December 4, 2023

Page 4948

The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the district boardroom for a reorganization and regular Board Meeting. The following members were in attendance, Mrs. Erica Bollinger, Mr. Matthew DeGennaro, Mr. James Fisher, Mrs. Jennifer Holz, Mrs. Melissa Kearchner, Mr. Jack Liller, Mrs. Candace Miller, Mr. Tedd Sayres, and Mrs. Lisa Sturges. Also, present were Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent; Mr. Aaron Taylor, Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. Tim Stanton, Business Manager; Mrs. Nicole Steele Zepp, Technology Director; Mr. Justin Hoffacker, Middle School Principal; and Attorney Gareth Pahowka, Solicitor.

**Board Reorganization**

Mrs. Jennifer Holz thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as President of the Board. For the next year Mrs. Jennifer Holz requested the Board not to nominate her to the position of President.

*Election of Temporary President* – A motion was made by Mrs. Jennifer Holz and seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro to elect Mr. Jack Liller as Temporary President. Motion carried.

*Election of President* - A motion was made by Mrs. Lisa Sturges and seconded by Mr. Ted Sayres to elect Mrs. Candace Miller as President. Motion carried.

*Election of Vice-President* - A motion was made by Mrs. Jennifer Holz and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Sturges to elect Mr. Jack Liller as Vice President. Motion carried.

*Election of Treasurer* - A motion was made by Mrs. Jennifer Holz and seconded by Mr. Ted Sayres to elect Mrs. Erica Bollinger as Treasurer to complete the term of 12/5/2023 - 6/30/2024. Motion carried.

December 4, 2023

Page 4949

*Election of Secretary* – A motion was made by Mrs. Jennifer Holz and seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro to elect Mr. Ted Sayres as Secretary to complete the term of 12/5/2023 - 6/30/2025. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Ted Sayres to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 13, 2023. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Holz. 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=PLEPDJP9udALGyQSlPPBEbCvcT62mW2sY

* Superintendent
* Business Manager
* District Technology Coordinator

Mr. Justin Hoffacker provided an update for all the school principals.

Students in the High School Student Council provided the Board with an update on their activities.

**Public Comment Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.

**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.

Mrs. Lisa Sturges made a motion to approve the consent agenda, items A through O. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Holz. Motion carried (9-0).

**Administrative**

**Actions** A. Approved a field trip request from FCCLA to travel to the State Leadership Conference March 18-20, 2024 at the Wyndham Lancaster Resort.

December 4, 2023

Page 4950

**Budget** B. Approved expenditures of the General Fund in the amount of $919,491.25; Food Service in the amount of $20,178.56; Student Activities in the amount of $4,253.37; and Payroll Fund in the amount of $209,381.43 for total expenditures of $1,153,304.61 for the period of November 13, 2023 through November 24, 2023.

C. Approved Budget Transfer numbers 34 through 47.

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

D. Approved October bank reconciliations, as presented.

E. Approved the attached  Act 1 Resolution indicating that the Fairfield Area School District will not raise taxes by more than 6.4% for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Background: Each year school districts must choose between adoption of either a preliminary general fund budget or stating that taxes will not be raised above the school district’s Act 1 adjusted index. The Act 1 index represents the maximum tax increase a school district can levy without PDE or voter approval. The FY25 index for the Fairfield Area School District is 6.4%.

F. Approved the addition of the following individual(s) to the van / bus driver list for the 2023-2024 school year. The contractor is noted.

Christopher Reese - Krise Transportation

James Arter - Krise Transportation

Michael Weedon - Jacoby Transportation

Tara Omlor - Jacoby Transportation

Carole Simon - Jacoby Transportation

Edward Dehoff - Jacoby Transportation

Darlene Martofel - Jacoby Transportation

George Rummel - Jacoby Transportation

Nancy Rummel - Jacoby Transportation

G. Approved a services agreement between New Story Schools and Fairfield Area School District to provide educational and related services as described in the individualized educational plan (IEP) effective November 13, 2023 through July 31, 2024 for one student.

December 4, 2023

Page 4951

H. Approved a rate increase of 9% to health insurance premiums paid to the Lincoln Benefit Trust effective July 1, 2024.

**Personnel** I. Accepted a resignation from Stephanie Barnum as a Middle School Special Education Aide in the ILS classroom effective November 12, 2023.

J. Accepted a resignation from Owen Phelan as the Middle School Ass’t Boys’ Basketball Coach effective immediately.

K. Accepted a resignation from Carreanne Eyler as the High School Ass’t Volleyball Coach effective immediately.

L. Approved supplemental contracts for the following individuals as coaches for the 2023-2024 school year with salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

David Jones

MS Head Boys’ Basketball Coach $2,648

Abigail Krstanovic

HS Ass’t Girls’ Basketball Coach $2,648

M. Approved a recommendation from the administration for non-renewal of a supplemental contract for the HS Drama Ass’t Director for the 2024-2025 school year.

1. Approved the addition of Diana Wierzbicki to the Support Staff Substitute List K-12 for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Approved the employment of Francesca Tomaino as a part-time cafeteria aide at $13.85 per hour effective December 4, 2023.

**Other Action Items**

1. Establish meeting dates, times and place for study sessions and regular board meetings for the ensuing year.

A motion was made by Mr. Ted Sayres and seconded by Mr. Matthew DeGennaro to approve Other Action Items agenda item A.

December 4, 2023

Page 4952

Mrs. Candace Miller requested discussion on the motion. After discussion, the Board agreed to change the proposed August meeting dates to August 5th and August 19th. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Bruce Fisher stated the students are often unable to enter the facility for sports practices as the doors are locked. Mr. Bruce Fisher also questioned why gifted students don’t have teacher assistants when special education students have teacher assistants.

Mrs. Laura Fisher stated that the Middle School basketball uniforms have not been ordered yet for the season. She also stated that for a recent basketball game the floors were not swept, and the bleachers were not pulled out.

Mr. Jerry Holz stated that the floors for the youth basketball organization on Saturday were not swept. Mr. Holtz presented two checks to the district. A check for $2,500 as a donation to the boy’s basketball fundraising account, and a check for $500 to offset the cost of the use of the facility.

Mrs. Jennifer Holz reported that she asked Mr. Matthew DeGennaro, who accepted, to serve on the Joint Operating Committee of ACTI.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Jennifer Holz made a motion adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. James Fisher.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller Mr. Tim Stanton

President Board Recording Secretary

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