

## Fowler Public Schools Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES | Fowler High School Media Center  
January 11, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:06 pm

### **The Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Roll Call taken:** Ryan O'Rourke, Lori Miller, Chad Rhynard, Mindy Schafer, Bill Sillman, Jason Smith, Brett Thelen.

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

**Approval of minutes:** Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 14, 2020. Supported by Lori Miller. 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. Thank you to Paul Minns for taking care of our contact tracing today following a couple of known exposures. Have approximately 17 employees scheduled at this time to receive a COVID vaccination next week.

**Elementary/Middle School report** by Paul Minns. Attended remotely. Nothing to add to his report.

**Athletic Director's report** by Kris Ernst. Still working on a schedule for youth basketball. HS basketball is being compacted into a 6-week program. Much discussion on whether parents will be able to attend the youth events. Neil expressed his gratitude to Kris for taking on the youth program due to the vacancy of a program director this year.

**Board Member Comments and Observations:** None.

**Board committee reports:** None.

**Public Participation:** Two guest attended. Requested a copy of the project presentation. Questioned the decision regarding the elimination of virtual learning by next semester.

### **Old Business for Discussion:**

- A. COVID 19 Extended Learning Plan. Monthly State requirement. Neil reported current percentages of students in person and remote at Waldron. Students enrolled in FPS will return to in-person instruction effective 2nd Semester. Students required to quarantine due to illness and exposure will be provided materials while absent and opportunities to make-up missed work. We will also continue to follow the direction from MDHHS and Governor.
- B. Bond Project Update – presentation was made earlier tonight.

### **New Business for Action:**

Nomination made by Lori Miller to appoint Ryan O'Rourke as President and to close nomination. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion by Lori Miller to elect Ryan O'Rourke as President. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination made by Chad Rhynard to appoint Lori Miller as Vice-President and close nominations. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion by Chad Rhynard to elect Lori Miller as Vice-President. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination made by Lori Miller to appoint Mindy Schafer as Secretary and to close nominations. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion by Lori Miller to elect Mindy Schafer as Secretary. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination made by Lori Miller to appoint Chad Rhynard as Treasurer and to close nominations. Supported by Bill Sillman. Motion by Lori Miller to elect Chad Rhynard as Treasurer. Supported by Bill Sillman. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller to approve Treasurer Chad Rhynard and Secretary Mindy Schafer as authorized signatures on school accounts. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to designate Business Manager Terese Pline as authorized representative for ACH receipts. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller approving the designation of depositors Huntington Bank, Bank One, US Bank, the Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF), Journey (Credit Union), Fifth Third, MBIA, Wells Fargo for the calendar year 2021. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to set the 2021 Board Meeting dates as amended, including January 10, 2022, to every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the HS Library/Media Center. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Chad Rhynard approving the Clinton County Newspaper as our paper of record for the 2021 calendar year. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen designating the Superintendent's office responsible for public postings. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller designating the Superintendent's office responsible for the election duties of the school district. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

President Ryan O'Rourke proposed the following board members to the following committees for 2021:

**Personnel/Finance**

Ryan O'Rourke-Chair  
Lori Miller  
Mindy Schafer

**Policy**

Lori Miller-Chair  
Brett Thelen  
Ryan O'Rourke

**Curriculum**

Chad Rhynard-Chair  
Jason Smith  
Bill Sillman

**Building & Grounds**

Jason Smith-Chair  
Mindy Schafer  
Chad Rhynard

**Athletics**

Ryan O'Rourke-Chair  
Bill Sillman  
Chad Rhynard

**Technology**

Brett Thelen-Chair  
Mindy Schafer  
Jason Smith

**Construction**

Lori Miller-Chair  
Brett Thelen  
Bill Sillman

Motion by Lori Miller to approve the proposed committees. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller to remain with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., as our legal representatives for 2021. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Chad Rhynard to designate Bill Sillman as the representative to attend the Clinton County RESA Budget Hearing (meeting in April) and appoint Brett Thelen as alternate. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to designate Bill Sillman as Elector to attend the Clinton County RESA School Board Election in May and appoint Ryan O'Rourke as alternate. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller approving the hire of Tom Andros as Varsity Girls Softball coach commencing with the 2021 season. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller to approve the appointment of Claire Feldpausch as Junior Class advisor commencing with the 2020-2021 school year. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0. Mindy Schafer abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the Letter of Agreement with Fowler Education Association. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the FPS COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan. Supported by Chad Rhynard. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lori Miller to approve the Letter of Agreement with Fowler Educational Support Personnel Association. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **New Business for Discussion**

- A. School Board Recognition Month- Neil expressed our gratitude towards the FPS Board of Education for the job they do for our schools.

Motion by Lori Miller to adjourn meeting. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Schafer/kn  
Secretary