

FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board Meeting
June 27, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Special Board meeting of the Fremont board of Education was called to order by President Jennifer Scott at 6:31 p.m.

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

Absent: None

President Jennifer Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

6897 - Motion by Carrie and seconded by Jared to approve the agenda. Pete asked to have the agenda amended with the changes of adding action agenda items to approve the intent to enter negotiations and an item to schedule the next meeting date.

6898 – Motion by Steve and seconded by Pete to amend the agenda as above.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

6899 - Motion by Justin and seconded by Kim to move Public Comments to before Board discussion.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; Motion passed.

Interviews: The Board interviewed two candidates for second round interviews for Superintendent – Steve Wilson and Brad Reyburn.

Public Comments

- Paul Mellema spoke that neither candidate would be a good fit for Fremont Public Schools and wants the Board to open the process again for a better candidate.
- Christina Yuhasz thanked the Board for their dedication. She has talked to more people across the State researching the candidates and feels that the process should be open again as well.
- Sarah Melius is a parent and educator. She is speaking towards Steve Wilson and feels he is a great candidate. She listed the qualities and strengths of his and feels he is a good fit for Fremont Public Schools.

Board Communication/Discussion

- Bob expressed that the Board has done a great job with all the time and efforts they have put in. He also mentioned that there was a great candidate pool and congratulated the Board on how well they work together. Reference checks: Steve expressed that he was a good superintendent and students/staff/community were upset that he was leaving. Carrie advised that her reference check was all positive as well. Student focused, personable, hard worker. Justin spoke to someone who said that Steve surrounded himself with good people, communicated well with staff/community. Kids first, good person and cares about his job. Allows delegation to those who know what they are doing. Kim expressed that her reference check said that Brad was very fair and loves Newaygo County. He excelled in knowing his employees and being a team player. Jared's reference check had nothing negative to say about Brad. The person hi-lighted his connection to the area, self-motivated and did well. Leadership, approachability and community oriented. Pete's reference check was that he was an open door person, honest and had a good idea. One of Pete's references did have a disappointment that Brad had not spent at least a year in his current district. Best skill was conflict resolution, listens well, team player and is a big learner utilizing the people around him to grow. Jennifer spoke to both Board of Education presidents....why Steve was leaving. It was a dysfunctional Board that caused the separation. Many positive statements, champion for students with special needs, works well with Board of Education, good communication, huge sense of school spirit, loves students. One of his biggest faults was that he loved being with the students. Worked as superintendent and elementary principal at the same time and turned the building around positively. The Board president for Kinsley did state that Brad was effective in his first 90 days. She stated Brad was very green and inexperienced as a superintendent. His current contract does have a 120-day clause that he must remain in the district.
- Jenn said that she liked both candidates, but that she keeps coming back to, because we have been through so much, do we want someone who has a lot of experience and doesn't need a lot of hand holding or do we have everyone has to start somewhere? The question arose do we want to be that district that takes the chance?
- The Board did question what it would look like if we did not choose one of these candidates. Bob did advise that they would have to have an interim for a year and that these candidates would not reapply. It would not be a good idea to have an interim for a year and wants consistency.
- There appears to be one candidate who is program oriented, and the other is relational oriented. A visionary person is important, but we need to have a person who can execute the plan as well.
- Experience isn't everything, but it is something.
- The Board took a 12-minute break to deliberate regarding their decision.

- Each Board member had the opportunity to speak any final comments before any motion.

Action Items

#6900 – Motion by Kim and seconded by Justin to approve the intent to enter into negotiations with Brad Reyburn as the successful candidate for Superintendent of Fremont Public Schools.

Steve – Yes; Jared – Yes; Pete – Yes; Kim – Yes; Justin – Yes; Carrie – Yes; Jenn – Yes

Motion passed.

#6901 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Kim to schedule the next Board of Education meeting for Thursday, June 29, at 6:15 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; Motion Passed.

Adjournment

6902 – Motion by Jared and seconded by Steve to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Ayes – 7; Nays -0; Motion passed.

Kim Rasch, Secretary