

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
Via Zoom
May 4, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

The Regular Board meeting via Zoom of the Fremont Board of Education was called to order by President Matt Hendrie at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Matt Hendrie, Jen Scott, Kim Rasch, Michael Campeau, Crystal Calkins and Pete Slovinski.

Absent: Rick St. Peter

Others present: Scott Sherman, Rick Webb, Fran Clemence, Jodi Ferris, Lloyd Smith, Carrie TerVeer

Approval of Agenda

6594– Motion by Pete and seconded by Crystal to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed

Public Participation

- None

Recognitions/Presentations

None

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6595 – Motion by Crystal and seconded by Pete to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 Board of Education Zoom Meeting.
- B. Approve the disbursements for the month of April in the amount of \$6,137,491.77

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Ken Haggart, Superintendent

- Ken informed the Board that the Top 10 Seniors will be honored virtually at Rotary tomorrow.
- Fremont's share of the Federal CARES money will be approximately \$317,000 with stipulations on how it is to be used.
- The Facebook videos that have been shared by the buildings are very popular.
- As of now, the staff will be expected to return May 18. We are not sure how that will look yet with paraprofessionals and secretaries.
- We have hired the high school art teacher due to Mary Pekel's retirement. Sarah VanDagens is a graduate from Western Michigan University. Although we have frozen hiring for next year, this was a necessity due to the number of students enrolled in the art classes at the high school.
- Session I work has been turned in. Session II packets were delivered today.
- Kindergarten round-up is planned for May 27 and 28 – we need to do it early enough to assist with budget planning for next year.
- When looking at planning for next year, Ken has contacted other superintendents for their thoughts. Rockford believes next year will be a normal session; Jenison believes it will look very differently next year with more virtual. Ken is tending to lean toward Rockford's way of thinking at this time.
- 5,000 meals were delivered last week.

Matt asked about the newly hired art teacher. Scott advised the Board that she grew up on the east side of the state, but her adult educational life has been on the west side at Western. She has an exceptional art background.

Michael questioned what education may look like next year and if the administration team was planning for it. Ken said the Finance Committee will have to look at different options as we are facing massive potential cuts across the board.

Pete questioned the estimated percentage of work returned from Session I. Fran had a solid return of work. Teachers have completed assignment logs and the percentage of returned work is being calculated. Things are being streamlined for the second session. Overall, there were only six families who could not be reached through the entire district.

Pete asked about the seniors who were close to having the credits needed for graduation and how they were doing. Scott said there were still three in question – 2 were working hard; 1 isn't doing much.

Bing Hanson, Director of Finance

- Bing advised that GRBS came in March and deep cleaned all the buildings. They are starting back into the buildings soon. GRBS did give us a credit of \$9,000 for March and \$32,000 for April which is a huge savings to the district.

Board Committee Reports

Finance/Facilities – The committee will try to meet around May 15 – after the Revenue Conference. OAK will be starting back on the track this week.

Policy/Personnel – Next meeting will be end of May.

Action Agenda

- None

Board Communications/Discussion

There was discussion on the fact that all projections are indicating that local districts should plan for at least \$685.00 loss per student. We currently receive \$8,111 per student; estimated is \$7,100 to \$7,450 per student revenue for 2020-2021. This is similar to our per pupil revenue in 2014-2015 at which time we had no elementary extra-curriculars, teachers had given up their preps, no HS/MS choir, no behavior interventionists, no academic interventionists, no club sports. We do not want to go back to that after we have worked so hard to gain those supports. It has been projected as a 2-3 year time period for recovery from this pandemic. We have options – consider using our fund equity, but we must remember that if we use too much this year, we will not have any for next year or possibly the year thereafter. We have implemented a hiring freeze. We will work with employee groups to see what concessions we will be able to consider to ease the financial burden. We can possibly make cuts as early as June 6 – we don't know if the state is going to pro-rate or make us pay back monies for the last portion of the year. There may be additional cuts in August. Pressuring the Federal government to allow us to use the CARES money as we see fit rather than having to follow their guidelines.

We are hoping to have a more accurate picture of the amount of money Michigan has spent on COVID 19 by August 3. We are hoping the State will use its fund equity to help us. The State is telling us that 2021-2022 will have even less funding.

Michael asked about the estimation of 25% of parents fearing sending their students back to school. Ken said that as of this morning there were four patients on ventilators across the State; of the 50 years of age or younger, only 1/10th of 1% get sick. If the rate continues to go down over the summer with the heat and sun, hopefully we will get back to normal.

Crystal asked about the teacher contract – we currently have an existing contract. Ken said it is hard to ask teachers to give up anything again when we have finally gotten their steps back.

The next Board meetings will be May 18 at 6:30 p.m. and May 18 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Public Participation

- None

Adjournment

6596 – Motion to adjourn the meeting by Crystal and seconded by Mike at 7:13 p.m.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Richard L. St. Peter II, Secretary