

**FAIRVIEW AREA SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**JANUARY 14, 2008**

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The regular meeting of the Fairview Area Schools' Board of Education was held on Monday evening, January 14, 2008 in the High School Media Center.

Board President Beth Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Joel Yoder, Beth Miller, Anne Tompkins, Gene Wysocki, James Yoder, Diana Danhoff, and Chris Neff

ABSENT: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Under **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**, Grievance was added as Item A. and Contract Approval for Support Staff was moved to Item B. Under **IX. NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS**, Superintendent Position was added as Item B. and a possible Item C. Paraprofessional Position was added. 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: December 10, 2007 Regular Meeting and January 9, 2008 Work 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 \$122,040.46, bills to be ratified of \$55,973.77, and bills to be paid of \$40,883.21, totaling \$218,897.44
- C. Administrative written reports

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**IV. Public Comment**

Debbie Gusler presented a letter in which she and her husband, John Gusler, stated their concerns about the present attendance policy. Mr. and Mrs. Gusler feel that implementation of the attendance policy implies that parents' decisions for their children are not as important or hold as much value as the schools' decisions. There is confusion about which students are affected by the policy and the majority of the teachers fail to keep an accurate record of students' attendance. She also presented a number of signatures of community members who feel the new attendance policy is unfair to the student if he/she has completed all of the required work.

**IV. Public Comment (Con't.)**

Each Board member and Mr. Poellet will receive copies of the concerns. The matter will be lodged with the Policy Committee and Board members' questions should be directed to committee members. Mrs. Gusler will receive a personal reply when the matter is considered and resolved.

**V. Curriculum Spotlight**

Mrs. Sonja Handrich reported on the Senior Exit Interviews, the first round of which were conducted on January 8, 2008. Fourteen students and six interviewers participated. Fairview Area Schools' total teamwork was cited in the positive feedback and the great benefit that students receive from the interviews. Board members will receive the Senior Exit Interview compilation when it is completed.

**VI. Administrative Reports**

January is Board Appreciation Month and Mr. Nelson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each member and thanked them for their service to the students and the school.

Mr. Poellet was asked to address the following items of his report:

No. 1: Sick days and snow days for the guidance counselor if sharing occurs with Atlanta.

**Answer: These items need to be clarified and how the arrangement will work i.e. both schools have the same needs at the same time (testing, etc.) This is the first opportunity we have had to share services.**

No. 2: The Technology Plan presented by C.O.O.R. ISD. **Answer: He has some questions about the plan and is not sure that we will be better off with the new plan; a person who is here on a daily basis is utilized much more for many facets of technology. We have already implemented sharing services by contracting with Community Caring for Mr. Trim's services.**

No. 3: C.O.O.R. will work with a pilot professional development in the use of the technology available throughout the area for teachers to use in the classroom. **Answer: This gives us an opportunity to increase students' achievements.**

No. 5: Six-period day for 2008-2009. **Answer: It is critical to teach curricular subjects so students meet high school requirements and receive a diploma.** Mr. Wysocki stated that it is important to plan for implementation of a six-period day.

No. 7: ISD-wide school calendar. **Answer: We have input for a five-year calendar, with a common start date of school, Christmas Break, and Spring Break.**

Tammy Garber, from West Michigan Janitorial Company, was present and answered Board members' questions. She meets monthly with Mr. Nelson and Jerry Knepp.

Mr. Wysocki recommended more personal involvement and Mr. Joel Yoder stated that merely reporting problems does not solve them; an action plan needs to be developed. The supervisor needs to do his job and make sure that the job is completed satisfactorily. The custodial service needs to replace any employees who are not performing as required.

Mr. Nelson stated that there is a degree of perceptual difference as to how a job should be and is completed. Mr. Neff asked Ms Garber how cleaning is evaluated; periodics are in place that the company could and would like to follow.

**VII. Board Committee Minutes**

The Joint Issues Study committee met on January 3, 2008 and minutes were included.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS****A. Grievance**

We currently have a grievance scheduled for MERC mediation. In addition, we have a grievance pending on the same matter. The template presented would move us in the direction of addressing issues on both sides. MERC mediation would provide an impartial person to seek an acceptable plan and the Board would make the final decision.

The template seeks to provide resolution to a grievance without the grievance running its course via MERC and mediation; the compromise does not follow steps outlined in the contract. Interpretation of the contract needs to be resolved and language needs to be defined. Additional paraprofessional help is needed, but that need should be filled with the best people possible.

Yoder, James/

Miller

That the template for resolution of the employment matter in grievance status be approved and implemented.

Ayes – 4; Nays – 3 (Danhoff, Wysocki, and Joel Yoder) Motion carried.

**B. Contract Approval for Support Staff**

The Support Staff Contract for 2007-2008 was presented for the Board's approval at the December 10, 2007 meeting. A 3-3 tie resulted; therefore, the matter was brought back to the Board table for a vote when all seven Board members were present. With a tie vote, the matter cannot go forward because there was not a majority decision, but it was not defeated, either.

Neff/Yoder, James That the School Related Personnel contract for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, as ratified by the union, be approved as presented.

Ayes 4; Nays – 3 (Danhoff, Wysocki, and Joel Yoder) Motion carried.

**C. Technology Services**

Input was received at the January 9, 2008 Board Work Session from Mr. Mark Trim and Mr. Poellet about their visit to view Saginaw ISD's technology plan and implementation. C.O.O.R. ISD is possibly bringing this item in February for the Board's decision.

**D. Sharing Guidance Services with Atlanta Community Schools**

Discussion of the matter took these directions: Fairview Area Schools does not want to become a contract employer. Any shared services should mutually benefit both schools. We need to address our needs rather than another school's. This is the first sharing opportunity with another school that has been presented and the guidance counselor position is scheduled to be reduced in the 2009-2010 outline. We need to be proactive and take advantage of opportunities when they arise. The remainder of 2007-2008 was to be "test period" of sharing the counselor's time with Atlanta; sharing services does not have to continue in 2008-2009 if the Board decides it is not to our benefit.

Tompkins/Yoder, James That we contract with Atlanta Community Schools to permit them to use the services of Mr. Rick Handrich for one (1) day per week for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The matter is to be revisited in May 2008 for budget purposes of the 2008-09 school year.

Ayes – 3; Nays – 4 (Danhoff, Wysocki, James Yoder, Joel Yoder)  
Motion failed.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS (Con't.)****E. Sinking Fund Millage Resolution**

At the December 10, 2007 Board meeting, the Board voted to seek renewal of a 1 mill Sinking Fund tax levy and place the matter before the voters in the May 2008 election. A Resolution Setting Matters to be Voted Upon, which included the proposed ballot language, was offered for adoption.

Neff/Yoder, James That the Resolution Setting Matters to be Voted Upon be adopted as presented.

Ayes - 7; Nays - 0

Motion carried.

A copy of the resolution shall be part of the permanent record of minutes.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS—ACTION ITEMS****A. American Red Cross Use of Facilities**

The American Red Cross requested use of school facilities as a temporary shelter if an emergency occurred in our community. A Shelter Agreement was available for Board action. A concern was raised and answered about our consent being local—it is.

Neff/Danhoff That the Board approve the use of school facilities by the American Red Cross at times of community emergency and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign the Shelter Agreement.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**B. Superintendent Position**

This item was part of the discussion at the Board Work Session and was presented for Board action. Discussion of the matter was taken up after the president presented a possible resolution.

At 8:58 p.m., Gene Wysocki stated that he resigned his position as a Board member and left the meeting.

Tompkins/Yoder, That the position of Superintendent for the 2008-2009 school year be reduced by \$45,000 as outlined in the 3-5 Year Plan and that a sub-committee of Board members be appointed to review and bring possible options of reduction/redesign for Board consideration at the regular February Board meeting.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

President Beth Miller named a sub-committee to consider the Superintendent Position: Diana Danhoff, Anne Tompkins, and James Yoder.

**C. Paraprofessional Position**

The template for resolving the grievance referenced in **VIII. OLD BUSINESS, Item A** includes the Union condition of adding a paraprofessional position; it should not be less than 5/7ths. With the Board's approval of the template for resolution of the employment matter in grievance status, a paraprofessional position required Board approval.

Neff/Tompkins That a paraprofessional position be approved, for not less than 5/7ths of a position, with the duties to be outlined by administration

Ayes – 4; Nays – 2 (Danhoff, Joel Yoder)

Motion carried.

**X. NEW BUSINESS—DISCUSSION ITEMS AND DATES****A. FFT/FFSRP Letter**

Board members received a copy of the letter submitted by the FFT/FFSRP. It was noted as "received."

**B. Standing Committee Meeting Dates**

|    |              |                  |           |                                     |
|----|--------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Policy       | January 30, 2008 | 7:00 p.m. |                                     |
| 2. | Finance      | February 5, 2008 | 7:00 p.m. | Budget amendments<br>2008-09 Budget |
|    |              | March 4, 2008    | 7:00 p.m. |                                     |
| 3. | Building     | January 31, 2008 | 7:00 p.m. |                                     |
| 4. | Negotiations | To be set        |           |                                     |
| 5. | Joint Study* | January 24, 2008 | 6:00 p.m. | Mio AuSable Schools                 |

\*Gene Wysocki was part of this committee; with his resignation, Beth Miller will be the second Board member and Chris Neff will attend, if needed.

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

Board Comments: Diana Danhoff expressed concern about delivery trucks parking in front of the school while parents are dropping off students. **Mr. Nelson will address the concern.** She also thanked Middle School teachers for the good job they are doing this year.

Communications: ABC's for Parents: Schedule of the upcoming ABC's for Parents winter programs and the Parents Family Newsletter.

Public Comment: None

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

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Chris Neff, Secretary