October 26, 2020

Page 4695

The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, October 26, 2020 at 7:04 p.m. via Zoom meeting. The following members were in attendance: Mrs. Marcy Van Metre, Presiding; Mr. David Millstein, Mr. Earl Shutt, Mr. Josh Laird, Mrs. Lashay Kalathas, Mrs. Lauren Clark, Mrs. Rhonda Myers, and Mrs. Jennifer Holz. Also present were Mr. Michael Adamek, Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Simmons, Business Manager; Mr. Nathan Makar, Coordinator of Computer Services and Technology; Mr. Dan Watkins, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Brian McDowell, High School Principal; Mrs. Patti Weber, Middle School Principal; Mrs. Barbara Richwine, Elementary Principal, and Mr. William Mooney, Supervisor of Facilities.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Shutt and seconded by Mr. Millstein to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2020 regular school board meeting. A roll call vote was taken. 8-0 motion carries.

**Presentations**

Mrs. Simmons, Business Manager, reported that food service department continues to hand out meals daily. Currently giving out roughly 30-40 meals per day. Transportation continues to run smoothly. We also provided the auditors the final reports that they need and we should have the completed audit next month. Everything has been running as normal as possible in the business office.

Mr. McDowell, High School Principal, reported that there is more testing this week. A group was tested last week and B group will be testing this week. Also, wanted to announce that the Keystone tests at the high school level now has more flexibility to test, meaning we can add testing days and extend the testing window until March. We may take advantage of that and move the test until the end of the semester. This will allow the students more time to cover the curriculum. Other things have been going smooth at the high school. While this is a new experience for many of the students, we are reminding them to continue to work and complete the assignments as the marking period ends.

October 26, 2020

Page 4696

Mrs. Weber, Middle School Principal, discussed three new assessments that are being used at the middle school level. These new assessments will provide data on student reading levels and growth over time. These assessments are to be completed several times over the school year. Fifth grade will also be taking a different test including Study Island benchmarking. These assessments allow for teachers to plan the proper interventions as needed. There is also an assessment for math being put into place, Mathia.

Mrs. Weber, also announced that this week is Spirit week at the Middle School. Tomorrow and Wednesday are Monster Mask day. Thursday and Friday of this week is Orange and Black day.

Mrs. Richwine, Elementary School Principal, announced school pictures have been delivered and retakes will be coming up soon. Just remember to return the entire pack. At the end of this week the elementary school will be having pajama day. The staff and kids really like this day. There are fall crafts and holiday movies being shown this week. A reminder for FACE students, if they are returning to the classroom they must let the office know soon.

Mr. Watkins, Special Education Supervisor, continues to look for a part-time PCA (personal care assistant). Mr. Watkins remains active in Zoom meetings. The staff has worked very diligently to test students and make sure that all students have the help they need. We continue to remain flexible for the students and they have done a great job of meeting the needs of the students, regardless of how they are attending school. He also participated in a webinar that discussed how to address any regression. Special Education Covid funds have been made available to address these needs. Mr. Watkins, also thanked Mr. Makar for all of his work on getting the IEP Writer and Skyward to work together.

Mr. Watkins, also attended a Board meeting for the Arch of Adams County and attended Title IX training provided by Stock and Leader.

October 26, 2020

Page 4697

Mr. Mooney, Supervisor of Facilities, updated the Board on the Trane project and that there are some minor issues to address; a second training day is scheduled for next week. All of these issues will be addressed prior to Trane receiving their final payment. Mr. Mooney, also announced that we are listing the old chain link fencing and posts on MuniciBid to remove it from the storage area. We are also putting in two ramps for the food services department at the elementary building. These will allow for easier delivery and moving of products from the outside freezer into the kitchen/cafeteria. He is also looking into the electrical issues and the surges that we have with our provider. This system would monitor the power coming in and any surges. This will ensure that the electric company is responsible when and if damage happens due to a power surge. Also, Mr. Weaver located a light up vest for the staff to use when directing traffic due to bussing.

Mr. Adamek, Superintendent, discussed the administration meetings around the next marking period’s return to school plan. He also attended Title IX training and meetings with other Superintendents this week. The conversations around school opening and how to move forward educating the kids were used to help formulate the plan that we are presenting tonight for the second marking period.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Marcie Kozack, FASD Teachers Union Representative, spoke about the concerns of the Union members and read a prepared statement. The teachers would like the Board to understand that they know that there are many benefits for returning to 5 day classes and we know that for some this is the safest environment. We also have concerns about being able to bring everyone back 5 days. The flu season is starting and the Covid numbers across PA are still rising. The lack of social distancing if returning 5 days. Concerns about staff getting sick and no substitutes available.

October 26, 2020

Page 4698

Mrs. Jamie Fisher, resident and parent, wants options to come 5 days a week and worried about whether her child is getting a full education with only being in school half time. Wants to know what conditions must be met for students to return to 5 day classes. This current plan isn’t sustainable for the families.

Mr. Sean Jones, resident and parent, wanted to discuss returning to 5 days a week. Personally, wants students back 5 days a week and believes that it’s safe to send the students back. Would like to see the District’s Health and Safety Plan so that residents can read it and make their own decisions.

Mr. Richard Phillips, resident and parent, wants students back in the classrooms 5 days a week. Discussed political issues and said that taxpayer money was used for touchless toilets but no seat belts on school buses yet. He demanded transparency from Mr. Adamek and that if 5 day in class can’t happen he requested Mr. Adamek’s resignation.

**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 Mr. Shutt and seconded by Mrs. Van Metre to approve the Consent Agenda, Items A-F. A roll call vote was taken with all members casting assenting votes. Motion carries, 8-0.

**Administrative**

**Actions** A. Approved the Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) Board Members for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Ms. Jennifer Fleener Ms. Kim Mayers

Mr. Brian McDowell Ms. Michelle Miller

Mr. Michael Adamek Mr. David Benner

Ms. Darlene Resh Mr. Robert Stanley

**Budget** B.Approved the general fund bill list in the amount of $397,645.59 from September 19, 2020 through October 19, 2020.

October 26, 2020

Page 4699

C. Approved the food service fund bill list in the amount of $4,561.52 from September 19, 2020 through October 19, 2020.

D. Approved the journal entries, budget adjustments and bank reconciliations as presented.

E. Approved the addition of the following individuals to the bus / van driver list for the 2020-2021 school year. The contractor is noted.

Wendy Knox - Jacoby Transportation

Morgan Knox - Jacoby Transportation

Jacob Redding - Jacoby Transportation

**Personnel** F. Accepted the resignation of Mr. Andrew Ditty as the HS Ass’t Girls’ Basketball Coach effective immediately and granted permission to advertise for a HS Ass’t Girls’ Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Other Action Items:**

A. Health & Safety Plan -

A discussion was held concerning the recommended plan to continue the A/B Schedule currently in place. This plan has been working for the District and the administration’s recommendation is to stay the course. A discussion was had on the additional needs in staffing, cleaning, supplies, etc. if we were to return 5 days a week. Also discussed that CDC guidelines would not be in place if we did come back full-time. Also, mentioned the increase to Cyber/Charter tuition if we would come back 5 days a week. Total additional costs were estimated to be $452,000 and none of this is included in the 2020-2021 approved general fund budget.

Discussed adding a nurse health suite aide to assist the nursing staff and following up with students and staff that were sent home. The funds would come from the Covid-19 grant.

A motion was made to advertise for a Part-time Health Suite Aide by Mrs. Holz, and seconded by Mr. Millstein. A roll call vote was taken, motion carries 8-0.

October 26, 2020

Page 4700

A motion was made to approve the continuation of the A/B schedules for the remainder of the semester by Mr. Shutt and seconded by Mrs. Van Metre. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carries 6-2. Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Kalathas, both cast dissenting votes.

B. New Board Candidate Elected -

* Candidate Interviews
* Nominations for Appointment
* Vote Nominee for Appointment
* Swearing in of New Board Member

(future date in-person with District notary)

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Jack Liller as a member of the school board by Mrs. Holz and seconded by Mrs. Clark. A roll call vote was taken, motion carries, 8-0.

**Other Discussion Items:**

(No action to be taken)

**Public Comment** – (3 min. each / 30 min. max)

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Mr. Shutt and seconded by Mr. Millstein, the meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Marcy Van Metre Mrs. Amy Simmons

Board President Recording Secretary

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