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The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, October 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the district boardroom for a regular Board Meeting. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Jack Liller, presiding; Mrs. Lauren Clark, Mr. Matthew DeGennaro, Mrs. Lashay Kalathas, Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller, Mr. Ted Sayres and Mrs. Lisa Sturges. Absent were Board members Mrs. Kelly Christiano, and Mrs. Jennifer Holz. Also present were Mrs. Sonja Brunner, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Education & Student Services; Mr. Tim Stanton, Business Manager; and Attorney Gareth Pahowka, Solicitor. Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent was also unavailable for attendance. Prior to the meeting on October 20, 2022 the Board met in Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 board meeting and was seconded by Mr. Ted Sayres. Motion carried (7-0).

**Presentations/Reports:**

The following individuals are responsible for updating the board on the current operations of their supervised areas. If you would like their full report, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEPDJP9udALGyQSlPPBEbCvcT-62mW2sY

* Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Education

& Student Services

* Business Manager

**Public Comment** - **Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.

**Consent Agenda**

Background: The following routine operational matters are presented for action by the Board of School Directors. Items that require special attention may be removed from the consent agenda upon request of a Board member.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lauren Clark to approve the consent agenda, items A thru K, and was seconded by Mr. Ted Sayres. Motion carried (7-0).

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**Budget** A. Approved expenditures of the General Fund in the amount of $440,873.07; Food Service in the amount of $263.52; Student Activity Fund in the amount of $11,617.94 and Payroll Fund in the amount of $265,080.73 for total expenditures of $717,835.26 for the period from September 19, 2022 through October 14, 2022.

B. Approved bank reconciliations, as presented.

C. Approved $465,652 of budget transfers during the month of October and budget entries to establish the Food Service budget.

Background: Budget Transfers were processed by the Business Office in October; these transfers reflect transfers between accounts with no overall change in the General Fund Budget. The entry of $917,871 for Food Service is a result, of not all entries, that were previously loaded in the accounting software. The Food Service budget has an overall revenue budget of $679,591 and an expenditure budget of $525,510.

D. Approved the addition of the following individual(s) to the van / bus driver list for the 2022-2023 school year. The contractor is noted.

Lois Lovett – Jacoby Transportation

Lori Baublitz – Krise Transportation

Chris Shafer – Krise Transportation

**Personnel** E. Approved a request for Intermittent Family Medical Leave, from employee #000109, effective September 22, 2022 through December 15, 2022.

F. Approved the employment of Melanie D. Reese as a part-time elementary classroom aide with salary and benefits per the Support Staff Agreement effective October 25, 2022.

G. Accepted a resignation from Jennifer Cordell, High School Learning Support Teacher, dated October 16, 2022, effective on or before December 15, 2022.

H. Approved supplemental contracts for the following individuals as advisors for the 2022-2023 school year with salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Megan Ziegler

Class of 2026 Advisor $1,683

Steven Kovalevich

Class of 2026 Advisor $1,683

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I. Accepted a resignation from Shawn Harbaugh, High School Ass’t Softball Coach; and Megan Horell, Middle School Girls’ Ass’t Basketball Coach, effective immediately.

**Policy** J. Accepted revisions in Federal Procurement procedures which is an attachment to Board Policy 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance.

Background: Annually the Federal Procurement thresholds change based on the Consumer Price Index as published in the PA Bulletin. As these thresholds change districts are required to update their Federal Procurement procedures. The attached revision reflects those increases where the State threshold increased from $10,900 to $11,800 for quotes; State threshold increased from $20,100 to $21,900 for bids; Federal threshold changed from $3,500 to $10,000 for quotes; Federal threshold changed from $150,000 to $250,000 for bids.

K. Approved the revisions to Board Policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bid / Quotation on a first reading; considered for final adoption on November 14, 2022.

Background: Board Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation should be updated annually as the Consumer Price Index changes the thresholds for bid and quotes when doing procurement. The attached policy has been updated for these changes. This would be a first reading of a revision to Board Policy 610 with the second reading to be on November 14, 2022.

**Other Discussion Items**

The discussion item of Dress and Grooming, Board policy 221 was tabled until the next meeting where Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent, could discuss the item.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Bruce Fisher requested a review of the two-lane car drop off at the middle school/high school. He commented that cars in the lane will not move until the doors of the school are unlocked which results in other cars getting stuck in the lane and does not allow parents to drop of their children and leave. The board stated that the issue would be referred to Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent, for review and a response.

Mrs. Lashay Kalathas asked Attorney Gareth Pahowka for additional case law which addresses why a specific restroom cannot be assigned to students relating to gender identity.

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Attorney Gareth Pahowka stated that Tile IV rulings view that it would be discriminatory to the student if restricted to a specific restroom. Attorney Gareth Pahowka stated that he would forward additional case law to the Board.

Mrs. Lisa Sturges asked Attorney Gareth Pahowka to explain the difference between the original Title IV law and case law. Attorney Gareth Pahowka responded that you need to consider what the original law states and how it was then implemented with case law. You need to consider both the original law and the case law with heavier emphasis on the case law. Attorney Pahowka restated that the district was following the original law and case law in handling Title IV gender identity issues.

Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller asked what is the protocol that the district is following dealing with gender identity issues; do we speak to the parents, who at the district is assigned to deal with gender identity issues? Mr. Liller stated that the question on gender identity protocol will be referred to Superintendent Haupt for a response.

**Adjournment**

All were in favor following a motion by Mr. Ted Sayres and a second by Mrs. Lauren Clark to adjourn the General Board meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mr. Jack Liller Mr. Tim Stanton

Acting President Board Recording Secretary

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