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The Fairfield Area School Board met in regular session on Monday evening, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the district board room with these members in attendance: Mrs. Pamela Mikesell, presiding, Mr. John Tomko, Mrs. Melissa Cavey, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson and Mrs. Amy Randt. Mr. Mike McDonald and Mrs. Robyn Koons arrived after the minutes were approved. Mr. Potts and Mrs. VanMetre were absent.

Also present were Mr. William Chain, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Sewell, Business Manager; Ms. Karen Kugler, Director of Curriculum and Special Programs; Mr. Wayne Sherrard, HS Principal; Mr. Brian McDowell, HS/MS Assistant Principal and Ms. Barbara Richwine, ES Principal.

**Minutes Approved**

The Board approved the minutes of the March 28, 2011 regular school board meeting on a motion made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mrs. Cavey.

**Presentations/Reports**

A. 2011-2012 Proposed Final Budget Presentation - Dr. Mark Sewell,

Business Manager

Dr. Sewell gave each board member a copy of the 2011-2012

school budget book, also noting it was available to the public on the

internet. He presented an overview of the budget details explaining a

$756,000 deficit still remains. Dr. Sewell noted current enrollment for the

district was at a 14 year low. He explained that the district has cut $1.2

million from the district budget since the 2006-2007 school year. Then he

proceeded with reviewing expenditures ($16.2 million for next year), which

included no new staffing and an unsettled teacher contract. Next, Dr.

Sewell reviewed the anticipated revenue for next year’s budget. The

state’s level of funding has dropped to 35%, federal funding is

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minimal which means the majority of the district’s revenue comes from

local taxpayers. Dr. Sewell stated that the administration does not plan to

use the fund balance. The millage increase would be .0318% which

equates to a $44.19 per year increase to the average taxpayer. This is

before gambling proceeds are given and based on the current

reassessment figures. Dr. Sewell noted that the Fairfield Area School

District has the lowest millage rate in Adams County. Dr. Sewell

concluded by reviewing the budget timeline with the proposed final

adoption on May 16th and the final budget adoption on June 20th.

B. 2011-2012 Budget Reduction Plan Components - Mr. William Chain,

Superintendent

Mr. Chain explained that this plan should be a multi-year plan in

order to be most beneficial. His plan contained many possible components with an approximate cost saving attached to each. They

include reduction of faculty and staff due to attrition, demotion or laying off

of employees, reduction in special education including consolidating LIU

services with other districts. Other reductions include, bond restructuring, athletic program reductions, technology, utility and maintenance contract savings through reduction and conservation. The elimination of various instructional programs such as FLY, elementary summer school and kindergarten jumpstart are also being considered. Mr. Chain noted some additional practices that would help reduce the district’s expenditures which include students/parents sharing the expense of field trips, TOPS and 6th grade camp. He explained some possible sources of revenue for the district that could come from the athletic booster club, facility usage surcharge and a cost for athletic program participation.

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**Public Comment**

Janice Ashman of Carroll Valley asked why district employees were getting salary increases when federal employee and social security recipients have not had increases for years. Mr. Chain explained that the teacher’s contract was established four year ago and the district is bound by that contract. He also explained that the administrative staff has agreed to take a pay freeze this year for 2011-2012.

Bob Jackson of Liberty Township questioned why costs have increased when enrollment has declined. Dr. Sewell explained that much of the cost increases in the budget is controlled by the state legislature and/or contractual obligations. However, the administration is continuously researching ways to cut costs.

Owen Phelan of Carroll Valley and a Mt. Saint Mary’s professor, suggested the district refocus their priorities within our mission statement to clearly define successful students.

Rick Schneider of Carroll Valley explained the board has hard choices to make with this budget and asked them to dig into the number to really find cuts that will make a difference.

**Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was approved, on a motion made by Mr. Tomko and seconded by Mrs. Anderson. A roll call vote was taken and Mrs. Mikesell, Mrs. Koons, Mr. Tomko, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. McDonald, Mrs. Randt, and Mrs. Cavey cast affirmative votes. The consent agenda items approved with this action are as follows:

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**Administrative**

**Actions**

list of graduates A. Approved the tentative list of graduates for the Class of 2011.

senior class trip B. Approved a request from Ms. Stacy Ulrich and Ms. Tara Phillips, senior class advisors, and the Class of 2011 to travel to Virginia Beach, VA for their Senior Class Trip May 20 – 22, 2011.

reading series C. Approved the Administration’s recommendation to purchase the McGraw-Hill Reading Series entitled "Reading Treasures" for grades K-6.  This recommendation to purchase is the culmination of a year-long pilot study completed by our teachers that involved a side-by-side comparison of major reading series publishers.  Purchase price is $66,366.33.

**Budget**

general fund bill D. Approved the general fund bill list in the amount of

list $288,377.20.

food service bill E. Approved the food service fund bill list in the amount of

list $32,897.94.

exonerations F. Approved the attached list of exonerations totaling 1,138.24.

Charnita lot sale G. Approved the Adams County Tax Claim Bureau to combine certain lots within the Charnita Area Sections AE and AD

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and to be offered at the judicial sale as one sale.  If no bid is received the Bureau is authorized to re-offer the lots separately.

Franklin Learning H. Approved a contract with the Franklin Learning Center

Center effective March 15, 2011 for placement of one student on a per diem basis for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

# Personnel

# retirement I. Accepted the resignation for retirement of Ms. Debra E. Flinchbaugh effective August 28, 2011. Ms. Flinchbaugh has served the District for 38 years.

# MS/HS librarian J. Granted permission for the administration to advertise within and recommend for hire a Middle School / High School Librarian for the 2011-2012 school.

# medical leave K. Ratified the Superintendent’s request from Ms. Mildred McGaughlin to take a medical leave, without pay, beginning March 18 through April 8, 2011.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion made by

Mr. Tomko seconded by Mr. McDonald and approved by the board.