy – Last meeting was 10/9/2023

Action Agenda

6933– Motion by Pete to approve the action item and seconded by Justin for the discussion on Tower Pinkster/OAK change order #6.

The board agrees that at this time they do not want to pay any more money to Tower/Pinkster/OAK. They feel they have done their part and all the new amounts on change orders and discrepancies are not ours to take cover.

#6934 Motion by Kim and seconded by Jared to approve denial of the payment for change order # 6 to Tower Pinkster/OAK

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Board Communications/Discussion

- A. 31aa Funding for Mental Health Plan/ Community Input taken
Discussion was held about what ideas there are for good use of this funding. Part of the funding 33% already helps to cover the expense of 2 social workers. Part of the funding can be used to help cover the costs of having behavior interventionists. Another suggestion is to use monies for Trauma PD.

- B. 31aa Funding for School Safety Plan/ Community Input taken
Discussion was held about what idea there are for good use of this funding. A portion of the funding is already used to help cover some of the SRO expenses. Other suggestions were GO Bags/Go Buckets for each classroom, making sure that the outside speakers working on each building, a possible lighting system in gyms/music rooms to a situation that needs immediate action.

- C. Board Christmas Dinner Dec 13.... Formal Invites will be sent out soon. The event will be held at Lakes 23 in the Fireside room.

- D. Board Outlook 2024.... Jenn just wanted to share that as a board they need to be thinking ahead to what transitions would be taking place at the end of 2024 when terms are up. Jenn will be working with and mentoring Pete to step into the role of president at the end of 2024. Wendy is going to check into terms deadlines and make sure that we are accurate on the dates of when terms expire.

Adjournment

6935 - Motion by Pete and seconded by Justin to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary