

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
Via Zoom
April 20, 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, Rick St. Peter and Pete Slovinski.

Absent: None

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

Approval of Agenda

- # 6591 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Crystal to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed

Public Participation

- None

Recognitions/Presentations

None

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- # 6592 – Motion by Jen and seconded by Rick to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

A. Approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Board of Education Zoom Meeting.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Ken Haggart, Superintendent

- Ken informed the Board that the Continuity of Learning Plan is going forward. We have delivered 1700-1850 packets of work. We have had some snafus with toner issues, phone issues at Daisy Brook, exorbitant postage costs, but overall he is pleased with how things are going. Session I began today, April 20.
- As far as the budget for the remainder of this year – we should be okay. We are taking the costs of the COVID-19 “fight” out of the general fund, but affects all budget line items.
- As explained at the last Board meeting, the federal government is allotting close to \$400,000,000 for assistance moving forward. On-line technology is the most necessary in this county and hope to have everyone on-line by 2027.
- We have parents all over the board with emotions, thoughts, etc. We have parents who are extremely grateful to some parents stating they will not send their students back to school in the fall until they feel there is no chance of that student getting sick. Admin Team is looking at how this may look for August/September and what we can do for on-line capabilities for next year should this occur.
- PBET program from the State allotting \$190.00 extra a month to those with Bridge cards, etc. for help with lunches/breakfasts at home. There was concern if that was double dipping since we are providing lunch and a snack through the school system. When checked into, we were told by the State that it is not a problem.
- The Health Department has a grant for distributing toothbrushes/toothpaste and contacted us. We will be getting that started with our lunch deliveries.
- Lunch deliveries are still going strong, although there is evidence of fatigue. We are planning on continuing through June 5.
- Side note – oil prices are \$35 below \$0 per barrel – there is definitely the concern that this will have a long-lasting impact on our economy – possibly years.
- OAK has been notified they can go back to work on May 1, so the track project will get back into swing.

Pete questioned whether any additional funds will help cover the COVID costs. Our CLP has a budget for that which the State has a contingency plan for reimbursing. It is a grey area, and we have been told to turn in our receipts, and they will make a list.

Pete questioned the response to the lunch program. We have delivered over 1000 a day and overall it is going well. As in anything, there have been a few problems with taking advantage of the program.

Jen asked if we had considered providing breakfast in addition to the lunch. The State had two options – breakfast/lunch and lunch/snack. We chose the lunch/snack option since we were not sure of the food quality at the time. Jen also wondered about providing 2 or 3 lunches at a time in order to cut down on the busing and manpower. Nutrition Services looked into that, but the sheer amount of storage space needed to do that was not possible. As it is, with doing double lunches on Thursdays, it doubles the size and increases the weight tremendously and is considerably more difficult for staff.

Crystal questioned how we will have an idea of the number of students reached with the school work. Teachers will collect data. We should know in a week or two. She also questioned if we do not go back in August, will we get guidelines from the State on how to handle attendance, count as well as budget. Ken said there is some talk with superintendents on requesting that the districts not have a budget set by June 30 and possibly extending it until August 30. There is a Revenue Conference on May 15 where this will probably be addressed.

Bing Hanson, Director of Finance

- Bing explained that Ken had touched base on most of the financial issues we are facing. She did attend a virtual MSBO conference and is creating different budgets with differing amounts of State aid. She will just keep attending meetings, but there is nothing solid as far as budgets yet.

Board Committee Reports

Finance/Facilities – If OAK can go back to work on May 1, the committee will try to meet around May 15 – after the Revenue Conference.

Policy/Personnel – We do have an art position open that most likely will need to be filled. Ken is a little nervous about hiring at this time. Most school districts freeze everything when in this type of situation. We will most likely hold the line on new hires until we know something with the budget situation which should be the last two weeks in May. Next meeting will be end of May.

Action Agenda

- None

Board Communications/Discussion

Fran Clemence gave an update on Daisy Brook. The ZOOM classrooms are new for the teachers, so there has been a lot of Professional Development on using Google Classroom and ZOOM. The teachers are collaborating for developing units. The hard work of the staff is very much appreciated. They are thinking into next year and how to incorporate Google Classroom with the kids in the room in order to engage students and parents.

Jodi Ferris gave an update on Pathfinder. She has a very young staff who are really shining with the technology pieces. They have the ability to teach the veteran staff members a lot on use of these technological features. They have been collaborating/problem solving and tying all subjects together for student/parents. The packets are huge in order to combine reading assignments for differentiating instruction.

Matt asked about office hours for the teachers. Most teachers have office hours twice a week for two hours a day. They have been in contact with their students and are using DoJo.

Pete question the overall morale in the buildings. Fran explained that it ebbs and flows. Last week the communication with the students went well, but having to pare down the work got frustrating for them, but overall the teachers are doing well. Jodi said her K/1st grade teachers are truly going through the grieving process. Her teachers are extremely connected to their students. She has one teacher who plans her walking in town with her husband around which of her students' houses she can walk by that night and wave to them.

Crystal questioned what to do if a student gets locked out of their account. Rick Webb gave the information regarding Packer Portal and also calling the Tech Help Desk at 924-8195 from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Scott Sherman also said that his son, Nathan, had created videos that are posted on the Fremont High School Facebook page regarding this issue.

Pete wanted to reiterate the Board's appreciation to all the Administration, Staff, Bus drivers, Nutrition Services, and Teachers for all their hard work and caring so much about our students and district. He is very proud to be a Packer.

The next Board meetings will be May 4 at 6:30 p.m. and May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Participation

Julie Hunt-Barnhardt from the high school said the work officially went out and she had contacts with 35 students today alone, and 20 had already turned in work.

Jane Cook said there has been a lot of student communication. They are missing their friends and teachers.

Adjournment

- **# 6593** - Motion by Crystal and seconded by Pete to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Richard L. St. Peter II, Secretary