



**FAIRMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT #89**  
**735 Green Garden Place**  
**Lockport, Illinois 60441**  
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**Dr. Sonya Whitaker**  
**Superintendent**

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Fairmont Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
October 19, 2011  
5:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Fairmont Board of Education was called to order by the President, Mr. Joseph Ryan, at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Joseph Ryan, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Charles Travis, and Ms. Katie Ulmer. Members absent were: Mr. Thomas King.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Parent Literacy Night was a huge success. Mr. Manuel Scott did a wonderful job. I would like to thank the board members for their support.

Dr. Whitaker shared that the district needs to form two board committees (board policy and board facility) I will be sending out more information regarding these policies in the near future.

Dr. Whitaker presented a powerpoint presentation on Senate Bill 7. I am sure that the board members that attended the IASA Fall Dinner received a lot of information regarding the Senate Bill 7. The powerpoint presentation pointed out some key areas regarding teacher evaluations and how they will be rated (excellent, proficient, needs improvement and unsatisfactory).

The district has performed a teacher evaluation committee the members are: Bailey, Jones, Ignoffo Pawlak, Nissley Mazgay, Archer, Daniels and Grohn). Dr. Whitaker commented Fairmont is in compliance with the law. Dr. Whitaker explained with this new bill no longer will rifting consist of tenure it will consist of evaluation ratings.

Dr. Whitaker introduced Mr. Tom Brim, LASEC Executive Director and welcomed him to our board meeting. Mr. Brim shared that he has heard the good things that the board and Dr. Whitaker are doing in this district. He shared his background and his plans for LASEC while watching the budget closely. I would like to thank you for trusting LASEC to serve your students. Mr. Brim thanked the board for inviting him to the board meeting and giving him the opportunity to address the board. He asked if anyone had any questions for him.

Dr. Whitaker introduced Mr. John Williamsen, Technology Coordinator. Mr. Williams stated we are proposing a number of things to the Board. Why are we doing this? We have age technology in the classrooms, we need updating and we need to support curriculum and instructions.

Mr. Williamsen explained the process for purchasing the computers. I contacted Dell and Lenova and what I looked for was the price, availability and warranty. We are planning to purchase a total of 94 computers. Each eighth grader and teachers will receive a laptop but before we release any of the laptops they will all have bar codes. The district is in compliance with the CIPA for the Sonic Wall (the kids cannot log onto certain websites). The process will take approximately 3-4 weeks after approval before the laptops will be available.

**President's Report:**

Mr. Ryan thanked Dr. Whitaker for the powerpoint presentation on the Senate Bill 7 and for the informational documents sent in the board packets.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Parent Literacy Night turnout was great. Mr. Manuel Scott gave a great lecture to the parents.

Mr. Ryan shared informational items with the board and explained that the Senate Bill 7 is very important and that the board should read it a number of times.

Mr. Ryan commented on the letter from Mr. Cohn (self evaluation) needs to be completed before November 29<sup>th</sup> to be compiled for the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (Governance).

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the **Consent Agenda (A) Regular Board Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2011. (B) Bills Payable and (C) Treasurer's Report.** Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nay, motion passed.

**Director of Finance and Operations Report:**

Ms. Millerin shared that on September 23<sup>rd</sup> the budget was filed with the Will County Clerk's Office and on September 24<sup>th</sup> with the Illinois State Board of Education. This means the District is in compliance with the law.

The audit report was not completed by October 15, the due date. The District has received an extension on the report from the ROE until December 15, 2011.

She also stated that the board members have a copy of the administration salary information for FY 2012 that is required by law to be posted on the district website.

Ms. Millerin shared with the board that it is time to prepare the 2011 Tax Levy. On November 9<sup>th</sup> we need to adopt the Tentative Tax Levy, on December 6<sup>th</sup> we will hold a Tax Levy Hearing and adopt the final levy, and on December 8<sup>th</sup> I will file the Tax Levy with the County Clerk's Office. December 26<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filing the Tax Levy.

Ms. Millerin presented the board with a powerpoint presentation of the actual expenditures vs. budgeted quarter-to-date expenditures, highlighting that the district was nearly \$200,000 under budget as of September 30, 2011. She also displayed cash balances by fund at 09/30/11 vs. 09/30/10, indicating that cash balances were 63% higher this year than last year.

**Principal's Report:**

Mrs. Daniels, assistant principal presented the principal's (Mrs. Grohn) report in her absence. This month students have been Map testing. As testing is finalized, teachers will sit down with administration to discuss the results and develop a plan of action for addressing the academic needs of our students.

Administration continues to walk through the classrooms to watch teaching and learning. The district has a strong focus on guided reading this year and this past Wednesday, Dr. Whitaker provided professional development for the staff on Guided Reading.

Last year from the beginning of school until now we had 65 referrals. This year during the same time we have had 25. That is a 61% decrease for the year.

Since the last board meeting, we have had 5 students transfer in and 4 students transfer out of the district.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Kim McKinnis, parent/community resident. I would like to point out that Parent Literacy Night was wonderful it was very touching. I feel that it should have been an assembly for the community to touch and agree.

**Action Item 12-24 (Personnel) Rescission**

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Charles Travis to rescind action item 12-21 the assignment of **Katelyn Lussow, Special Education Assistant** for the 2011-2012 school term.

**Salary: \$20,542.50**  
**Benefits: Medical**  
**Dental**  
**Life**  
**10 sick/personal days**

Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Action Item 12-25 (Personnel) Teacher Assistant**

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the assignment of **Katelyn Lussow, Special Education Assistant** for the 2011-2012 school term.

**Salary: \$17,214.39 (pro-rated)**  
**Benefits: Medical**  
**Dental**  
**Life**  
**10 sick/personal days**

Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Robert Loewe and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Action Item 12-26 (Personnel) Resignation**

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Charles Travis to accept the resignation of Donald Davidson effective September 5, 2011. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Action Item 12-27 (Personnel) Custodial Staffing**

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Mr. Robert Loewe to approve one additional full time custodial position. Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Katie Ulmer and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Action Item 12-28 (Computer Purchase)**

It was motioned by Mr. Robert Loewe and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the purchase of 94 laptop computers at a total cost of \$61,335. (\$27,462 Title I Grant and \$33,873 from the education fund. Voting aye: Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Action Item 12-29 (Personnel) Resignation**

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Robert Loewe to accept the resignation of **Barbra Miller, Librarian** effective October 17, 2011. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson Mr. Charles Travis and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

**Superintendent's Comments:**

I am proud our district looks financially different. Kudos to the staff and teachers it has been a united effort on the staff.

It is unprecedented on what's happening in technology.

The decrease in student referrals it's a good day at Fairmont.

**Board Comments:**

Mr. Loewe shared a flyer he received from Parkview Community Church and commented how they are active in house as well as outside of the church.

Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. McKinnis for her participation and being positive to the district.

Mr. Ryan commented on how the technology and referral issues have improved. The word I can use is professionalism.

Mr. Travis stated it is nice to see someone in the community come out and share positive some insights about the district.

Ms. Ulmer commended the parent for her positive comment on Parent Literacy Night.

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at p.m. 7:10 p.m.

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Joseph Ryan, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

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Robert Loewe, Secretary