



FAIRMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT #89
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Dr. Sonya Whitaker
Superintendent

Fairmont Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
August 17, 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. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, and Ms. Katie Ulmer. Members absent were: Mr. Charles Travis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent's Report:

WOW! Is the word that I would use to express my initial thoughts about the delivery of the keynote messages during our teacher institute days. Each speaker did a great job however; the final speaker delivered a message that would resonate in the minds of our staff for years to come. The message was simply inspiring to all.

Dr. Whitaker introduced Mrs. Johnson as one of the new union presidents.

To date our enrollment is at 256, we had 223 on the first day of school and at least 33 students are registered that have not reported to school as of this date.

I am excited to share that our parent literacy nights have been scheduled and will be a little different this year. This year we will be hosting **Parent University**. This program is designed to provide parents with information regarding the strategies they can use to increase their children's reading and writing skills.

President's Report:

Mr. Ryan stated I would like to comment on this great new room with this great sound system.

I attended the teacher institute with Mr. Manuel Scott being the keynote speaker. Mr. Scott shared his story of growing up and his experience as a student. It was very impressive. I wanted to share with Mr. Scott how much I enjoyed his presentation so I sent him an email thanking him for such a powerful workshop.

Mr. Ryan shared with the board some information he received entitled "**Successful Board Meetings** and **Modeling what's Important**."

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Thomas King to approve the **Consent Agenda A. Special Board Meeting, August 3, 2011 and Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2011. B. Bills Payable, and C. Treasurer's Report**. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay, motion passed.

Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Ms. Millerin presented the board with a powerpoint presentation.

The audit has been rescheduled. It will take place from 8/22 through 8/26/2011.

There has been a change in the cash balance fund from the 6/30/11 report due to the fact that the changes from the 6/30/10 audit entries were never entered until 6/30/11. She shared how audit entries affect cash balances and negative cash balances cannot be reported to ISBE on the AFR.

Ms. Millerin explained the breakdown of each inter-fund loan.

Ms. Millerin shared steps the district will be taking: Wait on the auditor and end the negative cash flow cycle that has been going on in the past.

Mr. Johnson questioned the value of the lunches and stated he has been receiving complaints from parents.

Dr. Whitaker replied we are going to make sure that our lunches are in compliance with the state law and ask the teachers to encourage the students not to bring unhealthy foods (such as chips and candy) into the cafeteria.

Public Comments: None.

Principal's Report:

Ms. Grohn shared we have had three days of excitement (Teacher's Institute).

Today was our first day of school and it was very successful. The kids looked very nice in their white, red and navy blue uniform shirts. Mrs. Daniels and I went to each classroom and the students appeared to be ready to learn. Tomorrow will be our first full day of school.

Mr. Ryan asked if there were only 24 out of the 40 slots filled in pre k.

Mrs. Daniels replied we have 7 slots available.

Mr. King commented that pre k parents should be aware that they must adhere to the requirements that involve parental involvement.

Ms. Ulmer asked if PTA will exist this year.

Mrs. Daniels shared that she met with the past president today and asked her to think about putting the PTA back together. She shared with me that she would think about it and get back with me. I have been trying to contact Brian Minsker, Coordinator, and Karen from the IL PTA Association Karen. I found out there was some issues from the past that caused us to be inactive status. In order for us to be re-instated there is a \$25.00 fee and ten people have to be willing to join. If we stay inactive we will be disbanded for the rest of this year and have to start over from the beginning.

Public Comments: None.

Action Item 12-15 (Personnel) 4th Grade Teacher

It was motioned by Mr. Robert Loewe and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the assignment of **Ayah, Abdelhadi, 4th Grade Teacher** for the 2011-2012 school term.

Salary: \$34,620
Benefits: Single – Medical
Dental
Life

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

Action Item 12-16 (Personnel) Pre K Secretary/Bilingual Assistant/Parent Coordinator
It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Robert Loewe to approve the assignment of **Eleazar Escalante, Prekindergarten Secretary/Bilingual Assistant/Parent Coordinator**.

Salary: \$18,000 (paid from Pre-K grant)
Benefits: Single – Medical
Dental
Life

Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Mr. Thomas King and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed. Dr. Whitaker shared that this position will be paid out of the Early Childhood Grant.

Action Item 12-17 (Food Service Agreement)

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the **Food Service Agreement between Union School District 81 and Fairmont School District 89**, for the 2011/2012 school year. Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, 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 12-18 (Amended 2011-2012 School Calendar)

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the amended **2011-2012** school calendar (extended by one day through 5/24/11). Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Whitaker shared with the board the reason we are having the parent university is because parents asked us to continue to provide them with opportunities to get involved in their children's education.

Board Comments:

Mr. Johnson stated he would like to see some information regarding how many kids transfer in and out of the district.

Ms. Ulmer questioned the mobility rate.

Dr. Whitaker gave an example. We had 28-35 students started in the fall by November they were gone.

Ms. McElrath questioned the parent university and stated she thinks it is a good idea. However, I have a couple of concerns. What are the tools the parents will be taught and will they receive their GED'S?

Dr. Whitaker stated the parents will be provided with a copy of the core comprehensive Reading Curriculum. This is being done in order to make sure that parents are clear about what their children are expected to know and be able to do.

Interested parents will also have an opportunity to develop a parent friendly version of the reading curriculum. The focus of the parent university is not to provide parents with a GED but to provide them with explicit information regarding how they can help their children in experiencing success in school. Dr. Whitaker shared that parents who other interests are also encouraged to attend the sessions and will be giving a number of opportunities to provide feedback as to how the district can support them in meeting their collective needs.

Mr. Loewe commented that he felt as if Mr. Scott was sharing with the teachers "how they can make the students feels as if they are worth something."

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Joseph Ryan, President

Attest: _____

Robert Loewe, Secretary