

**FAIRVIEW AREA SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 16, 2007**

The rescheduled regular meeting of the Fairview Area Schools' Board of Education was held on Monday evening, April 16, 2007 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: Anne Tompkins, Joel Yoder, Beth Miller, Pat Thompson, Gene Wysocki,
James Yoder, and Chris Neff

ABSENT: None

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was 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: March 12, 23007 regular meeting and closed session on the same date
- 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 \$208,826.59, bills to be ratified of \$88,840.38, and bills to be paid of \$38,416.16, totaling \$336,083.13
- C. Administrative written reports

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

Peggy Fortin updated the Board on the "Taking Charge" program, which is a program of the Rural Prevention Network and AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services. The report was received with thanks.

V. Curriculum Spotlight

Kevin Salsbury reported to the Board about the Spring Choir Tour enjoyed by the choir members and chaperones. The report was received with thanks.

VI. Administrative Reports

The reports were received and are part of the public record.

VII. Board Committee Reports

The Building Committee met on March 22, 2007 and minutes were included with the March 23, 2007 Weekender.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. November Elections

At the February 12, 2007 Board meeting, information on changing the election date to November was again presented. Mr. Nelson provided a summary and recommended that the matter be placed on hold and revisited every six months if conditions change.

The Board, by consensus, accepted the recommendation.

IX. NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Matters

Ron Thomey, Carl Parker, Sylvia Bondar, Beth Esch, and Pam Larrison have been employed on a part-time basis during 2006-2007. Mr. Nelson recommended that a notice of non-renewal and thanks for service be sent to each of these persons.

Thompson/Wysocki That a letter of non-renewal and thanks for service be sent to Ron Thomey, Carl Parker, Sylvia Bondar, Beth Esch, and Pam Larrison.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 1 (Tompkins) Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson also recommended that the following positions be adjusted for the 2007-2008 school year in the following order:

- 1. Transportation Supervisor Less 20%
- 2. Librarian Less 50%
- 3. Title I Teacher Less 20%
- 4. Kindergarten Teacher Less 20%
- 5. Yearbook and Knowledge Bowl Volunteer sponsors
- 6. Reduce expenditures in the areas of supplies or other operational line items

Tompkins/Neff That the Transportation Supervisor position be reduced by 20% beginning in 2007-2008.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0; Abstain – 1 (James Yoder) Motion carried.

Neff/Tompkins That the Librarian position be reduced by 50% beginning in 2007-2008

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion carried.

Yoder, Joel/Wysocki That the Title I Teacher position be reduced by 20% beginning in 2007-2008.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 1 (Thompson) Motion carried.

Neff/Yoder, Joel That the Kindergarten Teacher position be reduced by 20% beginning in 2007-2008.

Ayes – 5; Nays – 2 (Thompson, James Yoder) Motion carried.

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IX. NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS (Con't.)

A. Personnel Matters (Con't.)

Neff/Yoder, Joel That the Yearbook and Knowledge Bowl sponsor positions be on a volunteer basis beginning in 2007-2008.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion carried.

Yoder, Joel/
Tompkins That expenditures in the areas of supplies or other operational line items be reduced beginning in 2007-2008.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion carried.

Pat Thompson said that none of the decisions was easy nor what the Board would prefer; other Board members agreed.

Superintendent and Principal salaries will remain at the present levels even though the administrators are in the classroom doing more or less work.

B. Sub-Committee to Develop a Transition Plan

With the many unknown variables about Fairview Area Schools' future and with some things already being planned, Mr. Nelson recommended that a sub-committee of Board members be formed to prepare an outline of procedure, given the 3-5 Year Plan. The sub-committee would be in place for the remainder of 2006-07 to consider:

- a. What options are available to us for a half-time superintendent?
- b. If Mr. Nelson were to leave, how would the transition work?
- c. Are there other transitions that need to be addressed?

Neff/Thompson That a sub-committee consisting of Board members be formed to prepare an outline of a transition plan related to the 3-5 Year Plan.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0 Motion carried.

The sub-committee consists of Board members James Yoder, Beth Miller, and Pat Thompson, with Diana Danhoff serving as an additional member. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 7:00 a.m. in the Central Office.

X. NEW BUSINESS—DISCUSSION ITEMS AND DATES

A. 2007-2008 School Calendar

This item will be included on the May agenda. There are many items to be considered, such as a C.O.O.R.-wide common calendar, a reduction of days by increasing hours per day, and shared services necessitating aligning calendars.

B. Graduation Elements

The Board considered the question as to whether they would like to see guidelines/content outlined regarding graduation exercises. There is presently no policy or procedure in place.

The administration will set up guidelines for this year, with suggestions then given to the Policy Committee for consideration.

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

C. Standing Committee Meeting Dates

No dates were set.

D. Joint Boards/Administrators' Dinner Meeting

Board members were reminded that the dinner meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2007 at KCC.

XI. Board Comments, Communications, and Closing Public Comment

Board Comments: Joel Yoder would like to see some way of recognizing students who achieve academically. Students are recognized for success in athletics.

Pat Thompson thanked Mr. Nelson for the April 2007 Newsletter, which was well-written and informative.

Communications: Board members were invited to attend a seminar on Saturday, May 5, 2007 in Grand Rapids. The topics are "Law and Finance" with the seminar conducted by the law firm of Clark Hill, PLC, and the accounting and consulting firm of Plante & Moran, PLLC.

"A Month in the Life of Poverty and Bridges Out of Poverty" education workshops will be presented on April 24, 2007 at the Mio Community Center.

Postcards were provided by MASB with which to contact the Michigan House in support of the Governor's plan, or to voice concerns about the financial status of Michigan.

Public Comment: Jodee Money spoke to two issues: 1) with the school year starting after Labor Day, Career Tech and M-Tec will hopefully be attending classes as scheduled, and 2) no assessments are done now for Kindergarten students so students are sent to school at the earliest age possible; she is eager to know what "20% of the Kindergarten teacher" entails.

Melinda Parker spoke concerning the reduction in the librarian's time and how that will affect the library program.

Cindy Neff voiced several concerns: 1) Ms. Shumaker is a Media Specialist, which is a much broader job description than Librarian; 2) Ms. Shumaker oversees NovaNet, which needs to be monitored by a certified person; 3) she serves students and staff K-12 throughout the day; 4) the library is still being paid for via the bond issue; 5) no Board member understands the ramifications of reducing the librarian to 50%--having a librarian makes this school special; 6) she takes care of computers when Mr. Trim is not available and oversees use of and supplies for copy machines; 7) she suggested that all reductions be implemented by 25% rather than one at 50% and the other reductions at 20%; and 8) the Board needs to look at who has student and staff interaction and how that interaction can be preserved.

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

Public Comment (Con't):

Ray Poellet informed the Board that M-Tec and Career Tech start after Labor Day, and dual enrollment starts at KCC when the college year begins. Many of our dual-enrolled students are internet-based.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Joel Yoder, Secretary