

## Fowler Public Schools Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES | Fowler High School Media Center  
October 12, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:00 pm

**The Pledge of Allegiance.** Recited.

**Roll Call taken:** Ryan O'Rourke, Lori Miller, Chad Rhynard, Mindy Schafer, Jason Smith, Brett Thelen, and Chris Thelen were present.

Superintendent/HS Principal Neil Hufnagel, Principal Paul Minns, Athletic Director Kris, Business Manager Terese Pline, and Secretary Kim Nixon were also present.

**Approval of minutes:** Motion by Lori Miller to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 14, 2020. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

**Approval of bills:** Motion by Lori Miller approving the general fund bills paid and monies transferred. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

**Presentation.** None.

**Superintendent's High School report** by Neil Hufnagel. In addition to submitted report. Provided a copy of the Acadence/Dibbles report; scores are down a little and that was expected. Happy to share that there will be Quiz bowl this year. Competitions will be held virtually.

**Elementary/Middle School report** by Paul Minns. This Friday's PD Day will focus on training on Acadence Math program. Also shared that students K-4 have done an outstanding job of adapting to the mask requirement.

**Athletic Director's report** by Kris Ernst. Huge thank you to Derek Veale and Jason Smith for live streaming our athletic events. Community members have been very pleased at being able to still watch our competitions. Thrilled to report that we have enough players to offer a Freshmen Basketball team this year, along with JV and Varsity teams.

**Board Member Comments and Observations:** Mindy Schafer want to thank Kris Ernst for everything has done with working out the athletics schedule this fall, and also to Mike Schmitt and his staff for getting the grounds setup and ready. Thank you to everyone involved in making homecoming happen.

Chris Thelen expressed how disappointed he is that once again we are short a teacher at Waldron and are now looking for a long-term sub. Not having a qualified teacher hurts our kids.

**Board committee reports:** Jason reported for the Building and Grounds Committee. They are meeting bi-weekly, at this point, to keep with the bond project. Currently discussing the building design; spent a lot of time at the last meeting discussing the parking lot.

**Public Participation:** There were six guests in attendance.

Ashley Schafer was there to see where we were at with finding a Science Teacher for Waldron. The Science course is a struggle for her to try to work through with her child at home and knows it is difficult for a substitute teacher also. Kim Simon attended in support of Ashley and shared that it has been very difficult to help her student with science and they did not do well on the last test. She also supports the COVID requirement of wearing masks. She enjoys having her children in school and would like to keep it that way.

Jacob Rademacher, HS student, spoke in support of going back to a 2-1-2 hybrid schedule. He would prefer having a full day available for disinfecting the school buildings.

**Old Business for Discussion:**

- A. Bond Project Update: Neil gave a presentation on where we currently are in the designing process. Our first Bond sale is on Tuesday, October 13th, for \$9 million.
- B. Preparedness & Response Plan was approved by the board therefore are still in effect even though the Governor's executive orders were found to be unconstitutional.
- C. COVID 19 Extended Learning Plan: The board is required to confirm this plan every month. There was much discussion among board members on whether or not we should be continuing with face to face instruction. We are required to report monthly to the board, the percentage of students participating in two-way communication. We are currently at zero for staff and student COVID exposure or illnesses. Shared the results of the Parent and Teacher surveys regarding face to face vs. remote schooling.

**New Business for Action:**

Motion by Jason Smith to approve the Fowler Public Schools Attendance procedures for the 2020-2021 school year. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Chad Rhynard approving the hiring of Kris Ernst and Andy Weber as Co-Varsity Assistant Football coaches, commencing with the 2020-2021 season. Supported by Jason Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen confirming the Fowler Public Schools COVID 19 Extended Learning Plan as recommended. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 6-1.

**New Business for Discussion** None.

Motion by Jason Smith to adjourn meeting. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Schafer/kn  
Secretary