

**LEARN                  BUILD                  LEAD**

Fremont Joint School District No. 215  
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2020  
Via Zoom/Livestream Facebook

Attending:        Bonnie Moon-Board Chair  
                      Jon Bailey-Vice Chair  
                      Tia Cherry-Trustee  
                      Julianne Hill-Trustee  
                      Byron Stutzman-Superintendent  
                      Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Bonnie Moon called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Trustee Bonnie Moon offered a prayer.

Trustee Tia Cherry motioned to move from our bills in the action item consent agenda from page 9 bills \$47,500 to Jensen Land and move to Action Item #2 to go with snow removal. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. All "ayes", motion carried.

Chair Bonnie Moon said she just wanted to disclose that we were looking at \$47,500 as part of Action Item #2 The Purchase of Snow Removal Equipment because they go together, so I didn't really want to approve it as part of consent agenda.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve the agenda with as amendment. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Jon Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no patron input.

Learn-Build-Lead: Chair Bonnie Moon said the last few months I've had a lot of input from people in person or through email and I appreciate the activity that is going on. I do want to say in the last two months I have been told to be a leader, don't let the parents who want no masks or quarantine to bully you around, and I've actually been told by another patron to be a leader and don't make our kids wear masks and don't take away our freedom. There are a lot of voices, and I do appreciate them.

I know that these times could divide us if we let them, we have different experiences, we're going to have different opinions, let's celebrate that we live in a country where we can express our voices. We need to hear those different voices and respect them and learn from others, then when a decision is made, we need to move forward and do what we can to continue to support our children's education and their dreams. Tonight, on the agenda I can see that the school board is going to need to listen how the Governor's order affects our COVID Protocol. We're going to hear our administrators give their counsel and feedback. The board invited a parent team, one member from each zone to collaborate and understand our current protocol, and they have since worked together with our Superintendent to send

out a survey, and they've had some discussions and have talked to our leadership team and Julianne Hill will be finalizing their findings later in this meeting and we will be making decisions based on this information. But most of all, doing what we think is best in educating our students and keeping them safe.

Trustee Jon Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

#### Action Items:

Amended Policies: Superintendent Stutzman recommended to approve the amendments to Policies 3010, 3010PA1, these deal with open enrollment, 3085P, 3085F procedure and form dealing with sexual harassment as defined in Title IX, 3285, 3290, 4120, 4120F, updates that include language to Title IX policy that you adopted last month and the procedures with that, 4600 updates cross reference to the new Title IX Policy and Procedure, 4600P corrects a minor typo, 5240, 5250, 5275, 5805, 5805P this adds the new Title IX regulations mutually apply to students and staff of the District or School, 8605 this update provides a timeline for the destruction of any recordings of online or distance instruction that might be made by a district or school.

Trustee Tia Cherry motion to approve the amended policies 3010, 3010PA1, 3085P, 3085F, 3295, 3290, 4120, 4120F, 4600, 4600P, 5240, 5250, 5275, 5805, 5805P, 8605. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. All "ayes", motion carried.

Purchase of Snow Removal Equipment: Superintendent Stutzman said we were in a bit of a quandary up north when our snow removal company told us they weren't going to plow for us anymore and Tyler started looking for another company. Prices weren't anywhere we wanted to go and would have cost us a tremendous amount of money. We did get the company that moves snow down on the south end for us to look at it up there. He didn't have anything in place quite yet, but he said he could do it. Tyler found this tractor and I briefed you in our last board meeting in my Superintendent's report. I sent you an email letting you know this is the direction that we needed to go, and that I was going to move ahead with the purchase even though it was over my limit because we needed to get it in place. So that is why we have the bill in the payments to Jensen Land and now I'm bringing it to you for approval. The bill is for only half of that tractor, snowblower and loader, and then also we are purchasing a blade that goes on the front of that. The blade was actually under the limit of the amount that I'm allowed to spend. It was \$14,500.

Trustee Tia Cherry said she saw them out pushing snow and thought it was great, but I was glad we brought it here so we could approve it appropriately.

Chair Bonnie Moon said at our last meeting you did mention a need for it, but it wasn't an action item. Is this just for north and how long it will take to pay for itself?

Superintendent Stutzman said it will pay for itself in approximately 10 years, but Tyler, Jason, and I have talked, and it will also give us a piece of equipment to use all year long. It's not something we will just utilize during the winter.

Trustee Jon Bailey made a motion to approve the purchase of the snow removal equipment, tractor, loader, snow blower and blade. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. Three "ayes", one "nay", motion carried.

Chair Bonnie Moon said the total purchase was \$97,500. She said the one question she had was when we do a purchase over \$15,000, we need board approval unless we have some kind of emergency. We may need to put some kind of a clause about an emergency, and it did snow, but I would like to see us approve things before we buy them. If it is an emergency, we have called a few emergency meetings. I just want to make sure we are on the up and up and we disclose everything, so the public knows what's going on.

Superintendent Stutzman said, "I needed to make a decision before this meeting and I told you in the email I sent you that we could hold an emergency meeting, but if you understood what I was doing, and no one was against what I was doing, then I would move forward and get it done and then you could make the approval at this board meeting."

Chairman Bonnie Boon said I think in that it was a learning experience for all of us, and in the future, we could call for an emergency meeting. I just want to make sure we're good with open meeting law. Because you don't want to start a daisy chain in an email, so if you needed it, you would push for an emergency meeting. Next time let's do that if you need it right away.

Trustee Jon Bailey said he just wanted to say I thank you for being proactive Byron.

COVID Protocol: Trustee Julianne Hill thanked a group of concerned patrons that came to our last meeting. They suggested we put together a parent advisory committee to get some input before we act as a board. I personally thought it was a really good thing and Bonnie asked me if I would be the facilitator and each of the board members chose a parent from their zone. From Julianne's zone DaDree Vining, Shawn's zone Brad Orme, Jon's zone Danny Draper, Bonnie's zone Brittany Chapple and Tia's zone Michelle Smith. All five were very pleasant to work with and came with a lot of ideas and a lot of discussion, and thanks to those that were willing to serve on that committee.

She said when we got together, we emphasized we were there to listen so we could understand each other and where we were coming from. Our main goal as a group was to come to some common ground with the COVID Protocol for the school. We all know we have ideas, and some are one direction, and others are another direction, but there needs to be common ground so we can move ahead. We took 6 areas and talked about what common ground we can establish. Our committee came up with survey questions for staff, students, and patrons. Trustee Julianne Hill said teacher's response was a total of 156, Students 293 (high school students) and Patrons 602.

The survey questions and results were shared, and Trustee Hill gave an update on a meeting with EIPH. She said the number one priority is to keep the schools open and keep children participating in as many extra-curricular activities as possible.

Superintendent Stutzman said he recommends that the Fremont School District COVID 19 Protocol, that we leave as is. I think we are where we should be. I've spent the last three days researching and talking with our legal counsel, and I've shared that information with you, and I hope you've had time to read it. The Governor's order that is in place overrides school board authority. We must follow it, it's an order, it has the weight of the law, according to our legal counsel.

Superintendent Stutzman said we had a Region 6 Superintendent's meeting with Geri Rackhow and James Corbett from EIPH. All of the Superintendent's would like for the governor to change the order so two parents can go to the extra-curricular activities. Currently the law is only 10 can attend extra-curricular activities.

Trustee Tia Cherry said she really appreciates everything Julianne did and felt that the parents that talked to her said they really appreciate you. To create a committee like that, and to do a survey like that and then not listen is a little disheartening. I think we would lose trust in our parent committee right off the bat if we didn't listen, although I do understand that we are in a different situation than we were then. The Governor has made it very, very clear that we need to stay in school and doesn't want schools to close no matter what.

There was discussion and clarification that the current protocol states students and staff with close contact will be required to quarantine for 5 calendar days and wear masks for an additional 5 calendar days.

Trustee Jon Bailey moved that as it pertains to Fremont County Joint School District COVID Protocols that we leave them as they are. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. Three "ayes", one "nay", motion carried.

Trustee Tia Cherry said the only part of the protocol that she has a problem with, is quarantining healthy students who have been in close contact. She said that she has spent the last two days, contacting representatives, governors, and fight for my position that I was elected to. I feel that we need to listen to our people. How I choose to vote tonight are from personal emails, texts and calls that I've received based on our COVID Protocol and listening to people.

Trustee Jon Bailey said his position is to leave things as they are is primarily because we have a responsibility to govern and it's our responsibility to listen to all the voices. We've already moved significantly past where EIPH wants us to be. I don't know that we can continue to bend all the way to not having some protocols in place. That's why I feel strongly that what we have right now is good.

Chair Bonnie Moon said the movement for the vote was to keep the protocol where it is, which really was a compromise. But the thing I really want to be clear about is, next week when people go to the gym to their game, are we saying that we are only going to let 10 people in? So, there's nothing we can do to change it?

Trustee Jon Bailey said that is the current order by the Governor. It's not even in our hands, the Governor has already said that it's not an option by rule of law. We could disobey, but we could also get a misdemeanor slapped on your hands. No administrator, or school board member wants to sign up for that. So, we follow the order and try to petition to get it changed, like a good democracy.

Trustee Tia Cherry said we failed our leaders when we didn't make that announcement yesterday, we knew it and they had to tell parents one by one when they came to the game and parents thought it was just them. That's why we need to better communicators and we should have gotten that order out on Facebook, because it has nothing to do with our COVID Protocol. We need to be better communicators all the way around.

Trustee Julianne Hill said she knows the Government is very concerned about what the schools and parents are feeling. The next proceeding that they're going to have is going to address these concerns. They are getting hundreds of calls from parents who feel the very same way. We are going to do our very best for what's for students, keep them in school and keep them safe.

Discussion Items:

Attendance Policy: Superintendent Stutzman said at our Leadership Team meeting we discussed the attendance policy and whether or not we needed to change it. Building Principals want it to stay the same but asked that you give them the leeway to work with each parent and student individually. Some are taking advantage of the COVID issue, but for the most part kids want to be in school and are attending schools when they can. We may want to bring that back to the board for changes, but right now where we're in full session we want to move ahead with what we are doing.

Chairman Moon said she just wants to clarify, "If my daughter gets sent home because she was in close contact, she'll be home five days and that five days she won't be held accountable for that if she misses some more"?

Principal Larry Bennett said we will look at each situation individually and if kids were sent home on a quarantine, we certainly wouldn't penalize them for that, but we would expect them to make an attempt to do the work.

Principal Evan Ricks said he was on a Zoom meeting with the association of Elementary Principals in the state and we are very fortunate here where we are at right now because many of the districts are looking at closing down right now, until the first of January. A lot of the districts, the high school kids are not going to school, but some of the elementary are. Even they are talking about going to hybrid models right now. I will tell you right now the stress rate on the teachers and administrators in the State of Idaho is extremely high. I appreciate what you do and the decisions we have to make and hopefully we can stand up to them.

Idaho School Board Annual Convention: Chair Bonnie Moon and Trustee Julianne Hill reported on the virtual ISBA Convention.

Continued Discussion on Facilities need toward the direction of the District:

Superintendent Stutzman said I forwarded Aaron Johnson's email presentation they were going to do for us that talked about the benefits of the good and bad of a project manager vs an architect.

Trustee Jon Bailey talked about research he has done and one of the things that he would recommend is the value of counsel that a commercial general contractor, like Headwaters or Bateman Hall could bring. I think it would be good for the board members to hear from them or other local contractors that would like to come. He said he's not interested in just kicking the can down the road and he thinks there is a need for us to have conversations about the needs of the district. We need to address the facilities and how to improve the need for gym space; I hear that all of the time. Once we get the feasibility studies done and we do a facilities assessment, then we start to bring all of the information that we're gathering into play.

Trustee Julianne Hill said one of the workshops she attended at the ISBA Conference was on financing and refunding bonds, and I think we need to look at this great window that is open for us. Let's get this moving and the window is good.

Chairman Bonnie Moon we had this discussion at a meeting last summer and Julianne you said let's make sure we have our vision in place and have information together so when we go to talk facilities, we understand what our needs are. We are going to ask our patrons to support this and we really want to make sure we really understand the needs. When we look at the feasibility studies, we have one more coming up, but we are looking at bringing in and partnering with programs that will give our students opportunities to have technical degrees even certificates when they leave our high school. We need to

take advantage of our bonds paying off and the low interest rates and get moving on this. Now is the opportune time.

Trustee Jon Bailey said once COVID starts to go away, the financial markets are going to shift, once it picks back up, we may see rates go up. If we do our homework and have things figured out, we could capitalize on that and save millions of dollars for our patrons.

Superintendent Stutzman said he has touched base with Piper Jaffrey and Zions Bank, and have asked them to put together a zoom presentation for us for next month and tell us at where we are financially. Our bonds will be paid off in 2023 and if we're going to do something, now would be a perfect time to incur another bond.

Trustee Tia Cherry said I feel like we need to have a work meeting, where we really get the needs and discuss before we even think about an action item. I know this puts us back two months if we did a work meeting and then the next month do an action item. I feel like when we are talking about taxpayer's money, we really do need to dive into what we need. I really enjoyed the feasibility studies, but we need to discuss what programs would really work for us and which ones really serve our students. We need to take advantage but take advantage with full knowledge.

Chair Bonnie Moon said we will have our regular board meeting and a work meeting once a month. We need to get on a different schedule then we're on right now, we're on the slow track and have been sidetracked a lot with COVID. I'd really like to get moving on this vision.

Trustee Julianne Hill lets have an open meeting to the public, with some ideas to present. Let's stack meetings together, to do a dream presentation. Let's get moving. What are our needs, has that already been determined?

There was discussion on how to move forward with work and community meetings and use information from the feasibility studies and possibly doing another feasibility study.

It was determined to have a work meeting before the December regular board meeting.

Superintendent Stutzman said he would like to focus on the career technical education end of it. We have great career technical education staff and some great programs already. The facilities they are in aren't all that great at both north and south, and they could use more space. If you have a separate CTE school, you get more funding for that type of school due to the programs.

Superintendent Evaluation: Chair Bonnie Moon said that Superintendent Stutzman did his self-evaluation, and we will go into executive session to continue this process. The evaluation is an improvement process for him and us and the entire district. She said she would forward the ISBA Superintendent's evaluation process. Last year we had Dr. Heather Williams come in and help us do a 360 evaluation, we did some surveys and assessments on our own and with Byron. This year we have 6 standards that we're looking at.

Superintendent's Report:

-Crib to Kindergarten grant: We are ending the committee's efforts to figure out how to put together a preschool for all children, and I just want to thank DelRay Davenport for his role in this work. There will be a future round of grants, and the committee is hoping those funds will be available to fund a preschool program.

-Blackfoot Communication is purchasing hardware so that we can deliver Idaho State University classes online in both NFHS and SFHS. In talking with Holly Kartchner from the College of Arts and Letters of ISU who facilitates these connections, Blackfoot Communications donated the funds to us, and ISU's technology department will install it during the Christmas break so that we can have our students taking classes this spring. I am hoping our counselors can recruit a few students to take classes this way. Corey Packer was the lead from Blackfoot Communications, so kudos to him for helping get the funds for our schools' connections with ISU.

#### Executive Session:

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to go into executive session per Employee Evaluation & Complaints I.C. 74-206(1) (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public-school student. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. Roll call vote Bonnie Moon "yes", Julianne Hill "yes", Jon Bailey "yes", Tia Cherry "yes".

Entered Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. All "ayes", motion carried.

Came out of Executive Session at 10:22 p.m.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.