

**FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting In Person/Via Zoom
November 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

The Regular Board meeting of the Fremont Board of Education was called to order by President, Matt Hendrie, at 7:07 p.m.

Present: Jen Scott, Michael Campeau, Rick St. Peter, Kim Rasch, Matt Hendrie, Carrie Crosley and Pete Slovinski

Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Matt Hendrie.

Approval of Agenda

6736 – Motion by Pete and seconded by Rick to approve the agenda.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Public Participation

- None

Recognitions/Presentations

- Packer Land Lab – Noah Baker and Carly Smith, interns for the past summer’s Packer Land Lab. Produced 9.1 tons per acre of potatoes which would be going to Bob Evans in Ohio for processing. 50 acres were planted.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

6737 – Motion by Carrie and seconded by Jen to approve the consent agenda items:

- A. Approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 Board of Education meeting
- B. Approve the disbursements for the month of October in the amount of \$4,170,991.92

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Leadership Reports

Ken Haggart, Superintendent

- Ken advised the Board that there is an ESSER III draft survey in each packet. Some changes have been made in the committee that previously met.
- Newaygo Public Schools cancelled their elementary schools today and lost 36% of their attendance, so will have to make up that day. There was a mix of Covid and non-Covid absentees. We are close at Pathfinder with no substitutes. Ludington Schools shut down today with staff shortages. White Cloud is also suffering with staff shortages. We are watching that closely. This is not a high or middle school problem – they have teachers on prep who can cover others' classes who are absent.
- Muskegon Public Schools has opted to take Tuesday and Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving break. The other four districts in Newaygo County are considering the same. Ken is thinking possibly closing the Monday and Tuesday before Christmas giving the district two full weeks off. There was discussion on how this affects the use of snow days and required days. Lengthening Thanksgiving does not seem to be feasible and fair to parents to drop that on them on such short notice.
- Muskegon antigen testing – we have schools in Newaygo County who are not quarantining and contact tracing. In Newaygo County alone, in talking to Public Health this afternoon, they do not know what the positivity rate is.
- Whitehall has 29 early release days this year.
- There was discussion on not quarantining or contact tracing anymore. Ken would take each Board member singly and discuss their opinion on the subject. If that is decided, when would that be implemented.

Bing Hanson, Director of Finance

- Bing – there was a finance meeting tonight. We received a bid from one forestry company and has reached out to others, but has not heard back yet.

Board Committee Reports

Finance/Personnel – Met November 8. Pete reported on what was discussed. It appears that we are doing okay so far. We have a lot of ESSER II money that is included in the working budget. We will most likely amend the budget in January or February. The school count was up over what we budgeted. A lot of what was happening has to do with the ESSER funds which helps inflate our fund balance, because eventually the ESSER monies goes away. Audit was completed by the due date. Bing felt that it was not as diligently done as in the past. Kim reported on the personnel portion. We have 5-15 teachers who are 3 years or less. Middle School is very good at teacher inclusion. Trying to think of more ways to do inclusion for new teachers. There are approximately 14 FCS students who will be coming next year who want

Spanish immersion in our high school for all their classes. We are looking at losing 6 out of the 7 fall sports coaches due to parents being demanding and driving them out.

Facilities/Policy – Next meeting November 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Action Agenda

6738 – Motion by Pete and approved by Kim to approve the Esser III Survey with some changes. There was a lot of discussion on what changes should be made.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Board Communications/Discussion

- Carrie asked about continued sanitizing and handwashing in the classrooms.
- Kim asked about extending recesses since data proves that higher performing schools have longer recess times. Ken asked Jodi and Fran to come to the Board at some point and discuss what their idea of best practices are. The more experiences a child has, the better reader they become.
- Matt discussed literacy coaches and what they do and how they do it.
- Wednesday is the Clydesdale parade at 4:00 p.m. – down Main Street – to support veterans.
- December 16 is the Administration/Board Christmas dinner at Lakes 23
- Facilities is meeting Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Middle School gym.

Adjournment

6739 - Motion by Kim and seconded by Carrie to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion passed.

Michael Campeau, Secretary