

LEARN BUILD LEAD

Fremont Joint School District No. 215
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020
South Fremont High School 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Bonnie Moon-Board Chair
 Jon Bailey-Vice Chair (via phone)
 Tia Cherry-Trustee
 Julianne Hill-Trustee
 Shawn Dye-Trustee (arrived at 7:21 p.m.)
 Byron Stutzman-Superintendent
 Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Bonnie Moon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Trustee Julianne Hill offered a prayer

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion to action bullet number 8 FSD 215 Operational COVID Protocol. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Julianne Hill moved to accept the September 17, 2020 agenda with the amendment. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

Chair Bonnie Moon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no patron input.

Learn-Build-Lead: Chair Bonnie Moon wanted to thank everyone in the room for their hard work and thank Jon for his Learn Build Learn last month on listening. ISBA has sent conference information and she would like to nominate Hali Mackert for Clerk of the year. She will put together a letter from the board.

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

Alternative Authorization Brenna Bushman: Superintendent Stutzman said Brenna Bushman is a teacher at NFHS. Principal Drex Hathaway said because of the increased numbers in the special needs' classroom, we needed another teacher to carry the load. Brenna is working as a part-time SPED teacher .5 FTE and part-time para 20 hrs., while she is doing her student teaching. She'll be done with student teaching by the end of the semester.

Trustee Julianne Hill moved to approve Brenna Bushman as a Special Ed Teacher and accept the alternative authorization. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman said we need to review Policy 2315, since what is in the policy currently is not what we do. He recommended to strike “daily” from the second sentence, “for the entire school year” from the third sentence, “All PE will be taught by a certified PE teacher” from the fifth sentence, “at least 60 minutes per day”, from the second paragraph first sentence.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve the review of Policy 2315 and accept the changes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All “ayes”, motion carried.

District Continuous Improvement Plan: Superintendent Stutzman said every year we submit a CIP to the State Department of Ed. He hands off the career piece to the Principal’s, so they take care of that and the IRI early literacy piece of it. Basically, it’s the same as what we have done last year. It does require that the board approve it.

Trustee Bonnie Moon asked the Superintendent to explain the 2020-21 combined matrix.

Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to approve the District Continuous Improvement Plan that has been presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended to approve the first reading of new Policy 3085 Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Policy. This is generated because of the new regulations in Title IX. It identifies the Title IX Coordinator, which is the Superintendent and the Special Services Director if there are concerns involving bias.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve first reading of Policy 3085. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended to approve the second reading of policies and procedures 2425 Parental Rights and District Duties, 2540 Selection and Adoption of Curricular Material, 3270P Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks, 3335 Academic Honesty, 4175 Community Relations, 4210F2 Community Use of School Facilities, 4210F3 Facility Use Agreement, 4210P Procedure when we let someone use our facilities, 4225 Community Relations Equipment Use, 5265 Employee Responsibilities Regarding Student Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. Recommended to adopt second reading and adopt as policy.

Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to approve second reading of new policies 2425, 2540, 3335, 4175, 4225, 5265. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended to approve the update to Policy 8120. We had State Department of Ed Transportation here to do a review and we are required to add to the policy, “An employee is required to be at the loading and unloading zones during drop off and pick-up”.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve update to Policy 8120 an employee is required to be at the loading and unloading zones during drop off and pick up. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shawn Dye. All “ayes”, motion carried.

FSD 215 Operational COVID Protocol: Trustee Tia Cherry said she has told her children if teachers ask you to wear a mask be respectful and wear it for the teacher. Tuesday there were changes and suddenly we put children in a position in honoring their parents or teachers. Parents have stated kids are in major distress over this. After talking to Sugar-Salem SD and Madison SD they aren’t doing this, but also the CDC website changes daily, and they couldn’t even say if it was more deadly than the flu. Let’s get back

to teaching and there's a list of parents in the letter from every side of the district asking to let kids be kids.

The board discussed emails they had received from parents concerning masks and quarantine.

Trustee Julianne Hill said she has been doing a lot of homework. EIPH has highly recommended that we wear masks. She said she has called Mr. Corbet with EIPH and what I wanted was resources. I'm a scientist, so I want scientific data. One stable fact is that masks do work. If you are in a sitting with someone who is compromised, then wearing a mask is something you would do. I feel that mask wearing is a way to keep things open. I don't believe any teacher in the building would force someone to wear a mask. With that said, I can go to quarantine. Quarantining is not so black and white as mask wearing. Back in January it was recommend to quarantine for 14 days, but now the CDC says the medium time that most percent will start showing symptoms is 4-6 days. I called EIPH, and Mr. Corbett said 5.1 days is the average when most start showing symptoms after contact. I think of the economy and a parent that is positive and a household to stay home without work. Two weeks of not learning in school that's hard on children going two weeks. Utah had 1000 new cases today. Most kids aren't going to die, but it is a reality the hospitals lose their capacity to handle the spikes as they come and go. There are 52 ICU beds in our district. There are so many angles.

Trustee Tia Cherry said was a social science major and she studied mental health. She said kids are getting PTSD from online learning. They are freaking out because of the situation we put them in last year. We can't contact trace we can't control what is happening. Let's focus on teaching and let the kids live. I know when parents send their kids to school, they have the knowledge their kids can get COVID 19. She feels like we need to represent the patrons that sent the letters. Tuesday, I felt my agency as a parent was taken away.

Trustee Shawn Dye said he really doesn't think that wearing a mask is an issue, you can go to Walmart, grocery store or a movie. It's not about the mask, and if one kid tests positive and we send the whole class home we have an issue. He said I think if you watch CNN we'd all be home, if you watch FOX we would all be out as normal. I appreciate all the effort and have the utmost respect for those that have underlying health issues. We have a handful of parents fighting for it and some fighting against it. We need to come to terms with what is best for kids and they need to be in the classroom. Masks should be a recommendation, but not required.

Trustee Bonnie Moon read the letter from concerned parents. She asked Superintendent Stutzman about contact tracing. He said we've asked teachers to have assigned seats, then if we have a student test positive, we can easily identify who has been in contact with the COVID positive. We are then able to quarantine those students. EIPH recommends 14 days for quarantine. That's where the issue on contract tracing is coming up.

Trustee Tia Cherry said if the CDC calls us for names, are we violating HIPPA? We give out names and then we question students if they had a mask on or not; we are getting iffy here.

Trustee Julianne Hill said it is law that you have to report an infectious disease to the Public Health District. Whoever is doing the testing does the reporting to the hospital. EIPH will ask where they have been and where have they traveled.

Principal Larry Bennet said the parent called and notified him there was a positive. The student had come to school the first three periods. The seating charts determined which students weren't wearing masks and asked them to quarantine

Superintendent Stutzman said the board has the legal right to quarantine students. The thing I worry about most is the liability issue, what would happen if everyone was possibly exposed if kids remained in school. If you are personally, willfully, knowingly negligent, you can be personally liable. I don't want us to go there, now can we relax on the 14 days, I think we could possibly reduce that. One of reasons for quarantining is they have been in direct exposure. It's important we wear a mask, as it does help in the spread. It's important that we need to do what we are doing.

Trustee Jon Bailey said it's interesting to me. I'm trying to understand where these parents are coming from, and why they feel that they need to use an attorney. He understands people are becoming more and more emotional over this. I get it, I don't know that threatening litigation is showing a lot of trust, and that frustrates me. My opinion, I am a proponent of educating. I like the idea of saying if there is an active case and you have been wearing a mask around the student that is positive; you don't need to quarantine. I think that our objective is educate, try to reduce, and do our best. At the end of the day a balance between mental and physical health and all the aspects around this. It's healthy to talk through it and understand other opinions.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said she wanted to hear everyone first. After I got the letter, she called Brad Orme one of the parents on the letter that Trustee Bailey is talking about. People are good and they want to do what's best for their families and kids. He said the tracing is really upsetting to him and asked about assigned seating. He said he didn't get any communication from the school as to the way this was handled.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said what the heck is the big deal. We have the flu come through. Can we control the universe? If I lived by what ifs I wouldn't do a dang thing.

Trustee Tia Cherry discussed the liability for schools that Governor Little signed into law. There's a 99.99% odd that nothing will happen, we are also taking on the responsibility for the kids that quarantine for 14 days.

Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion that FSD will quarantine the one that tests positive and notify the parents of the building. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "nays", motion failed.

Principal Larry Bennett said his obligation is to follow the directive of board, health department and Superintendent. Whatever that is I will do. When this happened, it was not fun in any way shape or form. When I brought the students in, I hoped we could negotiate the length of the time. I called the Superintendent, and he called the health department. My personal opinion doesn't matter, but if we have a positive case and the length of the quarantining is negotiable, I'm willing to lessen.

Superintendent Stutzman said he wants to make sure we have done everything that we can to be in compliant with the health department on the quarantine. I know the state has given us some liability leeway.

There was discussion about contacting parents of the school if there is a positive COVID case, and let the parents decide whether to send their students. Principals also voiced concern about not notifying parents in direct contact with a positive student.

There was discussion about students in direct contact could stay home for seven days or wear a mask for seven days. Those that are symptomatic will need to stay home until symptom free.

Trustee Julianne Hill said this is such a crazy virus there are some asymptomatic, some symptoms, slight symptoms. Some people automatically go to the doctor unless you say please don't test me for COVID. COVID is most likely like the flu. It seems to be so contagious and can cause inflammation down the line and that's where we get ICU beds involved.

Lori Sessions CEO of Grand Peaks spoke and said we have faced COVID since March. People are sick for 4 or 5 days and we have only sent one to the hospital. We've had a lot of positives and a lot of them are not going to the hospital. Close contact is what we tell our staff to protect themselves, 7 ft. longer than 15 minutes. Kids crossing in the hallway won't cause COVID. She said if we have any staff member exposed, they are mandated to 7 days wearing a mask. She said she's more concerned with the mental health at our clinic, anxiety, depression, students at both locations at every single facility. The kids are struggling so bad, missing sports, and school events. We can take precautions and keep the kids in school. Parents need to keep their kids home if they are sick, that needs to be stressed.

Principal Nancy Griffel said her concern in her building there's an average of 40 kids per day gone now.

Principal Dave Marotz asked if the EIPH bears the weight of law. If we knowingly do something that we break the law. Trustee Julianne Hill said she talked to LeRoy Miller and he said it does not bear the weight of the law.

Superintendent Stutzman recommended the Leadership Team meet tomorrow and come up with a recommendation on modifying the protocol. I'm willing to work with that and make sure we aren't hanging ourselves out to dry. He recommended to vote the motion down and allow us tomorrow to come up with a recommendation.

Audit Report: Scott Bond from Rudd and Company presented the audit report.

Trustee Shawn Dye made a motion to approve the audit report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All "ayes", motion carried.

Discussion items:

Facility Needs: Trustee Jon Bailey said it makes sense to continue to prepare and take steps to put us in the best decision when the timing is right, and if we are not prepared it's going to hurt the district and our patrons.

Superintendent Byron Stutzman said his personal opinion is he'd love to build a new high school in the south and add on to north. If we continue our pathways, we the facility needs. From the first week I was hired here I have always heard we need a bigger auditorium and additional gym space. We need to look at and continue to move forward. The bonds will be paid off in 2023 and if we don't want to lose the levy rate. I think we could pass a bond for facilities and keep the bond the same. Something to keep thinking about.

Trustee Julianne Hill asked what about the maintenance? I was taken by surprise by the condition of the bleachers at SFHS, I think those are the original bleachers from when SFJH was built.

Superintendent Byron Stutzman said we continue to work on what we can. The principals have been working on the google doc that principals have shared with maintenance needs.

Trustee Bonnie Moon questioned the timing; I know the interest rates are really low.

Superintendent Stutzman said the question is can we pass a bond to do that. We could set it up that the payments on the bond wouldn't be due until the current bond is paid.

Trustee Jon Bailey said construction costs are still very high. The costs will start to taper. If you can time you bond with the interest rate and building costs, it will be millions less. Work through the process to put our district in the best possible position. We need to identify the facility needs. We may need to bring in some experts that give us counsel. There are companies out there that do that.

Policy 5270 Committee: Trustee Tia Cherry contacted everyone, and they need to get one more on the committee. They will meet the first week back from harvest.

Superintendent's Evaluation: Trustee Bonnie Moon said last year we decided we would do the Superintendent's evaluation the same time as the contract renewal.

Superintendent Stutzman said he will do his self-evaluation and forward it to the board.

Superintendent's Report:

- a. Budget changes – CARES Act/Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds (ESSERF) \$417,117.00-Flowthrough, \$24,968.00-LMS, \$6,455.00-Social Emotional, \$25,00.00-Technology, \$162,450.00 Distance/Blended Learning, and now a new additional revenue of \$99,300,000.00 for Idaho Public K-12 Schools
- b. ISBA Annual Convention scheduled for November 9-12 will be held virtually. Hali can get you registered if you choose to attend.
- c. Spot Inspection result for our transportation department – Kudos for Misty Wocelka and her crew for doing such a great job. One of the findings was

Trustee Shawn Dye made a motion to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.