

**Fremont Community Schools
Board of Trustees
Meeting Summary - #5 (Regular)
May 20, 2013**

6:00 p.m.

**Fremont Community Schools Board Room
1100 West Toledo Street – Fremont, Indiana**

Due to the large number of patrons attending the meeting, the board opted to hold the meeting downstairs in the basement of the Administration Building to allow ample room for all visitors.

Board Members Present: Peggy Bailey, Tim Knoblauch, Hope Korte, Laura McLatcher, Cindy Saltzman, Christine Seiler, Sheri Thomson

Administration Present: Superintendent Lori Vaughn, Business Manager Dick Wirtz. Head Start Director Susan Swager

School Board President Sheri Thomson welcomed all visitors and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the meeting was called to order.

Adopt Agenda

Christine Seiler made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, motion seconded by Peggy Bailey. Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Regular Meeting #4 and the May 16, 2013 Executive Session were approved.

Financial Reports and Claims Approval

Business Manager Wirtz presented the reports and claims noting that the month of March was atypical in that there were three payrolls instead of the usual two. FCS is \$30,267 or 1.4% under budget for the first quarter (YTD). Payroll and vendor claims reported totaled \$1,182,587.00. Following Mr. Wirtz's recommendation, the board approved these reports and claims.

Communications to the Board

1. 2014 Budget Presentation

The first walk-through of the 2014 Budget was presented by Business Manager Wirtz. His presentation summarized the Budget Time Line and the factors that contribute to how the budget is planned. An analysis of the corporation's funds and the many aspects that have had an adverse influence on the corporation's funding was also explained. Mr. Wirtz also highlighted several sections of the Financial Health Analysis that was commissioned in June of 2012, and prepared by Educational Services Company in order to advise Superintendent Vaughn and the board of the indicators regarding the school corporation's overall financial status. The report deals with benchmark information about the financial stability of the district and provides an overall view of financial conditions impacting the district. It uses a wide variety of sources, including data compiled by the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, the Indiana State Board of Accounts, as well as reports and records from the Fremont Community School Corporation. Graphs were used to illustrate the relative proportions of the General Fund expenditures that go to payroll, fringe benefits, and other vendor payments. It should be noted that 97% of the General Fund goes toward payroll and fringe benefits leaving only 3% for tuition and other payments that must be made from the General Fund. A second graph illustrated the steadily declining revenues vs. the rising expenditures. The third graph shows the rate of declining enrollment over the past eleven years. Our cash balance for the General Fund is

currently at a very minimal level. The report points out that, “a continual falling cash balance will undoubtedly put FCS in a precarious financial situation in the very near future.” If these trends are not reversed, the cash balance could be gone the end of the 2012 budget year or very soon after. It will take a combined effort of the administration, the Board of School Trustees, and the Fremont Classroom Teachers’ Association to increase the operating cash balance to a more appropriate level. Copies of this Financial Health Analysis were provided to all audience members and are also available at the Superintendent’s Office.

2. Reduction in Force

Superintendent Vaughn reported that at present she would be recommending the following Reduction In Force:

4 full-time teaching positions – 3 High School, 1 Middle School

4 teaching positions reduced to one-half – 2 High School, 2 Middle School

3 teaching positions reduced by one-fourth – Elementary

All affected teachers were afforded the opportunity to conference with Ms. Vaughn to discuss the preliminary decision of the principals.

Courses affected include:

High School Family and Consumer Science which would no longer be offered as an elective course

High School Elective Physical Education due to low class numbers

Principals were asked to closely examine their schedules, class sizes, needs, and teacher licensure when making their considerations.

Eliminating special education at the high school and art, music and physical education at the elementary was never a consideration. Students with IEPs will receive the same services as they currently receive, as will children in the elementary for art, music and physical education.

Unfinished or Old Business

The written proposal for an easement to the Fremont Public Library was brought to the board by Hope Wilson. Unfortunately, the legal description to be provided by Burlage and Associates for said easement was not available. Superintendent Vaughn asked to table this discussion until the June meeting as hopefully all information will be provided by then. The board approved tabling this item.

New Business

1. Food Service Director Nancy Swager asked that school lunch prices be increased to more closely align to upcoming state requirements. The board unanimously voted in favor of this.

New Prices:

K-2 = \$2.00

3-12 = \$2.25

Adult = \$2.75

Milk = \$.50

There will be no increase for breakfast. Director Swager also asked the board to approve a “no charging” policy. If a student does not bring lunch money an alternate lunch will be provided. The board also unanimously voted in favor of this.

2. Employment Recommendations

Resignations/Retirements: Cynthia Ritter, HS Math Department Chairperson
Greta Robinson, MS 5th & 6th Grade Student Council Advisor
Barbara Gary, EL Instructional Assistant
Rebecca Coe, HS JV Volleyball Coach

Hiring: Jennifer LaRose, HS Varsity Cheerleading Coach

Volunteers: Gary Baker, HS Assistant Girls’ Basketball Coach

Brooks Bryan, HS Assistant Wrestling Coach

All employment recommendations were voted on and approved.

3. High School Band and Choir Trip
Betsy Fowler and Melissa Hardwick requested and received approval to take their High School Band and Choir students to the Festivals of Music National Competition in New York City, March 31-April 6, 2014 (Spring Break). Cost per student is \$1,200.00 to be paid by the student. The trip will be of no cost to the corporation.
4. High School Boys' Golf Team Overnight Trip
High School Athletic Director requested and received approval for the Varsity Boys' Golf Team to take an overnight trip to play in the Lafayette Jeff Invitational, held at Battle Ground Golf Club on Saturday, May 25, 2013.
5. Additional Elementary Parent Volunteers
Elementary Principal Shawn Caldwell received approval of the list of submitted additional parent volunteers.
6. Elementary Principal Shawn Caldwell, Middle School Principal Mark Fowerbaugh and High School Principal Mark Sherbondy presented their 2013-14 Student and Staff Handbook revisions and additions for approval. Board approved.
7. Principals Caldwell and Fowerbaugh submitted their textbook adoption choices for approval. Board approved.
8. All three Principals submitted their scheduled fund raisers for the 2013-14 school year for approval. Board approved.
9. Head Start Report
Head Start Director Susan Swager asked for approval for three resignations and two retirements. Board approved unanimously. Director Swager also reported that the Head Start Budget had been cut by \$60,986.00 for 2013-2014.

Comments and Suggestions from the Audience

Comments and suggestions in regards to Reduction In Force were heard by the Board from several patrons attending the meeting.

Announcements

Superintendent Vaughn was pleased to announce that figures released by the Indiana Department of Education on Monday showed that Fremont High School was the only Steuben County School District to top the statewide graduation rate at 89.7 percent.

The Next Regular Meeting of the
Fremont Community Schools Board of Trustees
will be held on
Monday, June 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.