

## Fowler Public Schools Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES | Fowler High School Media Center

March 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:01 pm

**The Pledge of Allegiance** recited.

Ryan asked for a motion to appoint Brett Thelen as acting secretary. Motion by Lori Miller. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 5-0.

**Roll Call taken:** Ryan O'Rourke, Lori Miller, Chad Rhynard, Bill Sillman, Brett Thelen were present. Mindy Schafer will be arriving later. Jason Smith absent. Superintendent/HS Principal Neil Hufnagel, Principal Paul Minns, Business Manager Terese Pline, Secretary Kim Nixon were also present.

**Approval of minutes:** Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 8, 2021. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of bills:** Motion by Lori Miller approving the general fund bills paid and monies transferred. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

**Presentation.** None.

**Superintendent's High School report** by Neil Hufnagel. Just learned today that our HS Custodian is leaving at the end of the week. The district is in need of bus drivers. We have one driver and our substitute driver leaving at the end of this school year.

**Elementary/Middle School report** by Paul Minns. Nothing added to his report.

**Athletic Director's report.** By Kris Ernst. Kris was absent. Working ball games tonight.

### **Board Member Comments and Observations:**

Chad Rhynard apologized for a typo in a message that went out to families and thanked Vicki Schlak for catching and correcting it. Also thanked Vicki for all the assistance she provides to the little league from the office. They are very appreciative of it.

### **Board committee reports:**

Building and Grounds committee. Chad reported that they feel good about where we are with the project budget. Elected to install new gas heating units on the new building instead of connecting to the existing boiler system, they also agreed to a 4' high wall around the base of the new structure instead of 12', and were able to extend the length of the building.

Personnel/Finance committee. Ryan reported that they met March 7th and went through the budget, took a look at some administration plans for transitioning, discussed other staffing needs and adding new electives at high school.

**Public Participation:** Three guest in attendance, no one commented. Student Teacher Kyle Winslet was attending so Neil took a moment to introduce him to the board.

**Old Business for Discussion:**

Bond Project update. Neil reported that the construction company felt good with where the budget is on the project. Christman is currently putting together packages for bidding. It is safe to share drawings with the community. Chad asked where we were with moving the existing weight room building. Neil reported.

COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan. Neil reported the numbers for this month, attendance rates are up to 100%. The recommendation is to keep the plan as is with no modifications.

**New Business for Action:**

Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the COVID-19 Learning Plan as recommended. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lori Miller to approve the Pre-Labor Day start under the Umbrella of CRTEC. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Chad Rhynard to approve the donation of a 10x8 foot storage shed to be placed at the pickleball courts. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

**New Business for Discussion**

A. Budget Update. Terese Pline reported.

*(Mindy Schafer arrived at 8:05pm)*

B. Administrative Transition Planning. A few options had been discussed in committee regarding transitioning Neil Hufnagel out of Superintendent/Principal in preparation for retirement. The recommendation is that Neil step down into an assistant superintendent position for approximately 12-18 months so the district may hire a replacement. Neil will retire once the bond project is complete. Ryan O'Rourke called for a Special Board meeting to be held on Monday, March 15th, at 7:00 pm. to approve a plan.

Motion by Chad Rhynard to adjourn meeting. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Thelen/kn  
Acting Secretary