

**LEARN                  BUILD                  LEAD**

Fremont Joint School District No. 215  
Regular School Board Meeting Work Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2020  
South Fremont High School Commons 3:30 p.m.

Attending:        Bonnie Moon-Board Chair  
                      Jon Bailey-Vice Chair-Arrived at 3:50 p.m.  
                      Shawn Dye-Arrived at 3:48 p.m.  
                      Tia Cherry-Trustee  
                      Julianne Hill-Trustee  
                      Byron Stutzman-Superintendent  
                      Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Bonnie Moon called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

Work Session:

School Opening-Superintendent Stutzman introduced the board to the Fremont County School District #215 Operational COVID-19 Protocol, with a caveat for the leadership team to make changes if necessary, without board approval, so it can remain nimble and fluid. We are learning more each day about COVID-19. Currently we have low numbers in our county.

Trustee Julianne Hill said she contacted District 7 Health before the meeting and we currently have 15 cases in Fremont County, 13 confirmed and 2 probable.

Superintendent Stutzman said it's important to have supplies for staff and teachers to protect themselves as they choose, and how we need to operate for our possibly at-risk staff. Safety is the key and we need to work diligently to negate the spread of COVID, and the easiest way to keep it from spreading, is masks. We need to make it clear to staff and students that the best way to slow the spread is to wear masks if you can't maintain six feet apart. We need to educate parents, patrons and students to do everything they can to not spread the virus. I would encourage us to tactfully make the argument why it's important to care about one another; this is not a political issue, and it's the safe thing to do.

Superintendent Stutzman explained FCSD #215 Operational COVID Protocol. Green level is basically open as is, and I'm hoping this is the way we can start. Yellow level is light community spread, it ramps up what we do and still try to keep our students socially distanced. It allows students to stay at home and learn on-line. Face coverings for students are recommended. We don't have enough supplies for students, so it would be up to parents to purchase. Orange level is modifying the schedule. Put together A and B day; one group would go Monday, Wednesday and the other Tuesday and Thursday, with Friday morning for additional instruction.

Trustee Julianne Hill suggested if we move to orange level, that we do A, B schedule geographically instead of by name to save on transportation costs.

Trustee Jon Bailey asked if this protocol was taken out of the state framework. Superintendent Stutzman said this is similar. One of the things it does say, it's a guidance document and it does not have state statute.

Trustee Julianne Hill said she watched Taking Crisis to Calm webinar and 25-30% of Idahoans are electing not to send their students to school. It may give us a few less in the classrooms if they choose not to go.

Trustee Tia Cherry said she has surveyed moms in Ashton, and most of those she has talked to have looked at home school or kids dropping out if we don't start school as normal.

Superintendent Stutzman said that's one of the reasons we are adopting Canvas, so we can turn teachers loose on it as soon as possible and provide both online and in person education.

Principal Dave Marotz said we are getting Canvas set up with Powerschool, and as soon as its ready to go we will roll it out as quickly as we are able to. The goal is to have it ready to go by the time school starts. We should have it set up with teacher access the first part of August, which will give teachers lead time. He said teachers can record lectures and presentations and post in Canvas for those students who aren't in the classroom. We can do a blended classroom that way, we still must look at elementary. It's a good thing we started using high reliability school training. This is an opportunity for us to start transitioning to using online technology the best we can.

Trustee Julianne Hill asked the educators at the meeting how they felt about Canvas.

Carissa Phelps said she likes the idea that it's uniform across the district. Her concern was if they would be doing online, or in person, or both. How does that look? It's a lot of work to throw on to teachers. Her concern with social distancing is not doing as much group work. Having the student in front of her for the best impact and being able to see their reaction if they truly understand what I'm telling them.

Trustee Julianne Hill said we have the responsibility to educate our patrons. I think that is going to be key to restoring confidence in the system, but we have to keep their safety as well. She asked if we could have community meetings. I think everyone out there is wondering what the board is going to do. We need to make sure learning is taking place and as safely as possible.

Principal David Martoz said it's a good thing we started using high reliability schools training. This is an opportunity for us to start transitioning to using online technology the best we can.

Superintendent Stutzman said we have great staff who were willing to jump in like they did. We need to consider the social, emotional well-being of our staff and make sure we are supporting that. We need to make sure they aren't over worked and need to shut down and take time for themselves.

Superintendent Stutzman said we did get an additional \$25,000 for CARES to purchase new chromebooks so they go where they need to go.

Trustee Julianne Hill said we know all homes don't have the ability to connect to the internet.

Tech Director Tracy Smith said the Idaho Business for Education is an advocate for businesses to come up with hotspots and that is the desire of all tech people throughout the state.

Superintendent Stutzman said teachers will have to identify the kids in the districts who don't have a device or support at home. Do we need to bring the students in the school to do distance learning? We'll have to figure out this out and work through it. Tracy Smith said we have built a firewall away from our vital data, so students can access.

Chair Bonnie Moon said it sounds like we're full board in school this fall, and we need to educate parents and students, but be ready with Canvas if we can't go face to face.

Superintendent Stutzman said the Continuous Improvement Plan is what we submit to our State Board of Education, and I would love your input. How do we go forward and what do we do? I want everyone to be part of the plan, put it together in a good document that meets the requirements of the state and gives a vision of where to go. Our document does meet the requirements for the state. I know where I would like to take the district, but I want everyone in this room to have the same goal. Good, bad, or ugly, COVID is forcing us to get to mastery learning, which is the last stage of High Reliability Schools.

Superintendent Stutzman said we did receive a grant for \$70,000 for the early childhood program. Birth to three years with current focus on pre-school and would like to bring birth to Kindergarten program in our district. I've asked DelRay Davenport to work on it and put it all together. He will create a team to really move forward. We have until the end of December to spend those funds. We could do a lot for early childhood. What do we want our guiding document to say, we have a great vision/motto, but how do we create high reliability schools and a safe collaborative environment? If it's a safe collaborate environment, we lift each other up in a professional environment. Superintendent Stutzman asked the Leadership Team to report what they have done in their buildings.

There was discussion and comments from building administrators about mastery learning and how grades and credits are aligned with universities which doesn't necessarily match up with mastery learning.

Trustee Tia Cherry asked about the proficiency scales moving to mastery in colleges. The high school level we can do mastery, but still at the end of it all, you still need to establish a letter grade to establish that criteria. It will be a lot of work for our school and different parts of our school and it's not something that we won't be able to do, but it will be a lot of work for our schools and different parts of our schools. She's worried about the level of time and commitment.

Superintendent Stutzman said colleges are wanting letter grades, but they are having that conversation about mastery learning. How do we transition from letter grades to mastery learning? Employers don't care that much about what your gpa is, it is your ability to work, learn, and do your job well. We can graduate kids from high school who have that ability.

Administrators said teachers are very positive and have been learning new strategies. There was discussion about high reliable schools and walk-to-learn, and how the proficiency skills are going to help us to get on the right track. There was concern about the students who don't come to school and those kids who are doing nothing, and how hard it is to focus on two different types of kids; the ones who give it their all and those who don't. They were happy what they had done on book studies, but COVID has put high reliability schools in the backroom and we still need to move forward with it. They said they have to do these stages in order; you cannot go from one to five and skip everything in between. You need to have everyone at stage 3, before you can move forward.

Trustee Julianne Hill said the beauty of the walk-to-learn is you've identified that person to educate the whole child and dealing with the individual child to master that skill.

Superintendent Stutzman said if we have that goal and have that vision, how this should look, we have the vision to get there. High reliability schools give us the framework to get there. I think we need to make sure our staff knows they aren't going to be in trouble for what they think isn't necessary. Staff needs to take care of kids first and the framework is the goal of how this is set up. Work smarter not harder. Because it will be something that everyone will be on board and move at a rapid rate.

Superintendent Stutzman talked about the goals for Fremont School District. He said the plant facility and supplemental levy comes to completion this next school year, and we will need to run it again in March and he will bring a resolution in November or December. 2/3 of the levy is for salaries and benefits and the rest is utilized in other areas. Now isn't the time to increase the levy dollars, but there are some needs at which we need to look. If we are creating pathways, what does that building look like. The current south wall of the shop at south has some structural issues. Water has gotten in between the blocks and it bulges on the inside and the outside. The current Jr. High was built in 1967, and the ag building is a little newer.

At the high school level how do we set up a system that we can tailor education to the needs of kids so they can focus on their career. I think our students do a great job in giving direction and there are a few we could do a better job with; 30% are college bound and what do we do with the other 70%?

There was discussion if we need a new building or are there options for repairs and additions to current structures, and how to accommodate the students from north and south. An auxiliary gym and auditorium are a need. Principal Larry Bennett said we've had a very good working relationship with the LDS church to use their gym, but there is talk that opportunity might come to an end. Chris Tucker said we have the poorest set of bleachers in eastern Idaho.

Trustee Jon Bailey said we did three feasibility studies and I don't know that we included north in that. We need more studies to create career pathways. So, we look at a facility that can accommodate more vo-tech options. I get there's a lot of kids that don't want to go get a college degree; we need to make sure we they have an option to get a high paying job. We need to continue to pursue for the whole district and how do we facilitate the north and south collaborative effort for both locations to use the same facility. Who knows what is going to happen financially in the next few months, and are we going to be able to do a bond for a new school?

Superintendent Stutzman said we kind of hit the skids because of COVID. We need to pass a supplemental and plant facility. We need to shoot for a 10-year levy, patrons passed \$700,000 and we only levied for \$300,000, we should not increase the levy rate to keep the bond levy rate low. at \$2.30 per thousand and we're down to \$2.08 total school levy rate per \$1,000.00 taxable property.

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Resume into regular session from work session at 6:34 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Chairman Bonnie Moon.

Patron Input: D.J. Hatton, senior at NFHS. He understands the district and school board has a difficult decision ahead and his concern was that athletics would get more attention than other school activities when decisions are made with COVID.

Learn Build Lead: Chair Bonnie Moon really appreciates everything the teachers have done, and everything happening in the district. She would like Trustee Jon Bailey to do a 5-10-minute training on communication for the next meeting.

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

Superintendent Stutzman said ISBA requires that the approval of certified contracts need to be approved by the board. He recommended to approve the 2020-21 certified contracts.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve all contracts for 2020-21 school year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman said ISBA have updates to cross references to Policies 2140, 3280, 3295, 3320, 3330, 3500, 3570, 3575, 4160, 8200, 8245. He recommended that we approve those cross references, so we are in compliance with all school board policies.

Trustee Jon Bailey moved to edit policy cross references to Policies 2140, 3280 3295, 3320, 3330, 3500, 3570, 3575, 4160, 8200, 8245. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended to adopt FCSD Operational COVID-19 Protocol, and it does follow the Idaho Back to School Framework for 2020. Since the protocol is not board policy, he would

request the Leadership Team be able to make changes to that protocol if necessary, so we can be nimble and quick in case the need arises.

Trustee Jon Bailey moved to adopt the FCSD #215 Operational COVID Protocol with the caveat that administrators can make changes as needed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shawn Dye. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Trustee Tia Cherry asked for definitions of numbers for green, yellow, orange.

Trustee Julianne Hill said you may have a cluster in one school building, but that doesn't mean you have to shut down the whole district or it could be a classroom. I think it's left up to the district to allow the administrators to take care of that.

Superintendent Stutzman said this document just speaks towards academics and not extra-curricular. Chris Tucker will follow ISHAA guidelines. Chris Tucker said the School Board does need to be aware of what we are going to do for sports, practices, games. He said the ISHAA guidelines say the Superintendent is the one who would cancel activities.

Trustee Shawn Dye asked if we are in a different situation where the bigger schools have more students in their high schools and if they close, will all have to close? Chris Tucker said it will be a case by case basis, they know it's important to get people out doing things.

Trustee Tia Cherry said that so when I leave here, we are in green, and if patrons ask, do I need a mask for my child on the bus?

There was discussion to have a letter to the patrons posted on district Facebook and website. The letter should suggest that families stay in Fremont County two weeks before school starts. Parents will supply their own masks if they want their child to wear one. Masks won't be required on the school bus, but drivers will wear one and take temperatures when the students get on the bus.

#### Discussion Items:

Policy 5270 Committee- Chair Bonnie Moon said the goal is to get the committee together to understand the policy, and does it meet the needs of the district. The committee will bring recommendations to the board for approval. The committee will consist of Trustee Tia Cherry, Principal Larry Bennett, Teacher Karisa Phelps. There was discussion for non-certified patrons from north and south and name suggestions. Rachel Hatton raised her hand to be a patron from north.

#### Superintendent's Report:

Title IX – The Idaho School Board Association is working on model policy on how we should operate. Currently, we go above the requirements, with the new rules just requiring us to have better documentation of any complaint and how we handled it (we have not had a complaint, yet). As for athletics, we need to make sure we are being equal in our expenditures for female sports as we are for male sports so that we don't get ourselves into a complaint possible situation. Currently, we are building a baseball field at NFHS. Baseball is a boy's sport. We will need to upgrade or replace the softball field so that we are equitable in our expenditures in sports even though most of the expenditures for the baseball field has been donated and hasn't cost us a dime, yet.

Trustee Tia Cherry said there have been large donations from the Rex Baum family to put towards the softball field and to name it after their late granddaughter Emily Baum.

Different Funds – Generally, we do not budget expenditures out of the plant facilities or forest funds. In order to utilize those funds, I prefer to have the board approve a transfer from those funds into the general fund and expend from the general fund in the area where the funds are needed. I believe it keeps the board more aware of what is happening with our fund balances, and Hali and I will get those balances to you if you are interested in knowing the current balances. We do use the plant facilities fund to revenue our bus depreciation, and we then make our purchases for buses out of that fund when you as a board approves the purchases.

Recap of School opening discussion – Targeted to open in the Green scenario unless guidance from the Governor, SDE, SBoE, EIPH is different. We will finalize and publish the FCSD #215 Operational COVID-19 Protocol so that all students, parents, patrons, and public are aware of our guiding document. We will continue to utilize our technology to deliver the best education possible given the circumstances.

Trustee Jon Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.