

**FAIRVIEW AREA SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 19, 2016**

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A special meeting of the Fairview Area Schools' Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, April 19, 2016 in the elementary school media center.

**I. Call to Order – Roll Call – Welcome**

Board President Beth Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Jon Ford, Janice Handrich, Beth Miller, Merianne Tappan, Anne Tompkins, Herb Trader (6:35 p.m.) and Diana Danhoff (7:10 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** None

**II. Approval of Agenda - The Agenda was approved by Board consensus**

**III. Public Comment**

Cindy Neff would like to see the district hold a memorial service for Mr. Ricketson on Thursday afternoon with Pastor Price and Pastor Gascho in order to give the students an opportunity for closure.

Jim Gendernalik from Mio Schools relays condolences on behalf of Mio Schools and the Superintendents from the surrounding districts.

Chris Neff urges the Board not to make any decisions in haste. The district has had Interim Superintendents before and the Board should explore all options.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION**

**A. Pro-tempore Superintendent**

After the sudden passing of Superintendent Robert Ricketson, the administrative team has sought legal council and makes the following recommendation:

Tompkins/Trader      Due to the death of Superintendent Robert Ricketson, that Amy Clouse be appointed Pro-tempore Superintendent/K-12 Principal.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**B. Day off for Funeral Service**

The funeral service for Superintendent Ricketson will be held Friday, April 22, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in Grand Rapids. The administrative team makes the following recommendation:

Tompkins/Trader      That district classes be canceled for Friday, April 22, 2016 to allow staff and students to attend the funeral service of Superintendent Robert Ricketson.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**V. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION****A. Interim Administration and Related Items**

The board was asked to consider the possibility of bringing in an interim. Three people have come forward to offer their services, including Bill Grusecki, Scott Crosby, and Lee Sandy, who had previously worked as interim Superintendent for Fairview in the past. All are willing to work in a part-time capacity.

The committee meetings that were previously scheduled will continue as planned. The signing for the Early Middle College Program has been postponed until next Wednesday.

The Board is in agreement with having a memorial service locally for staff, students, and the community. Anne Tompkins agreed to help with planning as well as Jon Ford.

**VI. Closing Board Comments and Public Comments****Closing Board Comments:**

The board continued to discuss options for hiring an interim and posting for a permanent Superintendent. Each Board member was asked to share his/her opinion. Rick Handrich and Amy Clouse also expressed their opinions and concerns. A common idea among each was that the district needs to look at hiring someone with experience considering everything that is happening at the district at the current moment and into the near future.

The Board agreed that a work session will be needed in the very near future so decisions can be made at the May Board meeting.

**Closing Public Comments:**

Lynn Layman urged the Board not to make a hasty band-aid fix to the situation. We appreciate the work Rick and Amy are doing but so much is already being asked of them that an interim may be better. The next decision by the Board is very important.

Brent King expressed a concern that it may be too late in the season to hire a permanent replacement. A lot is up in the air and the board may forfeit an opportunity to hire an interim if they concentrate on hiring a permanent replacement first and decide later to hire an interim which then may not be available.

Cindy Neff indicated that the district had a previous positive experience with Lee Sandy. He was a good fit for the district and worked well with the staff. It would be a positive option for the district to hire an interim to help with the permanent transition.

Marc Winton concurred with Anne Tompkins that the board should post now for a permanent replacement. In answer to his question on how Amy's role as teacher would change, a plan is already in place. Rene Nutt will replace Amy in the classroom and a long-term sub has been hired for Ms. Nutt until the end of the year. Amy will still oversee teaching and do lesson plans. Sonja Handrich will also be available on a volunteer basis to help with administrative duties as needed.

**VI. Closing Board Comments and Public Comments, (Con't.)**

Closing Board Comments (Con't.):

Chris Neff agreed that work sessions are a good thing as they are less stressful and more conversational. Mr. Neff also thanked Mrs. Miller for her time and dedication to the district over the years.

A work session was scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the residence of Anne Tompkins.

*Mrs. Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

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Diana Danhoff, Board Secretary