

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Retreat/Regular Board Meeting
August 14, 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, Kim Rasch, Carrie Crosley, Justin Visser, Jared Hanna, Steve Paulsen

Absent: Pete Slovinski

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Jennifer Scott

Approval of Agenda

6910– Motion by Carrie and seconded by Kim to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Public Participation

- None

Recognitions/Presentations. K-5 Stem Mini Grant Report from Makenzie Denning

Makenzie was not able to attend so Dan read the presentation that Makenzie forwarded on to him.

Dan shared what the products were that they grant was able to allow Makenzie to purchase.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6911 – Motion by Steve and seconded by Carrie to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approve the minutes from the July 17, 2023, Board of Education regular meeting
- B. Approve the disbursements from the month of July in the amount of \$2,421,182.46

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Dan Bauer, Interim Superintendent

Communication with New Supt:

I'm in regular contact with the incoming Supt. Brad Reyburn, so he is fully briefed and things going on and decisions that are being made through this transition. He plans on starting on Thursday, August 31st. I plan on working with him that day, as Brad Jacobs did with me on his last day. I'm planning on that being my last day, but I will be available after that if needed.

Planning for the Start of School

August 8th, we had an Administrative Cabinet Meeting with all Principals & Directors to make final plans and preparation for the new school year.

Back to School Week for Staff

August 21st 9:30-2:30 New Teacher Orientation and Onboarding Meeting at the High School

August 22nd 8:00 Back to School Breakfast at the High School, New Supt Brad Reyburn will speak, and then we will have All District Staff PD in the morning and Building Meetings in the afternoon.

August 23rd Professional Development in individual Buildings, Teaching Assistants will be in Meetings at the HS

August 24th Teacher Work Day – No Professional Development

School Open Houses on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, (Aug 22-24) – See Schedule

Monday, August 28th First Day of School for Students – Half Day

Tues tomorrow August 15th Drug Abuse Update Training

Our MS and HS Principals tomorrow are meeting in Grand Rapids for Tall Cop Professional Development. For drug abuse trends training. It is sponsored by Newaygo County's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for school staff, law enforcement, social workers, and any youth serving professionals.

Thursday August 17th NCRESA Leadership Meeting

Countywide Leaders Professional Learning Network Meeting – All the NCRESA administrators

They will have an attorney from Clark Hill in the morning sharing updates.

Student Device Count

The technology department created a Spreadsheet List by building of student devices. These include Apple I-Pads, Chromebooks, Laptops, and Windows Desktops. The list was useful for planning ahead for our district needs.

Staffing for this school-year

Looking for a Special Education Teacher at Daisy Brook

& still need Several Teacher Assistants

Julie Reams, Director of Finance: Julie shared the schedule of investments along with bank account balances. She shared with the board the financial report of the original budget along with additional proposed changes. The numbers are not final yet and grants are ending and funding is down in Title 1 and Title 2. With the changes there has been an \$230,000 addition to the original budget.

There have been additional expenses in staffing with the hiring of a school nurse for Pathfinder and the addition of 7 new special education teacher aides.

She is budgeting for a plus of 25 students for the upcoming school year. The board would like to return to the use of birth count to see if we get a better idea of flux in students.

Esser funds has a balance of \$100,000 that must be used by the end of this school year (2024) or we lose it. We are also waiting on Federal Grant monies that do not come until early fall.

Board Committee Reports :
Finance/Personnel – Met 7/31/2023

Title 1 funding, which is used to offer support services to students who need extra time and instruction to master grade-level curriculum based on district assessments, is down.

Title 2 funding, which used to provide supplemental activities that strengthen the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders, is also down.

31aa At Risk funding is new for this year and will be combined with the School Safety Grant funding. There is roughly \$100,000 left in the Safety Grant. More to come...total will be about 430,000 There are only certain items/projects that this money can be used for.

Julie is going to meet with the principals of all the schools and give them a copy of their budget for the upcoming schools year. She is also going to try to give them an updated copy of their budgets each month so they are aware of their spending.

There is about \$1.5 million left in the ESSER funds.

The audit will be done around mid-September.

- a. The company conducting the audit will be Baird, Cotter and Bishop.

Facilities/Policy – There has not been a new meeting since the last one. A date will be set and communicated to Wendy.

Bathroom Committee Met 8/14/2023:

The privacy strips are being added to the bathroom stalls at the high school and will be complete before school begins. Next the strips will be added to the middle school. Hopefully before school starts.

The high school is offering additional privacy bathrooms in the bathrooms directly across from the office. Students will be able to check out a key to access those bathrooms if they wish. They may also ask for an escort to use those bathrooms.

The middle school bathroom hallway doors (not stall doors) will be removed to help reduce the number of incidents happening in those areas. This will be done by the before school open house so parents can view they lay out of the restrooms.

Action Agenda

6912– Motion by Kim to approve the action item and seconded by Jared.

- A. Approval Student Handbooks for Fremont Middle School, Fremont High School, and Quest High School, Quest Virtual and Quest Adult Education.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6913– Motion by Carrie to approve the action item and seconded by Steve.

- B. Approval of the new Support Staff Contract: Agreement between the Fremont Board of Education and the Fremont Public School Support Staff represented by the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union, R.W.D.S.U. Local 386, Two Year Contract, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6914– Motion by Kim to approve the action item and seconded by Jared.

- C. Approval of the new Bus Driver Contract: Agreement between the Fremont Board of Education and the Fremont Public School Bus Drivers, represented by the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union, R.W.D.S.U. Local 386, Two Year Contract, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6915– Motion by Steve to approve the action item and seconded by Justin.

- D. Approval to remove Bing Hansen, Business Manager and Brad Jacobs, Superintendent from the following Internal and Food service accounts due to retirement and add Julie Reams Business Manager and Brad Reyburn Superintendent to the Bank Account Signature Cards at Choice One Bank, Huntington Bank, Horizon Bank, Compass Credit Union, MILAF and MBIA.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6916– Motion by Justin to approve the action item and seconded by Carrie.

- E. Approval for purchase of 150 chrome-books

The 150 chrome books will be used to test tun the PSAT for the 10th graders and a few 11th graders this fall in preparation for the SAT/PSAT testing which happens in the spring. All testing is going to online effective this year.

Discussion was held concerning the purchase of the chrome books. Lorenzo presented the 2 bids that he received. Trafera bid is \$56,825.00 and CDW-G is \$58,517.00.

The main difference is Trafera will warranty the chrome books for 4 years, they come with all the applications needed and they are white gloved (means set and ready to go with all the securities needed.)

The chrome books will arrive from Trafera already set to Fremont's domain. Trafera will fix them at no additional cost during that 4 year stretch.

CDW-G does not offer any of these same perks. Once you purchase the machines you are on your own to set them up and to get them repaired.

Julie will work on how to best fund the purchase of the chrome books whether it be from extra Esser funds, sinking funds or a combination of the two. The high school also has some additional funding in their curriculum monies to help offset the cost.

The board realizes there is a need for updated machines across the district and the purchase of more equipment is going to be on future agendas for discussion.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Board Communications/Discussion

Staff Tailgate Date: September 15 at the football field weather permitting. Jose Escalante will be providing the meat and BBQ sauce. The board will provide buns, chips, hot dogs, cookies, donuts and water. Board members are going to reach out for donations of food items and gift cards for prizes.

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.

Reminder that the board participates in the Pathfinder Trunk or Treat at Halloween. More details to follow.

Adjournment

6917 - Motion by Carrie and seconded by Justin to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary