May 22, 2023

Page 4903

The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, May 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the district boardroom for a regular Board Meeting. Prior to the Board meeting there was an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The following members were in attendance, Mrs. Jennifer Holz, presiding; Mrs. Kelly Christiano, Mrs. Lauren Clark, Mr. Matthew DeGennaro, Mrs. Lashay Kalathas, Mr. Jack Liller, Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller, Mr. Ted Sayres, and Mrs. Lisa Sturges. Also present were Mrs. Sonja Brunner, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Education & Student Services; Mr. Tim Stanton, Business Manager; Ms. Nicole Steele, Technology Director; Attorney Chris Harris, Solicitor; and Mr. William Mooney, Building and Grounds Director. Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent, was absent.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Lisa Sturges to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and May 8, 2023 Board Study Session. Motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro. Motion carried (9-0).

**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
* Business Manager
* District Technology Coordinator

**Public Comment** **Agenda Items** – None

**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.

May 22, 2023

Page 4904

Mrs. Lashay Kalathas requested agenda item Z be removed from the consent agenda and Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller requested agenda item F be removed from the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelly Christiano to approve the consent agenda, items A through AA, with items F and Z removed, and a motion was seconded by Mrs. Lauren Clark. Motion carried (9-0).

**Administrative**

**Actions** A. Approved a job description for High School Secretary.

B. Approved a job description for Coordinator of Transportation / Athletic Secretary.

**Budget** C. Approved expenditures of the General Fund in the amount of $965,262.53; Food Service in the amount of $324.37; Student Activity in the amount of $10,443.99; Scholarship Fund in the amount of $2,500.00 and Payroll Fund in the amount of $238,133.26 for total expenditures of $1,216,664.15 for the period of April 21, 2023 through May 11, 2023.

D. Approved bank reconciliations, as presented.

E. Approved Budget Transfer numbers 25 through 35.

Background: Transfers were processed by the Business Office. These transfers reflect transfers between accounts with no overall change in the General Fund or Food Service Fund.

F. Approved the General Operation Budget of the Adams County Technical Institute for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Background: This budget is consistent with the budget presentation done by Mr. Shawn Eckenrode, Administrative Director of ACTI, on May 8, 2023. The increased cost to the Fairfield Area School District is $14,581 which has been included in the General Fund Budget of the Fairfield Area School District.

May 22, 2023

Page 4905

G. Approved ACNB (Adams County National Bank) and PSDLAF/PNC as the depositories for school funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This represents no change from the current year.

H. Exonerated the local tax collectors from further collection of the 2022-2023 taxes due to verification being complete, as of April 30, 2023, and the delinquent taxes have been turned over to the

County and signature verification has been received.

**Personnel** I. Accepted the resignation of Ken Haines, full-time HS/MS Phys. Ed. Teacher, effective August 17, 2023.

J. Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Sauble, full-time Elementary Special Education Teacher, effective August 17, 2023

K. Accepted the resignation of Catherine Kichler, HS/MS Café Aide, effective May 30, 2023.

L. Accepted the resignation of Edward Small, HS Head Wrestling Coach, effective immediately.

M. Accepted the resignation of Owen Phelan, MS Ass’t Soccer Coach, effective immediately.

N. Approved the employment of Holly M. McElwee as a full-time Food Services Supervisor at an annual salary of $51,500, prorated, effective May 15, 2023.

O. Approved the employment of Kerry Hewitt, Jr., as a full-time second shift custodian effective May 12, 2023 at $14.00 per hour.

P. Approved the employment of April Taylor as a full-time Elementary School Teacher effective August 18, 2023 with salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement pending all certification and paperwork is complete. Bachelors - Step 2 / $54,373

Q. Approved the employment of Emily M. Tempel as a full-time, 1-year temporary, Elementary Teacher effective August 18, 2023 with salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement pending all certification and paperwork is complete. Bachelors - Step 2 / $54,373

May 22, 2023

Page 4906

R. Approved the employment of Lily Kapfahammer as a full-time, 1-year temporary, Elementary Teacher effective August 18, 2023 with salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement pending all certification and paperwork is complete. Bachelors - Step 2 / $54,373

S. Approved the reassignment of Brenda Miller from Guidance Secretary to High School Secretary effective July 1, 2023.

T. Approved the reassignment of Jen Wivell from Business Office Secretary / Transportation Coordinator to Transportation Coordinator / Athletic Secretary effective July 1, 2023.

U. Approved a voluntary, one-year temporary, reassignment for Leann Hazlett to Elementary Intervention Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year.

V. Approved a voluntary, one-year temporary, reassignment for Justina Chamberlin to Elementary Intervention Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year.

W. Approved a voluntary, one-year temporary, reassignment for Katherine Gebert to Middle School Intervention Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Policy** X. Approved the revisions to Board Policy 810, Transportation, on a second reading.

Y. Approved the revisions to Board Policy 249, Bullying / Cyberbullying, on a first reading.

**Proposed** Z. Adopted the 2023-2024 proposed preliminary budget with operating **Budget** expenditures of $20,907,235 and revenues adjusted from a millage of 11.1305 to a millage of 11.5757, which represents a 4% increase, for total revenues of $21,204,126.

Background: Final budget adoption is anticipated to be at the June 26, 2023 board meeting allowing the required days for advertising and public inspection.

May 22, 2023

Page 4907

**Resolution** AA. Approved the attached resolution implementing the Homestead and Farmstead exclusion for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in accordance with the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006).

Budget of the Adams County Technical Institute – **Agenda Item F**

Discussion was held concerning the Adams County Technical Institute regarding the methodology used to allocate costs to the districts.

A motion was made by Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller to approve agenda item F and the motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro. Motion carried (8-1).

Proposed Budget – **Agenda Item Z**

Discussion was held concerning the proposed millage increase.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lashay Kalathas to approve agenda item Z at a 4% millage increase; the motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro. Motion failed (4-5).

After the failed motion, the Board had additional discussions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lauren Clark to approve agenda item Z at a 3% millage increase; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Candace Miller. Motion failed (1-7)

After the failed motion, the Board had additional discussions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelly Christiano to adopt the 2023-2024 proposed preliminary budget with operating expenditures of $20,907,235 and revenues adjusted from a millage of 11.1305 to a millage of 11.5757, which represents a 4% increase, for total revenues of $21,204,126 and seconded by Mr. Jack Liller. Motion passed (7-2)

**Other Action Items - High School Gymnasium Flooring**

A motion was made by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro to approve Option 1, motion was seconded by Mrs. Lashay Kalathas. Motion passed (9-0).

May 22, 2023

Page 4908

A. Approved Option 1 at a cost of $48,263.85 and amend the C.M. Eichenlaub Co. Costars contract 014-E23-315 approved on April 24, 2023.

B. Move to approve Option 2 at a cost of $48,390.00 and amend the C.M. Eichenlaub Co. Costars contract 014-E23-315 approved on April 24, 2023.

Background: The gym bleacher contract was approved on April 24, 2023 with the Board approving the C.M Eichenlaub contract. At that time, we expected the floor contract to not exceed $48,390, which would be a separate contract. It was decided to consolidate the floor work under the C.M Eichenlaub contract once the floor layout was designed.

**Other Discussion Items:**

The LIU Annual School Directors Election Ballot was distributed.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Nora Whitney made a statement about bullying and questioned how a person could confirm if protocol was being followed in specific cases.

Ms. Cheri Hollinger made a statement about bullying and questioned if victims were being punished instead of the individuals that caused the incidents.

Both Solicitor Chris Harris and Mrs. Jennifer Holz addressed Ms. Whitney and Ms. Hollinger that the proper protocol when they are not satisfied with a response from a principal that they can elevate their concerns to the Superintendent, as the function of the Board is not to get involved in administrative issues. The Board needs to be independent, as some discipline cases may come to the Board for Board action.

Mr. Bruce Fisher made a statement to the Board, thanking the Board for their work and he feels Board discussions are important in making better decisions.

May 22, 2023

Page 4909

**Adjournment**

All were in favor following a motion by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro and a second by Mr. Ted Sayres to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Jennifer Holz Mr. Tim Stanton

President Board Recording Secretary

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