

LEARN BUILD LEAD
Fremont Joint School District No. 215
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2021
North Fremont High School
Meeting Time 5:00 P.M.

Attending: Jon Bailey-Board Chair
 Bonnie Moon-Trustee
 Julianne Hill-Trustee (arrived at 5:08)
 JayLee Packer-Trustee
 Byron Stutzman-Superintendent
 Hali Mackert-Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Jon Bailey offered a prayer.

Chairman Jon Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Superintendent Stutzman said we need to amend the agenda to add executive session at the end of the meeting.

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to amend the agenda to add executive session at the end. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Bonnie Moon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patron Input: Grand Peaks Behavioral Health-Larry Bradley, Lori Sessions, Mindy Jensen. They discussed School Based Behavioral Health Services, and how they would be providing psychotherapy services to the schools. The program would bring school-based therapy to offer outpatient mental health counseling services during school hours for students who are dealing with emotional and behavioral health challenges. In a rural area like ours, access to care can be difficult. We've been developing this over the past year with your Superintendent, Administrators and Counselors, and these providers are our paid providers from Grand Peaks. It's not unique. Other school districts have done it, but none really on this side of the state. This is new. It's a pilot and we're not entirely sure how it's going to roll out, and we want to find all of the little kinks that we can find and fix those before launch before the first day of school.

Chairman Jon Bailey asked how we make it look like we're not favoring Grand Peaks over another provider? If someone needs to see that other provider, do we need to develop the same relationship we have with you, with that other entity?

Larry Bradley said we have a concept of how we're going to provide that, but there's disclosure forms. We've got consent forms that we give to parents, and if there is a level of care that we can't provide, we refer them to other providers. There's upfront disclosure that we're not the only provider in town and we're not in a financial position to compete with other providers.

Principal Larry Bennett said from his perspective this is a tremendous relief because there were several occasions last year when we had a student in crisis, and we would call Behavioral Health for help, and they couldn't take them. So, Fremont County Sheriff's Department has to transport that student to the E.R. at Madison Memorial for an evaluation. So, it's going to be tremendous in those types of situations, those crisis moments, when we have someone on site to step in and pick that up. Because when you go home at night, and you don't know where a kid ended up, cause the last thing you saw was them leaving with law enforcement. This is going to take a tremendous load off of our shoulders, and we couldn't be more thrilled about this.

Chairman Jon Bailey asked if they would plan to be at north so many days and then south?

Lori Sessions said at the beginning, but you have my word you will have a full-time staff at both locations every day. We're willing to work with the community as needs arise and we'll go from there. This would reduce loss of school and bring it to their environment. It runs just like the clinics, and they can apply for those services. We don't want to burden the school with administrative work. Prior to any billing the parents will have a form of consent the acknowledgement. We will help parents differentiate between a school counselor

and our clinical level service, so they can choose if it's something they're willing to pay for. We really educate our parents on what our services are.

Learn Build Lead: Trustee Julianne Hill said Learn Build Lead and right from our very own we're going to learn. Because Bonnie is a great example of learn, build and lead. Learn by asking questions, Bonnie asks lots of questions. She builds because she not only asks the questions, but she listens to the answer and when she listens to the answers that brings her to action. She leads and has been a Jon Bailey for two years and worked hard then and dedicated lots of hours to that. But what the most interesting thing is, Bonnie not only learns, build, leads, now she's gone full circle and she's going to become a student again. She is going back to school this fall, and she's going to take with her a lot of skills she has learned in being a part of the school board, and part of this community we live in and this district, and I'm just so proud of her. Now she will be a student as she learns nuclear engineering because she has been teaching math for all these years, and she's going to go back and learn how to apply. That's exactly what we want our students to do in District #215, is to learn by asking questions, to build by listening, and to go out and lead.

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said she thanks for all the work that's going on, we've had a lot of movement in the district, and a lot of administrators doing interviews and getting things lined out for fall.

Chairman Jon Bailey said it's an interesting time to be a schoolteacher, because the applications haven't been as forthcoming. So, we've had to hunt and try to find good people. There's always scuttle, and we just hope that the public will trust us to work through this. We'll do our best and thank you for the effort on the hires and resignations, and all those who have worked for us and those that are coming to work for us. We have some good things happening here, and we're excited to have good people here.

Action Items:

Propane Bid: Superintendent Stutzman said we put it out to bid. We had three bidders; Amerigas came in at a floating price of \$1.49 and a fixed price of \$1.66; Fall River came in at \$1.65 and Alpine Propane who is our current provider, was the lowest bid, came in at a fixed price of \$1.47 per gallon. My recommendation to give the propane contract to Alpine Propane for this next year.

Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to give the propane bid to Alpine Propane. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bonnie Moon. All "ayes", motion carried.

Bus Routes:

Superintendent Stutzman said each summer you approve the bus routes, and I don't think there's too many changes to these. It's my recommendation to approve the bus routes for this next coming year.

Trustee Bonnie Moon moved to approve the bus routes for next year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Transportation Director Misty Wocelka said this year we are very fortunate that I'm able to give the service for a couple of months and we are going to have enough drivers. Then I'm going to have a couple of routes that we won't have drivers for. If I can't cover the routes, we'll have to tell the parents they will have to take their kids to school. I have no options; my options are spent. If you can help put the word out, starting pay is \$15.00 per hour. I have advertised in the paper, at BYU, Facebook, in the parade, everywhere I can think of.

Superintendent Stutzman said Teton and Parker have a much shorter day, and the reason is because we don't have a bus driver to run just those routes. The drivers must come in and run Henry's Fork Elementary, South Fremont Jr. High and South Fremont High School routes after running the small school routes.

Bus Routes Sugar Salem School District:

Superintendent Stutzman said by law you must give them permission to stop and pick up kids in our district, since those kids are going to their district anyway and their bus goes through Teton from Newdale. There are three stops they make in our district, and it's my recommendation that we approve those. Each year we approve the Sugar Salem School District routes, and by law you must give them permission stop and pick up kids in our district.

Trustee Julianne Hill moved that we allow Sugar Salem to stop in our district to pick up students. The motion was seconded by Trustee JayLee Packer. All "ayes", motion carried.

Classified Pay Increase:

Superintendent Stutzman said it's my recommendation you give those pay increases since classified are hard to come by, and we want to do what we can to attract high quality people.

Trustee Julianne Hill made a motion to give the classified pay increases. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bonnie Moon. All "ayes", motion carried.

Patron Participation Form 4105F:

Superintendent Stutzman said he recommends the changes that were made at our last board meeting, and this is what we came back with. Amy White suggested one more addition, and that is right after the "Detail Subject Matter Desiring to Address", she suggested to add "Fremont County School Policies which address your concern." It's my recommendation to approve the amendments to that form.

Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to approve amended Patron Participation Form 4105F with the added language. The motion was seconded by Chairman Jon Bailey. All "ayes", motion carried.

There was discussion about making the board policies easier to locate on our website.

Bleacher pad concrete:

Superintendent Stutzman said we need to put concrete down for the bleachers we have a bid quote from Rumsey Construction for \$50,280, and I told you I would bring that to you for approval. It's my recommendation to put the pad down, so we have something to put the bleachers on that are coming. He has been incredibly busy, and we are fortunate to get him on our schedule.

Trustee Julianne Hill moved to accept the bid for \$58,280 for bleacher pad concrete. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jon Bailey. Bonnie recused herself on the vote. Three "nays", motion failed.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said she wanted to recuse herself since she's really good friends with this contractor.

Trustee JayLee Packer asked if we got additional bids on this?

Superintendent Stutzman said this is the person that Jason has been working with. It's one that he really trusts, and he has done quite a bit of work for us. He does exceptionally good work and Jason didn't want to go with anyone else. Mr. Rumsey does a great job, so it was his recommendation to go with Rumsey Construction.

Trustee JayLee Packer said \$50,000 is a lot, don't we not want to see can get additional quotes?

Superintendent Stutzman said it's a substantial size pad, and Tyler is trying to find someone in Ashton and is going to end up going with Mr. Rumsey to do what we have up here also. He's always been good for the school district in the things that we've had.

There was continued discussion on board policy and procurement procedures. It was determined that any purchase over \$50,000 needs additional quotes. Superintendent Stutzman apologized and said Idaho Code does state anything over \$50,000 need additional quotes.

Superintendent Stutzman then recommended to vote down the motion and get with Jason for additional quotes.

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

Superintendent Stutzman said by law the State of Idaho had to create a plan and each LEA needs to create their own plan. I created the least restrictive plan in order for us to return to school and have school in person, much like we did last year. The reason for this is that if we are to receive any more ESSER funds, then we have to have a plan in place. It's my recommendation that we approve the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

Trustee JayLee Packer made a motion to approve the Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Chairman Jon Bailey said I read through this, and I was really excited. The media hype about stuff and living in a very conservative community that believes that agency is very very important. I was excited that we only recommend masks be worn.

Superintendent Stutzman said EIPH is still recommending that we contact trace. I asked them to send me the names of our students when they do have a positive test. All last year when we would get the names the quarantine would generally already be over, and it was difficult from EIPH to get names from providers. I hoping as we move forward, and we don't have a really big surge of COVID in our county.

High Reliability Schools:

Superintendent Stutzman said High Reliability Schools; it is my recommendation that we allow the schools to move forward if they so choose and move forward at the building level. I put the responsibility onto the building administrators and recommendation from their staff, allowing them to move forward if they wish. I don't want it to seem like it's a Byron Stutzman thing or a board thing. I want them to realize this is how we want to do. I would like the board to approve allowing them to move forward if they so choose. Our first community meeting we had asked all the people that were there what you expect for your child when they go to school. The main thing is safety, to take care of all the safety needs of the students and that's level 1, safe and collaborative environment. Another one of the suggestions of what they wanted in schools is effective teaching and effective administrators in the building, and that's Level 3. Level 4 and 5 are a little more interesting, we may never get to those levels, but it's something to try for. I want the best for the district, and I think to move forward with this is great. It's my recommendation to let the buildings make the determination if they want to move forward with High Reliability Schools and I'd like that approval.

Trustee Julianne Hill moved that we go forward and let the schools move forward with HRS. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bonnie Moon. All "ayes", motion carried.

Trustee Bonnie Moon is this motion just giving our approval and not funding money, or is it both?

Superintendent Stutzman said it's both. We do have money for school improvement, and you approve that in the budget, and that's where those funds will come from.

Trustee Moon said, so if a school chooses not to do HRS they'll still have funding for improvement just for the direction that they choose.

Superintendent Stutzman said, correct.

Principal Larry Bennett said when we had our training last spring, my staff came out of there ready to roar. They organized teams to get the data together to move to level one. The thing that excites me about it is we're on the docket for accreditation this year, and the first question they want to know when they come into your school and start digging into things, what are you doing for school improvement? We lay this on the table, and it's going to make that accreditation goes very smooth, because it aligns almost exactly with the expectations that they have for us to be accredited. The work it takes to get it done, we're going to be doing anyway for accreditation, so it just flows together.

Principal Drex Hathaway said if we meet HRS level one, we will be far above what we are required for accreditation. What we're asked to do in level 1, it's what we're asked to do as educators anyway. We can do targeted improvement, with our faculty and ourselves.

Trustee Bonnie Moon to get this communicated to the parents, and to get their buy in and their voice?

Principal Nancy Griffel said that is in the surveys. All this is in the surveys, so we can get their feedback on some of those areas that they might have a concern about.

Byron Stutzman said there's a lot of work put together. The level one certification is the most expensive, and after that it's about \$1500. They get a kit with it to start that has a lot of resources.

Principal Larry Bennet when we get certification, we will celebrate that with our students and staff, and it will be posted on our Facebook page. You will see that communicated.

Reimburse High Schools for Loss in Revenue:

Superintendent Stutzman said because of COVID they didn't have spectators paying to get into events there was a substantial loss in revenue. I had the principals and athletic directors put together their reimbursement claim forms \$43,994.39 for NFHS and \$34,500 for SFHS. We can ask for reimbursement through ESSERF funds, so it really is not an additional cost to the district, and it will help the high schools out. It will help them to purchase the equipment that they need. My recommendation is to approve.

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to approve the reimburse for the high schools for loss in revenue in the amounts that were just stated. The motion was seconded by Trustee Julianne Hill. All "ayes", motion carried.

Discussion Items:

District Organization:

Chairman Jon Bailey said he wanted to read a statement from Trustee Tia Cherry who hasn't able to attend the meeting.

Following letter from Trustee Cherry:

I look forward to many more days discussing the idea of splitting the district. I feel like we are looking at ways to improve the district and it is only fair to bring up the idea of splitting the district as well.

I have studied Idaho code 33 on the matter. I am also receiving information from the state on the matter. I can go into the details at our next meeting.

I wanted to point out some of the pros and also why I find this to be the ideal time to move forward with a split.

In the next few years our bond will be paid off.

-We will have contracts over at the district level: at or near the same time as our bond ends.

-Island Park is a large tax base for the district. They are feeling frustrated at their "taxation without representation." I agree with them. A split would allow for them to have multiple voices about the use of their tax money.

-The way the district is currently zoned, leaves the potential for South Fremont to have 5 out of the 5 board members. This would be catastrophic. A split would allow North the opportunity to have a leveled voice, as everyone on the board will have the same objectives. Right now, there is a split in objectives, and I would argue that the taxpayers would say it is always split.

-Ashton has one of the largest levies in the county. The city residents are taxed to their max. To add a large bond would be inconsiderate to the tax people there. We really need to take in consideration everyone living paycheck to paycheck before we go forward with a huge bond.

-We already have the North Fremont Hospital taxing district. This would serve as a great place to begin our research on taxing district for the new districts.

- I have already researched cost saving ideas based on other small districts. I am also aware that the funding formula from the state would also play a crucial role.

Either way, I would appreciate the respect to move forward with this idea. I feel like the taxpayers deserve to have a say. I feel like Ashton deserves a say being the minority in this manner. I wanted the agenda to read as I asked and since it didn't, there was not a fair representation to our community of what was to be discussed tonight. In my opinion the stakeholders of our district deserved to know. I will respectfully ask for a continued discussion on "splitting the district".

Trustee JayLee Packer said it has come up a lot, especially in Island Park where they don't feel like they have a voice in the district, and even when I came on, there could have been a four to one if I hadn't gotten a seat here. I just think it will eliminate some of the internal additional resources and more say in how taxing dollars are spent. There's always been competition between north and south and maybe this is the time to just end it. Split the district when the levies and bonds are up. It's not a quick process it will take two to three years, and that's the patron input that I've gotten.

Trustee Bonnie Moon at the end of the day there's a lot of history here, and I would ask what's best for our students. As we think about these tough questions, we need to ask the kids what they want. I'm hoping that this board and community would ask what's best for the kids, and maybe it's putting things away and maybe we'll be better together? If north has something that they're better at and south has some things that they're better and why aren't all our students benefiting from the different resources and talent at both ends of the district. If we split, will that cause more feelings and we're not able to work together and really do what's best for the kids.

Chairman Jon Bailey I'm trying to get the why, why is this an issue? I don't live in the north end, so I don't hear any issues that our Trustees hear. So, I wasn't aware of what the real core issues are. I had the opportunity to talk to two patrons, and I was really grateful that they took some time to help me understand their perspective. I really appreciated having the conversation, different from past board meetings that we had, where we had patrons come and yell at us. The public meeting is hard to have that dialogue and learn and understand, while I have a different perspective; I think it's important that we really understand. This is like a divorce, do we go through counseling first, does it make sense for us? The thought is I think we need to do a lot better job of listening. We have parent surveys and have surveys going out through HRS. One thing communicated to me was, the North end doesn't feel listened to. So, if that really is the case, why is that and how do we fix it? The comment that Tia made is there's not representation, we have people on our district that represents them and are we listening are we acting, and is the listening happening both directions, or just one direction? There has been suggestion from our legal counsel that the ISBA come into our communities and help them to facilitate a community forum. I like the idea, one way or the other and I think it's good to understand that this is the first step in this process. Let's really care about our community and I'm not opposed to working through the process. There are more benefits to be united as a district, and I'm an advocate for getting people united and there are so many more benefits if we can be united.

Trustee Moon said information is vital here and getting the information correct. I did do some research, and I'm not sure if the rezone will take care of some concerns.

Superintendent Stutzman said the reason you draw the zones the way they do, the population has to be less than a 10% discrepancy between zones by law.

Chairman Jon Bailey said the population dates of that zone, have to be less than 10% variance with any one zone. I don't know what the requirements were at the last rezoning. You can redraw the lines and you get to give them the direction.

Trustee Bonnie Moon I was looking at the tax base and I did call County Clerk, Abbie Mace. I do realize that the schools in the south bring in most of the M&O, because 72% of the kids go to the south schools and roughly 27-28% go to the north schools, depending on the year. We do have quite a bit of difference in population, so we'd have different M&O, so that's something I would definitely invite the board to look into and how those monies would be affected, and of course the big tax base in Island Park. I was talking to Krissy at ISBA, and she said if they were to do this it wouldn't exactly go by zones, because they wouldn't want to do something that would hurt one set of students. We need to get the right information.

Chairman Jon Bailey if we move full steam ahead through this divorce process, only to have the state department say we're not going to let it happen, or the voters say we don't want it to happen and now you have entrenched camps that are madder at each other; that's not healthy. Let's try to see if we can't find a way to make sure voices are heard and valued, and that we eventually do something about it. One of the things I heard through this was Island Park wanted their own school, okay what does that look like? How do we work through that? What are the real issues, what are the concerns, why is there an interest to be divorced? We have 100% unanimous board approval trying to get facilities on the north end, and yet we don't always see that on the south end. So, how do we make sure that we are a team? We need to accelerate our work at listening.

Principal Drex Hathaway said one thing I'm not sure that everybody's aware is there has been a lot of progress, especially in the north end in the last six years. One of the things that was told to me when I started here was, we need more teachers for electives. I had a few teachers when I proposed my plan to them said that has never happened and it never will. Up to this date, I've added three new teachers to the faculty above what I started with six years ago. What that has brought to our building are small changes, but big impact. I still have one more slot that I'm trying to fill, so I can expand on the wishes that were brought to me six years ago. The number of teachers in a building are based on the number of students you have, and for me to bring in these teachers I have to rely on populations of other schools. You have supported it and allowed me to become bigger than what I was. We have made progress, and even though sometimes you don't see it, it's there. Our class sizes are unbelievably small.

Chairman Jon Bailey said it is interesting, because the current structure the north is subsidized because of what you make. So, if there was a divide, they would have a bigger tax base than souths tax base would go.

Superintendent Stutzman said it would depend on how you draw the lines.

Trustee Julianne Hill said Idaho Board of Education would have a say in that.

Chairman Jon Bailey said there is a lot here and this is a long process. There are things right now that need to happen funding wise, facilities here at north and facilities at south that we want to move forward on and depending on what we hear and listen to depends largely on whether or not we can move forward on those projects. We've been listening over the past two years, based on those feasibility studies that we've been doing, but obviously not enough, so we've got to speed up that listening process. There's a lot of different ways this can go, but ultimately the voters will get the final say, but it still has to be approved by lots of people who make those decisions along the way. My hope is we can work through this in a peaceful way.

Trustee Bonnie Moon said at the end of the day, the people this effects the most, are the ones that don't have a vote. It's our responsibility to do the research and listen and do what's best for these students. The way I understand is if you split the district, we would have to hear from the whole district and everyone that it affects. Just get the facts, and the next board member takes my place and asking the right questions.

Superintendent's Report:

-I have received numerous emails from providers to host a vaccination clinic for staff and students. I am hesitant to set a covid clinic as all parents and staff have the right to decide what they want to do, and I don't want to give anyone the impression that I am pressuring them to get vaccinated. Also, the vaccine is easily assessable through care providers, and staff and parents can make their own choice.

-Trustee Elections-County will post the openings, and it is up to anyone interested to fill out the paperwork. We let the county know what positions are open, and the county clerk does the advertising of the open positions. Application for candidacy is on the Fremont County website and must be turned into the county by September 3rd. Also, if you spend more than \$500.00 campaigning, you must turn in the campaign finance form. If anyone needs help filling out the necessary documentation and trust my guidance, I am willing to help. We need the best to help lead our district.

-Softball field update- I don't have anything to update on the softball field yet, because it's got grain growing on it. As soon as they get it off there, we're going to move in and get it leveled out and get it taken care of. So that it has the winter to settle, and then we can come back in and re-level and make sure we have a really good base, to start putting that field in.

-School Funding will be based on ADA for School for the 2021-2022 school year, so attendance will once more be a factor in our funding. There is talk about changing to enrollment, and the legislature has made it clear that a change from ADA would and should be a legislative event. Last year the Idaho State Board of Education made a temporary rule to switch to enrollment which allowed us to be more lenient with attendance due to covid.

-We have received the L2 Forms from Fremont and Madison Counties. It is my understanding we are continuing to levy the \$300,000.00 for our plant facilities as that is what we told the patrons we would do. Regardless of the increase in value of your property, this should still equate to a very similar dollar amount cost in school taxes.

-Lunch with the FEA. It was suggested that I schedule lunch with a board member and the FEA. Are you interested in doing this, and if so, who wants to go first?

-Last but not least-I have had Amy White review the canned responses I put together, and she has added additional verbiage to help you in your responses to complaints or issues. This is mainly for personnel issues, and it will help us follow our board policy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with me, please let me know.

Trustee Julianne Hill said the community advisory meeting we just had; the only purpose we had was to come up with the questions for the community or patron survey. We did the staff survey and now we have done the community survey. We have the seven areas we are working toward to improve on in our district, or if there are concerns. Career college ready students, safety and facilities, staff development recruitment and retention, education of social, emotional and mental health improvements, communication, quality learning opportunities, and financial responsibility. Our committee came up with the questions and we want to send it out to our community within the next two weeks. Then the last survey we want to do is a student survey. We did end with what concerns or questions did we not ask would you like to know?

Future Agenda Items:

School Based Behavioral Health Services Report at the end of this year.

Email Policy next month

Discussion Item: District Organization

Chairman Jon Bailey said we may need to reconvene sooner than the next regular board meeting on the bleacher concrete bids.

Trustee Julianne Hill made motion to go into executive per 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 JayLee Packer. Roll call vote Julianne Hill "aye", JayLee Packer "aye", Jon Bailey "aye", Bonnie Moon "aye".

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to take a five-minute break.

Went into executive session at 7:54 p.m.

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

Came out of executive session at 8:32 p.m.

Trustee Bonnie Moon made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.