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The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, August 10, 2020 at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom meeting. The following members were in attendance: Mrs. Marcy Van Metre, Presiding; Mr. Earl Shutt, Mr. Greg Murray, Mr. Josh Laird, Mrs. Becky Bequette, 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; Ms. Crystal Heller, Athletic Director; and Mrs. Barbara Richwine, Elementary Principal.

**Minutes**

A. Approved the minutes of the July 27, 2020 regular Board Meeting and the July 20, 2020 regular Board Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Shutt and seconded by Mrs. Clark. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members casting assenting votes. Motion carries 9-0.

**Presentations/Reports**

Mrs. Simmons, Business Manager, spoke about the food services and business office continuing to work on the annual audit. The auditor projected to be done with the audit in October.

Mr. McDowell, High School Principal, spoke about working with Ms. Heller and discussing athletics and high school scheduling adjustments. Enrollment forms will be available shortly to apply or enroll online with FACE. Students that enroll will need to stay in FACE for a term or quarter. Changes keep happening around us, but we keep adjusting and adapting as we go. Mr. McDowell also discussed the differences between FACE and the current cyber courses offered. Questions concerning a demo for parents were also discussed. Mrs. Kayla Martin does have demo accounts available online to see what the

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FACE platform looks like. Mrs. Richwine, Elementary School Principal, also highlighted that the elementary aged students will also have a workbook with FACE.

Mrs. Richwine, Elementary School Principal, let everyone know that the students and parents should have received their letter with their assigned day (A/B). She also wanted everyone to know the elementary supply list will be posted on the webpage Wednesday.

Mrs. Weber, Middle School Principal, highlighted the training that they have been participating in for Skyward. The middle school supply list is posted online and letters also went out to parents with their student’s assigned day (A/B). We are adjusting schedules daily as we work with parents to ensure that the schedules work together for all students in the family. Also, we have been interviewing and have hired two teachers. She is very pleased with new hires and the one on the agenda for approval tonight. A discussion was also held on how students were divided into A and B days.

Mr. Adamek, Superintendent, discussed the options for all students, the new state transmission guidelines for how counties are to operate. The Board members and administration discussed elementary students and how they are going to be able to do things without assistance.

Mr. Murray, School Board Member, discussed how hard this situation is and that we have all put in a lot of time and effort and there is no easy solution. We know about the childcare issue and realize that it is tough for everyone. Mrs. Holz, School Board Member, also mentioned not knowing how she herself feels about sending her children back to school. Emotion needs to take a back seat, we have to look at the data and science. We have to figure this out as a community and we have done the best we can with the information at hand.

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Mr. Watkins, Special Education Supervisor, has been focusing on communication with parents from incoming kindergarteners up through high school. Some parents are considering cyber choices and what is best for their child. His goal is to reach every parent to make sure that they are ready and comfortable for opening day. The parents want to feel that they have the information that they need to make a decision. Also, communicating with teachers and staff and explaining options available to the students. We had to reschedule our safety training, we are looking to do that in 2021. He also spoke about transportation with the consortium members and what that will look like this coming year.

Ms. Heller, Athletic Director, PIAA guidelines came out this week. Parents were not happy about no spectators, but the guidelines came from the Department of Health and CDC. On Monday the Mid-Penn League announced the delayed start of the fall sports season. The YIAI had a zoom meeting concerning possible changes that needed to be made. District III decided to also follow the Mid-Penn decisions, which also affects our schedules/games. Ms. Heller, also reviewed starting dates for fall sports and practices with the new PIAA by-laws and regulations. Basically as a league we will play within our division to keep traveling to a minimum.

Mr. Adamek, Superintendent, also discussed the internet access concerns within the district. There have been several discussions concerning what we can do. We are looking into several options – hot spots, cradle points on buildings or buses. Mr. Makar, Coordinator of Computer Services and Technology, discussed what a hot spot is and how it works by connecting to a cellular service, it’s a cell phone plan. Cradle points can work in most areas but if there isn’t any cellular service in the area it is housed, it will not be able to connect to the internet.

Discussion was also had concerning the COVID 19 funds and what is being purchased. Mr. Adamek, Superintendent, also gave an update on the Trane project since Mr. Mooney was not in attendance.

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**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 Discussion was held concerning the consent agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mrs. Clark. A roll call vote was taken will all members passing assenting votes. Motion carries 8-0. Mrs. Bequette left the meeting.

**Personnel** A. Approved the employment of Ms. Amanda B. Garner as a full-time High School Special Education Teacher with salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective August 31, 2020 pending all certification and paperwork is complete.

1. Accepted a resignation from Mr. George Bell, HS Ass’t Varsity Football Coach effective immediately and grant permission to advertiseand recommend for hire a HS Ass’t Varsity Football Coach for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Approved the employment of Mr. John Hoffman as a full-time music/band teacher effective August 31, 2020 with salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. (added to the agenda during the meeting.)

**Other Action Items**

1. Board Treasurer Appointment

**Motion:** Move to appoint a treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Amotion was made by Mrs. Van Metre and seconded by Mr. Murray to appoint Mrs. Rhonda Myers as treasurer. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 8-0.

Background: This is a yearly request as per Pennsylvania School Code 24 PS 4-404.

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1. Board Secretary Appointment

**Motion:** Move to appoint a secretary for the remainder of the time left of the 4-year board secretary term beginning August 18, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Original Term was 7/1/17 – 6/30/21.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Myers to appoint Mrs. Clark as secretary. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 8-0.

Background: This is a request, every four years, per the Pennsylvania School Code 24 PS 4-404.

1. Real Estate Tax Settlement

**Motion:** Accepted the ISP Mineral real estate settlement. (added to the agenda during the meeting.)

The Board discussed a real estate tax settlement during an executive session prior to this board meeting. Mrs. Van Metre made a motion to accept the ISP Mineral real estate tax settlement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Clark. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 8-0.

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

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mrs. Van Metre and seconded by Mrs. Bequette, the meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Marcy Van Metre Mrs. Amy Simmons

Board President Recording Secretary

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