



FAIRMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT #89
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Dr. Sonya Whitaker
Superintendent

Fairmont Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 21, 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, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Charles Travis, and Ms. Katie Ulmer. Members absent were: Ms. Hope McElrath.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent's Report:

I am very much excited about all that we have planned for this evening. Tonight, the members of the Board of Education and I would like to present a number of people with a **Certificate of Recognition** for their contributions to Fairmont School District 89.

Dr. Whitaker shared that over the summer we had volunteers to come to the district and engage in landscaping projects on behalf of the district. Boy Scout Troop 444 took place in various planting projects along with members of the staff and student body.

Additionally, Pastor Brian Hunt and his congregation (Parkview Community Church) engaged in an event in which they entitled "The Church Has Left the Building." The purpose of the event was for the congregation to leave their church on a Sunday and spend the entire day volunteering their services, gifts and talents to Fairmont School District 89.

Dr. Whitaker shared that she was quite overwhelmed by the congregation's willingness to be so generous to the district. She also shared that the congregation was involved in painting walls, hanging drop ceiling tiles, cleaning out lockers, washing down desks, washing windows, pulling weeds and landscaping throughout the entire day.

Dr. Whitaker added that it should be known that this was all done even despite the fact that due to terrible thunder storms during the night, the district lost power. In other words, Pastor Hunt and his congregation worked most of the day with very limited light. This however did not appear to distract the members at all. In fact, Dr. Whitaker shared that one of the congregation members told her not to worry about the lack of light. The member then added "we brought our own light."

Dr. Whitaker shared with the community pictures of the work that was done in the district and presented Mr. Alan Perkinson (the representative from Parkview Community Church who was in spear heading the event) with a plaque from the Board of Education and District.

Alan Perkinson thanked Dr. Whitaker and the Board of Education for the plaque and stated "*this is not a onetime deal we would like to continue working with the district*".

Dr. Whitaker and the Board of Education also recognized the members of the District Leadership Team, Curriculum Writing Team, and Reading Curriculum Writing Team. She thanked the members of the team for their tireless commitment to improving the learning experiences for the students in Fairmont School District 89.

President's Report:

No Report. The Board President and all present Board of Education members were involved in the process of acknowledging the teachers and community members that received certificates of recognition during the board meeting.

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and seconded by Mr. Charles Travis to approve the **Consent Agenda Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2011 and Special Board Meeting, August 3, 2011. Bills Payable, and Treasurer's Report.** Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nay, motion passed.

The 2012 Budget Hearing was opened by the Board President Mr. Joseph Ryan at 6:05 p.m. to the board members and the public for questions or concerns regarding the budget.

Mr. Johnson questioned the expenditure regarding for service for the school lunches. Ms. Millerin explained that it has to be included in the budget but it is reimbursed by the State.

The budget hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Ms. Millerin shared with the board a powerpoint presentation of finance and operations comparing the budget that she prepared for 2012 with the tentative budget presented at the August 3rd board meeting and the 2010-2011 final budget. She explained the changes that were made in the budget.

Ms. Millerin explained the cash projection vs. the actual for the following funds: O & M, Education and the IMRF that was in the handouts she distributed to each board member.

Public Comments: Mr. Myers spoke of his concern regarding his family medical insurance. Mr. Myers explained to the board that the insurance was a part of his employment package (he added that he was grandfathered in).

Mr. Ryan explained that as far as he is aware, Mr. Meyers was the only classified employee with board paid family coverage and there are no records showing that although he had received this benefit for a number of years there is no documentation to support the notion that his board paid family insurance was ever board approved. Mr. Meyers provided no documentation to support his claims and added that he was unsure as to why no one could find documentation to support his claims.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Grohn presented the board with a powerpoint presentation along with handouts specific to the high numbers of students transfers both in and out of the district during a one year time span.

At the end of the 2010-2011 our enrollment was 250 students. At the beginning of this year K-8 we had 223 students. 52 students transferred out over the summer which is 20% of the students. Currently enrolled, we have 244 K-8. 40 students transferred in.

I spent two days in Springfield attending the English Language Learning Training (ELL). Mrs. Grohn shared a chart of the breakdown of LEP/ELL (Bilingual) & IEP (Special Education) from 2007 through 2011.

Mr. Travis questioned if the students that transfer in are tested to see if they are Special Education.

Mrs. Grohn replied we receive formal records from the school in which the student previously attended. Dr. Whitaker added, as you are aware, we have hired a special education coordinator who works in the district 3 days a week. In addition to in class assessments our special education coordinator has the responsible for examining all student files in an effort to determine if a child has been identified for special services. If so, she works in conjunction with the building principal to ensure that we are in compliance with all students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP).

Mr. Johnson questioned how the district makes sure the students are residence of Fairmont. Dr. Whitaker explained that as long as we receive all of the legally required documentation (which includes three proofs of residency) we are required to register students who are seeking enrollment in Fairmont School District 89.

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve the **2011-2012 school year budget for Fairmont School District 89.**

I am so happy to share that under the new leadership, I can confidently say that the budget is going to come back the way that it went out. I believe that we are making the best financial decisions for our district now and I am very happy about that. Mr. Johnson thanked the Superintendent.

Mr. Travis thanked Ms. Millerin for laying the budget in way in which the Board of Education could understand it.

Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Voting nay: Ms. Hope McElrath. Ms. McElrath entered the meeting in the middle of the vote and didn't know what motion was on the table. Vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay, motion passed.

Action Item 12-20 (Personnel) Non tenure Staff

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Robert Loewe to approve a **3% increase in salary beginning the 2011-2012** school year for the following Fairmont positions: **Teachers Aides, Secretaries, Custodians, Hostesses, Crossing Guard.**

Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Millerin for finding the money to give the support staff a raise. Mr. Johnson asked if it retroactive. Dr. Whitaker replied yes. Starting next year I will bring requests of this nature to the Board of Education on or before July 1.

Mr. Travis asked if the position of secretary for pre k was posted. Mrs. Grohn responded yes it was posted on IASA website. Dr. Whitaker commented we have an air tight paper trail as it relates to our process for posting various positions that become available in the district and school.

Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Thomas King, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Mr. Charles Travis and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Action Item 12-21 (Personnel) Special Education Assistant

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and seconded by Mr. Bradley Johnson to approve the assignment of **Katelyn Lussow, Special Education Assistant** for the 2011-2012 school term. Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Katie Ulmer and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Action Item 12-22 (Comprehensive Reading Curriculum)

It was motioned by Mr. Bradley Johnson and seconded by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve adoption of the **Comprehensive Reading Curriculum**. Voting aye: Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Thomas King and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Action Item 12-23 (Application for Recognition of Schools)

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and seconded by Mr. Thomas King to approve the **Application for Recognition of Schools 2011-2012**. Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Ms. Katie Ulmer and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Superintendent's Comments:

I am excited about our Parent Literacy Nights moving on to the next level. Parent Literacy Night is scheduled for October 11th, November 8th and the third one is to be determined. On October 11th our keynote speaker will be Manual Scott. All Board of Education and community members are encouraged to attend.

Board Comments:

Mr. Johnson commented to the union representative that he appreciates the work that they are doing.

Mr. Ryan stated I would like the board to look at their schedule so we can bring back Jeff Cohn for another round of board Training (Board Governance).

Ms. Ulmer suggested that the board make a list with things that Mr. Cohn should cover pertaining to this board.

Mr. Travis stated I appreciate our teachers. I have heard nothing but good things from the community.

Mr. Ryan thanked Mrs. Grohn for a good presentation/breakdown on student mobility.

Mr. Loewe stated that while looking at the student mobility in Fairmont School District 89, I am reminded of the big push to consolidate schools. The fact is our district has specific needs which are different from other districts. You can't combine everyone.

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Robert Loewe to go into closed session to discuss **Personnel** at 7:30 p.m. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Joseph Ryan and Mr. Charles Travis. Vote 7 ayes; 0 nays, motion passed.

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and 2nd by Mr. Joseph Ryan to return to regular session at 8:03 p.m. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Joseph Ryan, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath and Mr. Bradley Johnson. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Regular session resumed with no action being taken in closed session.

Members present when the meeting resumed from closed session were Mr. Joseph Ryan, Mr. Bradley Johnson, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Charles Travis and Ms. Katie Ulmer.

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and seconded by Mr. Joseph Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Joseph Ryan, President

Attest: _____

Robert Loewe, Secretary

Closed Session
September 21, 2011

Closed Session was called to order by the President Mr. Joseph Ryan. Members present were: Mr. Bradley Johnson, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Joseph Ryan, Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer and Dr. Sonya Whitaker.

Discussion was held regarding **Personnel Issues**.

It was motioned by Ms. Katie Ulmer and 2nd by Mr. Joseph Ryan to adjourn closed session and return to regular session at 8:03 p.m. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Joseph Ryan, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Hope McElrath, Mr. Bradley Johnson and Mr. Thomas King. Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Joseph Ryan, President

Attest: _____

Robert Loewe, Secretary