

**Fremont Community Schools
Board of Trustees
Meeting Summary
February 17, 2014
Fremont Community Schools Board Room
1100 West Toledo Street
Fremont, Indiana**

**Meeting #4 - Regular
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Peggy Bailey, Laura McLatcher, Marty McNeal, Christine Seiler, Sheri Thomson

Representing Administration: Brandon Penrod, Lori Vaughn

Visitors: Jeanna Anderson, Regina Baker, Shawn Caldwell, Randy David, Kathy Driver, Mary Sacquitne, Mark Sherbondy, Chris Snyder, Nancy Swager, Susie Swager, Joni Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Sheri Thomson called Regular Meeting #4 to order welcoming visitors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Lori Vaughn requested the following items be moved and/or added to the meeting agenda:

- 1) Item #4 under NEW BUSINESS moved to COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD as it required no action
- 2) Item #1 under ANNOUNCEMENTS moved to COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD
- 3) Added an additional item under NEW BUSINESS – Resolution in Opposition of HB1001 and SB1 – The Elimination of Business Personal Property Tax

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from Special Meetings #1 and #2 and Regular Meeting #3 were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CLAIMS APPROVAL

Business Manager Brand Penrod presented a copy of our FY2014 Basic Grant Monthly Distribution reflecting a decrease of \$1,342.45 in the Special Education Grant. This decrease is based on our special education student count which taken on December 1, 2013.

Superintendent Vaughn added that our student enrollment has increased by 6.34 students according to the February 3, 2014 student count.

Mr. Penrod also provided copies of our General Fund Cash Flow worksheets for January to the Board.

Mr. Penrod reported that we are beginning the process towards making FCS a wireless Corporation. Timelines for bids have been set and recommendations should be ready for the May Board Meeting.

COMMUNICATONS TO THE BOARD

1. Make Up of Lost Instructional Days

Superintendent Vaughn reported that on Friday evening, February 7, Superintendents received notification from Indiana State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz, that due to unusually severe winter weather, which has caused Indiana's public schools to cancel a number of student instructional days, the DOE has issued guidelines to take effect immediately. The following are the options provided by the DOE:

Non-Waiver Options:

- Calendar Change: If a school has full instructional days already planned on their calendar established for days like professional development (non-student days), holidays or pre-established snow make up days they may use these days as make up for lost student instructional days. *Ms. Vaughn shared that we intend to use both of our pre-planned option days already designated on our school calendar – February 17 and April 18. She also explained that the seven days prior to graduation were built in and intended to use for make-up if necessary. Currently we have one more built in day to use prior to graduation.*
- Additional Full Days: A school may choose to host school on Saturdays or add days at the end of the already established calendar

Conditional Waiver Options:

- For the period from February 7, 2014 – June 30, 2014, the DOE will consider granting schools a waiver from the financial penalty for lost instructional days conditioned upon the school or School Corporation's provision of additional instructional time for lost instructional days. Schools may make up lost instructional day(s) by adding additional instructional time to each instructional day (6 hours = 1 day). This time must be in addition to the instructional time already provided in the school's calendar. If a school considers this option, the school must provide documentation that the governing body (School Board) approved the modified calendar adding additional instructional time. Ms. Vaughn added that this information was presented during Discussions between the Fremont Classroom Teachers' Association (FCTA) and the Fremont Community Schools Administration on Wednesday, February 12, which allowed for meaningful conversations, suggestions, questions and concerns from all. She also stated that the FCTA and FCS Administration would reconvene if and when necessary.

2. ISTEP+ and IREAD-3 Testing Windows

Due to unprecedented weather-related school delays and closings, the State Board of Education approved an extension of the March ISTEP Applied Skills testing window and the IREAD 3 testing window. Ms. Vaughn shared that Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Fowerbaugh were asked to adjust their schedules accordingly to allow for additional instructional time prior to testing.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Employment Recommendations

Resignation Shawn Caldwell, EL Principal

Leave Request Sarah Richmond, HS Instructional Assistant

2. 2014-2015 School Calendar

Three calendar options were once again presented to the Board for final consideration. The Board unanimously voted on Calendar Draft #2. *The 2014-2015 calendar will be distributed to all employees and posted on our school web-site. Principals will be asked to add the calendar to their school's newsletter and/or written announcements.*

3. Appointment of Fremont Park Board Member

Board Member Peggy Bailey will serve on the Town of Fremont's Park Board.

4. Head Start Report

Head Start Director Susie Swager asked for and was granted approval to submit her Governance and Leadership Capacity Screener that she presented at last month's Board Meeting. Mrs. Swager also reported that sequestered funds from last year will be awarded back to Head Start possibly in June and will be allowed to be used to fund the program into next year. Head Start will also see a cost of living increase of 1.3%.

5. Resolution in Opposition of HB1001 and SB1

The Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 2014-01 in opposition of HB1001 and SB1 – Elimination of Business Personal Property Tax. Fremont Town Manager, Chris Snyder was in attendance and had asked the Board to consider joining the town in supporting this opposition of HB1001 and SB1 as it could have significant financial impact not only to our town, but our schools as well.