

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2010

1. School Community Session- 6:00 p.m.

- 1.1 Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.2 Public Participation –There were no public comments.
- 1.3 Student Council Report- Sydney Streimer and Andrea Grader, Co- Presidents of Student Council, reported to the Board on Student Council events and fund raisers. They reported that the Turkey Bowl held at Thanksgiving raised \$300. They also had a “Secret Snowflake” activity at Christmas and served a pancake breakfast to the elementary students. In addition, they had penny wars to raise money for Haiti. Upcoming Student Council events include dances and Movie Nights at the Community Center. Mr. Meyers commented that the Student Council is becoming better organized and interactive, in order to have more of a voice in student government.

2. Consent Agenda (*Business Manager*)

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|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2.1 | Warrants Payable | Total Amount of Warrants | \$39,038.55 |
| | • Payroll Warrant | #53 | \$26,845.88 |
| | • Extracurricular Warrant | #54 | |
| | • MultiFund Warrant | #55 | \$12,192.67 |
- 2.2 Transfers (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.3 Budget Status Report (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.4 Budget Status Report – Special Aid Fund (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.5 Budget Reconciliation Summary (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.6 Revenue Status Report (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.7 Anticipated Cash Flow Report (*Resource Packet*)
 - 2.8 Extra-Curricular Ledger Report (*Resource Packet*)

Sara McLean made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nina Schmid.
Motion carried: 5-0.

3. Action Items: (*Board Chairman*)

- 3.1 Motion: To approve minutes of the January 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting (*Resource Packet*)
Motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2010 with the corrections as noted, made by Nina Schmid, seconded by Sara McLean.
Motion carried: 5-0.
- 3.2 Motion: To approve Meg Atkin’s request for professional leave (*Resource Packet*)
Mr. Meyers reported that he had consulted with the union president and was advised that approval of this request would be precedent- setting. Mr. Meyers stated that Ms. Atkin understands the situation, and the motion was withdrawn.
- 3.3 Motion: To approve Senior Class Trip to Costa Rica April 16-23 (*Resource Packet*)
The motion was withdrawn as all the necessary funds have been raised by the students, and the trip does not require Board of Education approval.
- 3.4 Motion: To approve Seventh Grade Sailing Trip June 5-12 (*Resource Packet*)
Motion to approve the Seventh Grade Sailing Trip June 5-12 was made by Sara McLean, seconded by Nina Schmid. Motion carried: 5-0.

4. Discussion Items (*Superintendent*)

- 4.1 Draft of New Board of Education Mission Statement and Goals (*Resource Packet*)
Discussion ensued regarding the School's Mission statement and the Goals statement. The Board discussed the wording of the mission statement, and agreed to accept the first sentence which reads:

The Fishers Island School provides students with a firm foundation in core academic content, capitalizes on individual student's strengths and capabilities, and fosters responsible citizenship.

The Board continued to discuss the Goals and the proposed Action Plan. They would like to have more measurable goals and a timeline for achieving the stated goals and objectives as well as the resources needed. They also agreed to prioritize the goals. Technology, facilities improvement, and future enrollment are the three major priorities at this time. Mr. Meyers suggested that over the course of next year, projected enrollment and organizational structure should be studied. Will we need to make a change in organizational structure to match the needs of the projected enrollment? The Board decided that the wording "to review different educational structures within the pre-k to 12 model" would be appropriate. The Board members also discussed the need for specifically defining technology goals including long distance learning, webinars, and video conferencing. Mr. Meyers suggested that the educational goals and instructional strategies objectives should be the superintendent's responsibility.

- 4.2 Presentation of Preliminary Budget for 2010-2011 School Year (*Resource Packet*)
Mr. Meyers presented a PowerPoint presentation of the preliminary proposed budget for 2010-2011. The proposed budget is \$3,377,333.00 representing a slight decrease from last year. There are three main categories: administration, which represents approximately 19% of the budget; capital, representing 9%; and programs, which represents 72.4%. Mr. Meyers suggested that at the next meeting the Board address the list of capital improvements to the existing building that were recommended by Strategic Building Solutions so they can present a referendum to the voters in May. Mr. Meyers stated that it is important to maintain the existing facility, regardless of what is done with the Bowling Alley. There is approximately \$1,000,000. presently in the capital reserve fund which should be used. Mr. Meyers reported that there will be a 5-10% decrease in state aid. Revenues are down approximately \$36,000. He also suggested possibly increasing the magnet student tuition. The current magnet student tuition is \$2,750. In addition, the magnet students incur the cost of the ferry which is approximately \$1,800. per year.
The Board members decided to hold a budget workshop meeting on Wednesday, February 24.

- 4.3 Search for Legal Counsel
The Board members discussed the prospective school attorneys. The following four legal firms are being considered: Lamb Barnosky, Jaspan Schlesinger Hoffman, Ingerman Smith, and Harris Beach. The Board members decided to contact these firms in order to hold individual 20 -minute telephone screening interviews on February 24 before the budget workshop. They will ask each firm the same five questions.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1 Policy Committee- Maria Frank reported on the recent meeting of the Policy Committee. The committee reviewed the Magnet Student Program Policy. They are in the process of working on a statement regarding the criteria for selecting students, retaining students, and the process used to collect data on their performance.
 - 5.2 Personnel Committee- Mr. Meyers reported that the EAC and the Personnel Committee discussed making the Youth Fitness After School Program to be held at the Community Center, as well as the Boys' and Girls' Club, school -sanctioned extra-curricular activities. The only cost to the school would be the rental of the Community Center space. The EAC also recommended that the After School Fitness Program run from Thanksgiving through March, so the students could be outside during the warmer weather.
- 6. Adjournment-** Stephanie Hall requested a motion to adjourn. Janio Spinola made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nina Schmid. Motion carried: 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Name of Recorder: Leslie Tombari

Board of Education Resource Packet

For

**February 10, 2010
Regular Meeting**

“For Your Information”

Additional Materials

For

Board of Education Review

From

Office of Superintendent

February 10, 2010