



FAIRMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT #89

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Dr. Sonya Whitaker

Superintendent

Fairmont Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 17, 2010
5:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Fairmont Board of Education was called to order by the President, Mr. Joseph Ryan, at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Joseph Ryan, Ms. Denise McDonald, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Thomas King and Ms. Katie Ulmer. Members absent: Mr. Bradley Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Sonya Whitaker provided the board with an updated copy of the November bill's payable and explained there are no items added but there is an item taken off that we will discuss further.

In an effort to improve communication and to share decision making my goal is to make sure that the entire staff is involved as much as possible. As a result of that we have developed and put together for both the district leadership team and a school leadership team (Ms. Grohn or Mr. Wilkinson will explain more). The district leadership team is made up of me, the principal, assistant principal, and two representatives from PDA (RESPRO). Because of our district status of not making AYP there is a plus that we have 2 people providing our district at no charge to us to help service our district meeting the needs of our students. I have also invited the staff to join the district leadership team. We are looking for at least 2 no more than 3 staff members to sit on the district's leadership team so that they can also have an opportunity to be involved in the decision making of the highest level possible.

President's Report:

Mr. Joseph Ryan recognized Mr. Robert Loewe the board's new member who was voted on last week. We look forward to his involvement in the board.

Mr. Loewe acknowledged Dr. Whitaker, and the board for "having me here after reading over my resume and allowing me to say what I needed to say regarding my qualifications". As a result I am sitting here and I would like to say I have honorable shoes to fill. I am replacing William Gossard who was a dedicated and loyal board member. "He saw the potential and the challenges that the district faces".

Mr. King explained to the board "Mr. Loewe will have to run in the upcoming election in order to serve the remainder of Mr. Gossard's term".

Mr. Ryan commented on the positive press that we have received in the last month or two (**Jacob, Technology/Parent Literacy Night**). I would like to thank the media that were here and the community for their support of our district. In about five months we will have an election with five vacancies to fill. I think the more people we receive from the community that will give the board a diversity of ideas to make it a better board.

Mr. King stated anything that is pertaining to the April election will be handled by Ms. Dorsey.

Mr. Travis stated it is important that whoever runs or is elected to know that we are here for the students and the benefit of the community.

Ms. Ulmer stated I agree with Mr. Travis. The children will suffer forever if we don't try to do the best for them because they are already behind. We need to do everything possible to get them up to par and we can't do that if we are a divided board. We all need to be working for the same thing and that is to educate our children.

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and 2nd by Ms. Denise McDonald to approve the **Consent Agenda (October 13, 2010 Special Board Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Bills Payable, and Treasurer's Report)**. Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, Ms. Denise McDonald, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Katie Ulmer, and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nay, motion passed.

Business Manager's Report:

Dr. Richard Dombrowski presented the board with a powerpoint presentation and stated I am here to advise you with some great information on the proposed 2010 Levy which has to do with taxes. This is our 2010 proposed levy and what we would like you to do tonight is to approve the tentative levy which calls for an 8% increase, yet that is not going to happen. In December you will make the final decision after I have given you some more information. Every year school districts are required to file with the county clerk the last Tuesday in December a Certificate of Tax Levy that gives the county the authority to extend the tax against all taxable property in the school district and that's the way we get our tax revenue and if your proposed tax levy is more than 5% of your previous years extension then you have to comply with the truth and taxation. The truth and taxation means you have to have a public hearing. Once you file the levy with the county clerk that is considered a promissory note you can take that to a bank and borrow against that money that isn't going to come until June or September. You will not receive any money from the levy until June 2011 and you will receive 50% of the taxes from that levy and that is for the 2010-2011 budget. Our extension is the amount we will expect to receive.

Dr. Dombrowski explained the access evaluation and the cash flow to the board. Dr. Dombrowski presented the budget for this year. We have anticipated revenue for each one of the funds: Education Fund, Operation and Maintenance, Debt Service, Transportation, IMRF, Social Security, Capital Projects, Working Cash, Torte and Fire Prevention and Safety. Dr. Dombrowski explained to the board what each of these revenues are and how the funds are spent. We have anticipated our revenue and our expenditure but that doesn't tell us how we are going to spend the money each month, nor does it say that at a certain point and time will you have the money to meet your bills and payroll for the month.

There are three loans you can get one is called tax anticipation warrant, you take your levy to the county clerk and you can borrow money against that levy. The problem with the tax anticipation warrant you have to pay that money right back. The other way is called a tax anticipation note it's the same thing as a warrant except there is a certain due date to pay the money back. The third is a line of credit – go to the bank and the agree to give you a loan up to \$700,000 and when you need the money just let us know and we will deposit it into your account that's the best way to do it because you only pay interest on the money that you need at the time.

We do have a cash flow analysis that is going on now to show us how we are spending our money monthly and anticipating when we are going to have to borrow and we will provide you with this every month.

Mr. Ryan commented the way things have been there is no surprise that we are going to have to borrow money. The only thing I see is that when we look at our treasurer's report we have that investment figure in the general funds. Will we have to exhaust our surplus?

Dr. Dombrowski explained when there is a surplus, the bank will not give you a line of credit.

Mr. King commented you are going to have months of anticipation of what your expenses are projected and that should give you time to eliminate some those expenses which will then bring you back up.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Anthony Wilkinson shared Parent Teacher Conferences were held on October 26th and 28th. Teachers met with parents and guardians to discuss current grades and assessment results. This was the first year we received such a great turnout. We usually have an evening and morning pick up day but this year we did two evenings.

Fairmont staff members took part in their fourth School Improvement Day earlier today. The School Leadership Team led the professional development on our Rising Star status. Rising Star is a new initiative through the state of Illinois that is set up to help schools that have not met AYP over a three year period or more to set attainable goals for improvement.

On November 10th Fairmont students in Kindergarten through fifth grade attended an assembly on Veteran's Day. The students enjoyed the assembly and learned a lot about the day. I would like to thank Mr. Ryan and Mr. King for coming over to our Veteran's Day assembly.

Fairmont School will not be in session on November 24th – 26th in observation of Thanksgiving. School will resume on November 29th.

Fairmont School will be hosting the Regional tournament for Seventh Grade girls on November 20th, 22nd, and 23rd.

Assistant Principal's Report:

Ms. Grohn presented the board with a powerpoint presentation and distributed a copy of the presentation to each board member. We have a school leadership team and a district leadership team both serving very important roles within the system we have at Fairmont. . The system is called Rising Star and it is based on bringing teams together who collaboratively to improve teaching and learning. Ms. Grohn explained the program to the board with a powerpoint presentation.

Public Comments:

Hope Thigpen McElrath, parent. I would like to thank Mr. Wilkinson for meeting with me and sharing some things I could look for on the website. I would like to see more information listed from the junior high teachers on the website. Dr. Whitaker shared at the parent literacy night things we could do to help the teachers and staff to help our kids learn and better themselves. If the teachers would post on the website things that are being done in class, homework, etc. I feel that would help the parents. February is black history month I would like to know if there is going to be any type of program for black history month.

Donald Lazarz, Lago Vista resident. Mr. Lazarz shared he read the article about the Parent Literacy Night. It is easy for the kids to learn and adopt and really enjoy the learning experience. I hope you continue that effort. Mr. Lazars share he was very pleased with the work that the district is doing in the area of technology. He added, he hopes that we plan to continue our work in that area.

Mr. Travis stated it is nice to hear positive comments. Thank you for that.

Mr. King commented the program for the parents and the students last week was outstanding.

PTO:

No report.

Teachers' Union Report:

No report.

Action Item 11-36 (Literacy Consultants)

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and 2nd by Ms. Katie Ulmer to approve Literacy Consultants **Keri Bartholomew** and **Bonnie Flanagan** at a rate of **\$800.00 per session (as needed)** for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Travis asked how many sessions.

Dr. Whitaker explained we budgeted these two young women who came highly recommended from a local university who are assigned to work directly with our teachers. They are scheduled to work on Thursday. One of them is schedule to work with K through 4th and the other will work with the 4th through 8th grade teachers. Right now we are looking to use them for the remainder of this school year every Thursday for a full day and that adds up to approximately \$38,000 total for the both of them. We will pay them \$17,600 each. This is funded in the Title 1 Grant in addition Dr. Whitaker shared that due to the resignation of the director of curriculum Dr. Whitaker budgeted for these positions. Voting aye: Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Thomas King, Ms. Denise McDonald and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Action Item 11-37 (Proposed 2010 Levy)

It was motioned by Mr. Thomas King and 2nd by Ms. Denise McDonald to approve **the proposed aggregate levy for the tax year 2010** and authorize the superintendent to publish notice of the proposed tax increase for publication in the Herald News. Set date for public hearing at 5:45 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Board of Education in December. Voting aye: Mr. Thomas King, Ms. Denise McDonald, Mr. Robert Loewe, Mr. Charles Travis, Ms. Katie Ulmer and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Each school district is required to certify annually and return to the county clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December, it's Certificate of Tax Levy. Prior to the adoption of its aggregate levy, the Board of Education must estimate the dollar amount of the aggregate levy for the current year. If the aggregate levy is more than 105% of the prior year's extension, a notice must be published in the newspaper indicating that a public hearing will be held to approve the proposed tax levy increase. Since Fairmont School District's proposed tax levy is 8% more than the previous year's extension we must comply with the Truth-in Taxation.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Whitaker shared with the board that she and a couple of board members will be attending the Annual Board Conference this weekend held downtown Chicago sponsored by the Illinois School Administrator, The Illinois Association of School business Officials and the Illinois Association of School Boards. All come together around this time of the year to address major issues as well as come up with recommended solutions as to how to improve our financial status, how to improve the districts public image as well as how to improve student achievement.

Board Comments:

Mr. King commented he will be accompanying the Superintendent at the conference attending various workshops.

Mr. Loewe commented on the tax levy presented by Dr. Dombrowski and Dr. Whitaker striving to bring the parents in and empower the parents to make them feel a part and having a role in their student's success and realizing the potential. As far as taxes you have to educate the community because the community may not feel as if they have the best interest as the parents does. I hope in our continued publicity and publicizing of Fairmont that our tax parents can feel directly involved and see the benefit of Fairmont's programs and advancement so that they will feel a part of it in the taxes that they are paying is beneficially supporting Fairmont.

It was motion by Ms Katie Ulmer and 2nd by Mr. Charles Travis to go into closed session to discuss the Tax Levy and Budget at 7:15 p.m. Voting aye: Ms. Katie Ulmer, Mr. Charles Travis, Mr. Thomas King, Mr. Robert Loewe, Ms. Denise McDonald and Mr. Joseph Ryan. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

It was motioned by Mr. Charles Travis and 2nd by Mr. Thomas King to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Joseph Ryan, President

Attest: _____

Mr. Thomas King, Secretary