

**FAIRVIEW AREA SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 11, 2006**

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The regular meeting of the Fairview Area Schools' Board of Education was held on Monday evening, December 11, 2006 in the elementary media center.

Board president Beth Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Joel Yoder, Beth Miller, James Yoder, Chris Neff, and Anne Tompkins

ABSENT: Gene Wysocki and Erick Hengy

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Under **NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS**, Item B. **Policy Addressing Electronic Communication Devices** was removed, Items D. **Amended Crisis Plan** and E. **Legal Workshop** were moved to **NEW BUSINESS—DISCUSSION ITEMS AND DATES**. The agenda was then approved by Board consensus.

**III. Consent Agenda**

Neff/Yoder, Joel That the following items be included in the Consent Agenda and be accepted as presented:

- A. Minutes: November 11, 2006, regular and closed session; December 6, 2006, special and closed session
- B. Treasurer's Reports
  - Cash Receipts reports for General Fund, 1998 Debt Retirement Fund, and Sinking Fund
  - General Fund Accounts Payable, which include payrolls of \$140,325.16. bills to be ratified of \$79,199.51 and bills to be paid of \$35,972.94, totaling \$255,497.61
- C. Administrative written reports

Ayes – 5; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**IV. Public Comment**

Leslie Green: Reported that the car raffle being conducted by the Class of 2007 is going well. The Senior Trip is planned for May 8-9, 2007. She asked if class members who have not participated in fundraising activities are to be included in the class trip. The answer is "yes".

Pat Thompson: Expressed her displeasure about the Board's willingness to lay off teachers (perhaps in January 2007), but keep a fulltime superintendent. She suggested that the superintendent be assigned teaching duties or go to a part-time status now.

**V. Curriculum Spotlight**

The Life Skills class hosted a reception for Board members at 6:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks prepared by class members were served. It was well-presented and Board members expressed their appreciation.

**VI. Administrative Reports**

The reports were received and are part of the public record. Several items from the Principal’s Report were addressed by Board members: a) a proposal for a panel of teachers to interview prospective “schools of choice” students, b) the PowerSchool program is being implemented more quickly than anticipated and parents have expressed their appreciation for the program, and c) implementation of trimesters that would provide more opportunity to students using the current staff members.

The “schools of choice” item will be reviewed by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Poellet and then forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

**VII. Board Committee Reports**

Minutes from the December 6, 2006 Policy Committee were included with the December 8, 2006 Weekender.

Joel expressed concern that the following items have not been reviewed and appropriate action taken: a) external communication and b) the content of movies shown in classrooms. He asked if required policies are in place and/or are new policies needed.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Playground and Recreation**

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Poellet received information from Clark Hill, the schools’ legal counsel, concerning the playground millage. The opinion is that we cannot transfer our athletic costs to the millage. While it may still be something to pursue, the Board will wait to see if anything happens regarding the sinking fund status.

**B. Board Meeting Sites**

Anne Tompkins had expressed her desire to hold some Board meetings at other sites, as the Board did last year in Comins and Curran. At the November 13, 2006 Board meeting, action on this item was tabled to a later meeting.

Tompkins/Yoder,      That the item of holding some Board meetings at other sites be taken from  
Joel                      the table.

Ayes – 5; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**C. Off-Site Meetings**

Tompkins/Yoder,      That the February 2007 Board meeting be held in Comins and the May  
Joel                      2007 Board meeting in Curran.

Ayes – 0; Nays – 5 (Yoder, Joel; Miller; Yoder, James; Neff;  
Tompkins)

Motion defeated.

The matter of off-site meetings will be included with organizational meeting information and townships will be contacted concerning availability of their facilities prior to making a decision.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS (Con't.)**

**D. Superintendent's Periodic Evaluation**

The Superintendent's Periodic Evaluation was held in closed session at the November 13, 2006 Board meeting. The Board must adopt, by vote, the periodic evaluation at an open meeting. After the Board's adoption, the evaluation is made available to the public as provided under current law.

Neff/Tompkins That the Superintendent's Periodic Evaluation be accepted as presented.

Ayes – 5; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

A copy of the Board's evaluation shall be part of the permanent record of minutes.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Superintendent Evaluation Tool**

The Policy Committee recommended a tool to be used in the Superintendent Evaluation process, specifically for the annual review in March. Each Board member received a copy for review.

Neff/Tompkins That the Superintendent Evaluation tool be adopted as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ayes – 5; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**B. C.O.O.R.-Wide Enhancement Millage**

A C.O.O.R.-wide enhancement millage has been the topic of discussion at several superintendents' meetings at C.O.O.R. The issue is usually in ballot competition with local initiatives. This can be partially avoided by holding a special election.

Tompkins/Neff Be it resolved by the Fairview Area Schools' Board of Education to recommend to the C.O.O.R. ISD Board of Education to hold a special election in June 2007 with 1-2 ballot questions:

1. A one (1) mil Enhancement Millage
2. A Special Education Headlee Override

Be it further resolved to direct the superintendent to communicate this resolution along with the rationale and suggested usage for the enhancement to the C.O.O.R. ISD Board and Boards of Education of the constituent districts.

Ayes – 2; Nays – 3 (Yoder, Joel; Yoder, James; Miller)

Motion defeated.

**X. NEW BUSINESS—DISCUSSION ITEMS AND DATES**

**A. Materials Related to a Five-Year Plan—Presented, Not Discussed**

1. Summary of Response Received: Included in the minutes for December 6, 2006
2. Election Information: Information is included in Item B.
3. Report on Status of HRA Programs
  - The District will move all union employees to an HRA starting as soon in 2007 as possible.
  - The plan will be the SET/SEG HRA as outlined in the comparison sheet.
  - Benefits under the current plan which are not covered under the HRA shall be self-funded by the Board.
  - Account balances, after the expiration of the grace period, shall be placed in an aggregate account and used in its entirety for a) set-up costs, b) monthly fees, and 3) to offset premium increases in the following year (2008-2009).
  - When calculating whether the premium increase exceeds the 12% cap, the aggregate account shall be applied by deducting it from the new gross amount.

Moving to an HRA is a change in carrier, but does not change benefits. The Board welcomes discussion on the proposal.

4. Resolutions for Possible Consideration in January were presented:
  - a. Be it resolved and communicated to the Superintendent and Finance Committee that the district budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 shall not have a deficit larger than \$150,000. Be it further resolved that the budget cap for fiscal year 2008-2009 be set at \$100,000; the cap for fiscal year 2009-2010 be set at \$50,000 and that a balanced budget shall be presented for 2010-2011.
  - b. Be it resolved that the line items related to Board expenses be reduced by \$3,606.
  - c. Be it resolved to reduce Board member compensation by 50%.
  - d. Be it resolved to reduce administrative expenses by \$1,500.
  - e. Be it resolved to reduce library expenses by \$2,000.
  - f. Be it resolved that all regular and summer janitorial services be provided via a contract with a custodial vendor.
  - g. Be it resolved to reduce the Physical Education position by 2/7ths.
  - h. Be it resolved to reduce the number of paraprofessional hours by 15 per day, the equivalent of two (2) full positions.
  - i. Be it resolved to end funding for a Yearbook or Knowledge Bowl sponsor.

Mr. Nelson and FTA-AFTM representatives will meet for informal discussion on December 18, 2006 to discuss the HRA information.

Resolutions for Possible Consideration in January were discussed. Board members were in agreement that when and if a new item for change is offered for consideration, opportunity needs to be given for feedback from staff and community members as feedback on original items was invited.

The curriculum plan for the District must equate to the financial plan being considered. What will we have if and when cuts and changes are made?

**X. NEW BUSINESS—DISCUSSION ITEMS AND DATES (Con't.)**

**B. Election Information**

The State would like to see all school elections held in November. Beth reported on the meeting she attended at the County Clerk's office concerning elections. Another meeting is planned for January 10, 2007 and the Board's election plan must be presented at that time. Mr. Nelson provided information the pros and cons of November elections.

Mr. Nelson was directed to contact other schools that have changed to a November election date to obtain pros and cons of that decision. Also, he will check on the ballot language for approving millage a year ahead of levying it. Information will be included in the Weekender.

The Board terms for Chris Neff and Beth Miller expire in 2007. This year the election is scheduled for May 8, 2007. Candidates who wish to seek office at the May 8 election must file an Affidavit of Identity and a nominating petition by 4:00 p.m. on February 13, 2007.

**C. Standing Committee Dates**

No dates were set.

**D. Amended Crisis Plan**

A suggested amended Crisis Plan was reviewed. The local fire department should be provided with building plans. All staff members should be familiar with the plan. Any questions about the plan should be directed to Mr. Nelson. The amended Crisis Plan will be brought to the Board table for possible action at a later date.

**E. Legal Workshop**

A combined seminar for school board members and administrators is being hosted by Clark Hill, PLC and the accounting & consulting firm of Plante & Moran, PLLC. It is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the Birmingham Public Schools Corporate Training Center. Two topics will be addressed: Law and Finance.

Mr. Nelson will determine if the meeting can be broadcast via ITV. Board members will let Mr. Nelson know if they are interested in attending.

**XI. Board Comments, Communications, and Closing Public Comments**

Board Comments: None.

Communications: None.

Public Comments:

1. Ms. Shumaker expressed her concern that reductions outlined in the Five-Year Plan will result in lack of program and therefore loss of students. She also mentioned the suggestions submitted by staff and community members several years ago. Should these be revisited?
2. Pat Thompson referenced the Crisis Plan and stated that it is the fire chief's responsibility to know the layout of building, so he should be provided with building plans. She also expressed concern about aligning curriculum with the financial plan, especially what will be offered at the high school level. We need to be very clear in showing how education will be provided.

**XI. Board Comments, Communications, and Closing Public Comment (Con't.)**

Public Comments (Con't.)

3. Melony Haskin questioned whether the Resolutions for Consideration in January will take place in 2007. The Board reaffirmed its intent to not implement resolutions prior to 2007-2008.

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

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Joel Yoder, Secretary