

LEARN BUILD LEAD

Fremont Joint School District No. 215
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2022
North Fremont High School
Meeting Time-Executive Session 4:00 p.m.
Regular Session 5:00 p.m.

Attending: Jon Bailey-Board Chair
 Tia Cherry-Vice Chair
 Julianne Hill-Trustee (Arrived at 4:10 p.m.)
 JayLee Packer-Trustee
 Coy Crapo-Trustee
 Byron Stutzman-Superintendent
 Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Prayer: A prayer was offered by Trustee Coy Crapo

Approval of Agenda-Action Item

MOTION: Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Enter Executive Session

MOTION: Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to go into executive session. 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 Coy Crapo. All “ayes”, motion carried. Roll Call Vote, JayLee Packer, “aye”, Jon Bailey, “aye”, Tia Cherry, “aye”, Coy Crapo, “aye”.

Went into executive session at 4:07 P.M.

The Board of Trustees met in executive session regarding student discipline. The board held a student hearing and took action accordingly. Such action shall be documented in the student’s education record and is confidential pursuant to the Family Education Right and Privacy Act (FERPA), and other applicable state and federal code and regulation provisions.

Adjourn Executive Session-Action Item

MOTION: Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All “ayes”, motion carried.

Came out of executive session at 4:27 p.m.

Resumed into regular session.

Call the Meeting to Order: Chairman Jon Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Trustee Tia Cherry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patron Input: There was no patron input.

Learn-Build-Lead: Chairman Jon Bailey said in the recent past there’s been a lot of conversation, some criticism, some dialogue. If we could pause and really make sure that we have information before we have a conclusion. When we base our opinion on assumptions, it never ends well for any of us and attempts to get others to follow. My invitation is this, if we can seek to understand, and you have good information and you think we don’t have good information, please come to us. Not as an adversary, but one that has an opinion or information. So, my hope is, if we can learn and seek to understand first, and then seek to be understood, second.

Action Items:

Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION: Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All “ayes”, motion carried.

1-Island Park Charter School Request to Change Charter: Superintendent Stutzman said they would like to change their charter to include pre-school and the 4th and 5th grade. Currently, they have fourteen students. There are still some students that come down the hill, so parents are making a choice at what school to attend. Currently, we have five-fourth graders and four-fifth graders that attend Ashton Elementary School. I would recommend that we allow them to include pre-school and fourth and fifth grade in their charter.

Connie Day the founder and Director of the Island Park Charter School said she really appreciates the support we have had from the district. We would like to really see us working together, and Evan and I have talked a lot about that. We know that these are all our kids, but having the school up there is really a good opportunity for parents to keep their kids close to home. A lot of the parents would really like to have their kids stay in Island Park until they’re ready for middle school, and we hope you will consider that.

Superintendent Stutzman explained to the board how a charter school is financed and said we are the oversight. We approve their charter and now they’re wanting to change that charter, so you have the authority to either deny or make that change.

MOTION: Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to approve Island Park Charter School Request to Change Charter to add the pre-school and fourth and fifth grade. The motion was seconded by Chairman Jon Bailey. All “ayes”, motion carried.

2-Work Release Curriculum NFHS: Superintendent Stutzman said he thinks it’s a great idea and if we monitor students and have oversight, he thinks it’s one of the things we could do to help students further on their career pathways as they go through our schools.

Christine Hollist and Jacob Zarpentine from North Fremont High School presented their work release curriculum and answered questions from the board. This program will be for seniors who are enrolled in a least four courses per semester and must maintain passing grades in all academic subjects. Students must work 5-10 hours per week. Students who enroll in a 2-credit work internship must work at least 10 hours per week and students who enroll in a 1 credit work internship must work at least 5 hours per week. They will miss the last periods of the school day, which they are really required to be here for four periods per day. There was discussion working with South Fremont High School as well.

MOTION: Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to approve the Work Release Curriculum at North Fremont High School. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All “ayes”, motion carried.

3-School Calendar 2022-23: Superintendent Stutzman said you have the Fremont County Joint School District #215 2022-23 calendar draft and it’s my recommendation that you adopt it. Jamie Hymas put together five different calendars, in conjunction with the FEA and building principals who gained a lot of input. This is the recommended calendar that they chose.

There was discussion about adding a day off for Martin Luther King Day, since it was suggested at the listening meeting and email received by board members. There were different options discussed, and it was determined to move the in-service day proposed on April 10th to Martin Luther King Day on January 16th, and increase parent teacher conference to include March 29, which could decrease the hours on March 31. Each school could create their own parent teacher conference schedule.

MOTION: Trustee Tia Cherry made a motion to accept the school calendar for 2022-23 with January 16 becoming a teacher in-service day, April 10 becoming a student contact day, and March 29 becoming a parent teacher conference day. The motion was seconded by Trustee Coy Crapo. All “ayes”, motion carried.

4-Purchase Skid Steer North Fremont and South Fremont: Superintendent Stutzman said he had Tyler and Jason get quotes on Skid steers. John Deere was way out there, and Bobcat and Case came back with similar costs. The Bobcat was \$1,340.24 more than the Case, however both Jason and Tyler said the Bobcat is a better machine, and if you look at the amount of the premier package is an \$11,000 item on the Bobcat the Case doesn’t have. They would like to be able to purchase the Bobcat skid steers at a cost of \$53,340.24. It’s my recommendation that we do that, and we have plenty of funds in the plant facility. We are looking at keeping the old ones, because Jason and Tyler both said they’d like to keep at least one of them. So, we’re not going to work on a trade in basis and put the other one up for auction.

There was continued discussion from the board about purchasing from someone closer than Montana and concerned about the cost to do warranty work or transporting it to Montana and felt they would rather buy local. Superintendent Stutzman said that Bobcat is working to get a dealership back in Idaho Falls. It was determined to have the Superintendent check on the warranty and what the cost would be to travel from Montana.

MOTION: Trustee JayLee Packer made motion to table the purchase of skid steer to next month. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tia Cherry. All “ayes”, motion carried.

5-Policy 3050 Student Attendance Policy: Superintendent Stutzman said this policy was asked to be put on the agenda by a couple of you. It's up for discussion on where you want to take it. With Covid in the mix, how do we want to address that as we move forward?

There was discussion about how to handle COVID absences if the school receives a doctor's note and absences for students who are seeing a counselor for mental health and the concern about those days counting against them. The 10-day absences can be the only leverage a teacher has but think the doctors note should play a role. The administrator's work with students who go over their days and try to work out a plan. The administrator's felt there's only 3% to 7% of the population that try to take advantage of the attendance policy every year.

After discussion, it was determined not to act on Policy 3050.

6-Request for Qualifications: Chairman Bailey said he asked to have this on the agenda because I think it's important that we continue to parallel path through this process, while we're working through some other things. We need to identify the actual qualifications we would like to have in our RFQ for a CMGC, so we can send it to our legal counsel and get their recommendations before we post something.

Superintendent Stutzman said he put together a draft of three different RFQ's, and I left it wide open on all the things that need to be taken care of. As a board I think it's important we make a determination of where we want to go and how you want to take care of it and move forward from there. The draft RFQ along with and RFQ from Preston was sent to the board. A decision would need to be made on how to score the RFQ's in an objective way.

There was discussion and it was determined that Chairman Bailey and Superintendent Stutzman would draft an RFQ and send to the board. A special board meeting would be called to go over the draft RFQ and make edits and approval. There is no financial commitment and no money involved in this process. That process happens after someone has been selected, then it's negotiated what a fair rate to be the consultant, construction manager. The steps to move forward were explained, and the board has a say every step of the way.

MOTION: Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion that we give Mr. Stutzman and Jon Bailey, Chairman of the Board permission to go ahead and put together one RFQ, then send us that finished product, and then we will go forward with any edits and then a vote from the board in approval of that. The motion was seconded by Trustee Coy Crapo. All "ayes", motion carried.

Discussion Items:

1-Summary of Listening Tours: Superintendent Stutzman discussed the summary from Dr. Lisa Sherick on the Listening Meetings.

There was discussion about doing a case study on splitting the district and who would do that. Superintendent Stutzman said it would probably need to be someone from the Department of Education who knows school finance and all the legalities of it. Legal counsel would also be needed in a part of that, and he does see a huge expense. It has to start with the five board members, to go down that pathway. Superintendent Stutzman recommended putting it on the agenda for next month. It has to come back to a vote of the patrons, and I don't see any way the vote of the patrons would even pass. The voting would need to be up to the patrons. There were questions about drawing the line through fall river and what does that look like for the south end and the north end of the district. It was determined to have a patron advisory committee with five from north and five from south a couple of teachers from both ends.

2. Policy 3545 Student Interviews, Policy 4400 Relations with Law Enforcement, Policy 4410 Investigations and Arrests by Police: Superintendent Stutzman wanted this on the agenda to review with the board.

3. Policy 2395 Idaho Digital Learning Academy Classes, Policy 2435 Advanced Opportunities, (Senate Bill 1226): Superintendent Stutzman wanted to review these policies with the board. He said if Senator Thane's bill goes through, we will be changing some of this. Senator Thane's legislation is about creating an education environment for self-directed learners. It makes the school more flexible for a self-directed learner.

Superintendent's Report:

1-Larry Bennett is wanting to change some of his teaching positions around a bit to better facilitate Career Technical Education. With a bit of shifting, he believes he can refill and replace one position with a career tech teacher.

2-Idaho School Board Association's Day on the Hill is February 21 & 22. If you would like to attend, please let Hali and I know so that we can get you signed up and secure a room. It is a great chance to gain information and network with other board members and our elected officials.

3-There is a committee which would like to raise funds to build a fieldhouse/community recreation center on the south end of the district. I am in full support of this group and hope they can secure enough funds to make it happen. Currently, they would like to build it north of SFHS on district property. I have written a letter of support to the committee so that they can show I am in support. Currently, the City of Saint Anthony has moved to support this as well. I believe this should be an action item on our next agenda to fully support the committee.

4-At the listening meetings, there has been some vocalization about splitting the district. I have held 2 small meetings with groups of patrons from the north end of the district and a group of patrons from the south end of the district. Thank you JayLee and Coy for attending one of the meetings and Jon for attending both meetings. Since it is first a board decision, I believe we should have the splitting of the district as an action item at the next board meeting.

5-As I stated in my report to the board last week, I have been researching and reading about Idaho Coalition for Community Schools. If you had time to follow the link, you would see the 4 pillars of community schools. They are Integrated Student Support, Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities, Active Family and Community Engagement, and Collaborative Leadership and Practices. I do know Teresa Hansen, Christina Hollist, and Katie Dodge are interested in working together toward making this happen, and I will keep you apprised of where this goes.

Future Agenda Items:

Softball Field Update
Policies and Procedures Amendments
Splitting the District
Community Fieldhouse
Spring Sports Schedules

Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.