

Fowler Public Schools

Board of Education | Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00pm | Fowler High School Media Center

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

A motion was made by Brett Thelen to appoint Kristin Phillips as the acting Secretary. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Roll call taken: Ryan O'Rourke, Lori Miller, Kristin Phillips, Brett Thelen, and Bill Sillman present. Matt Epkey and Andy Weber absent.

Superintendent/ HS Principal Patrick O'Rourke, Waldron Elementary/Middle School Principal Paul Minns, Business Managers Teresa Pline and Pamela Stump, and Secretary Tiffany Martin were also present.

Presentation: Amy Epkey of the Fowler Public Schools Education Foundation presented the Foundation's background, mission, and goals. The Foundation gave two grants this year to classrooms at Waldron Elementary & Middle School and Fowler High School. Last year and this year the Foundation awarded two Fowler Seniors scholarships at awards night.

Superintendent/High School Principal report: Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the High School.

Elementary/Middle School Principal report: Paul Minns provided an update on the Elementary and Middle School.

Athletic Director's report: Kris Ernst provided a written report for the Athletics Department.

Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools-

Board Member Kristin Phillips commented that she has had the opportunity to help at Middle School and High School track meets this Spring. Kristin thanked the coaches and complimented them on the running of the meets.

Board Member Bill Sillman brought up the idea of placing regional rankings of test scores in the hallways to encourage students to strive towards their academic goals.

Board Committee Reports- Patrick O'Rourke stated that the Personnel/Finance Committee met to discuss the process and filling of a vacancy on the Board of Education. During the meeting, committee members created a timeline of the process in order to fill the vacancy.

In attendance of the meeting was Ryan O'Rourke, Lori Miller, & Brett Thelen.

Public input on District COVID Response Plan for 2023-2024 School Year – None

Public Participation 3 Guests – No comments.

Old Business for Discussion

- A. Bond Project Update: Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the bond.
- B. Second Reading Board Policy updates po1240, po2410, po2414, po2418, po3220, po6320, po6321, po6325, po6350, po6520, po8390, po8800. A motion was made by Bill Sillman to move from a discussion item to action item 13J. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Bill Sillman approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, Closed Minutes of

April 8, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2024, and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business for Action:

Motion by Lori Miller to approve the Schools of Choice Open Enrollment 1st Semester for the 2024-2025 School Year. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Kristin Phillips to approve the Section 127 Plan. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Bill Sillman to approve the Overnight Volleyball Tournament Trip. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Kristin Phillips to approve the hire of Ashley Ferguson, Paraprofessional/Instructional Aide (Library Instructional Assistant). Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the Clinton County RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Election of Secretary tabled to the next Board of Education meeting.

Bill Sillman abstained from voting for the following action item.

Motion by Kristin Phillips to approve the Exhaust Fan Change Order. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

President Ryan O'Rourke proposed the following board members to the following committees for 2024. Motion by Brett Thelen to approve the proposed committees. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Athletics

Bill Sillman - Chair
Matt Epkey
Kristin Phillips

Construction

Lori Miller - Chair
Bill Sillman
Brett Thelen

Personnel/Finance

Ryan O'Rourke - Chair
Brett Thelen
Lori Miller

Building & Grounds

Ryan O'Rourke - Chair
Matt Epkey
Andy Weber

Curriculum

Kristin Phillips - Chair
Andy Weber
Ryan O'Rourke

Policy

Matt Epkey - Chair
Bill Sillman
Andy Weber

Technology

Brett Thelen - Chair
Kristin Phillips
Lori Miller

Motion by Bill Sillman to approve Board Policy updates po1240, po2410, po2414, po2418, po3220, po6320, po6321, po6325, po6350, po6520, po8390, po8800. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Ryan O'Rourke recused his duties for the Superintendent's Evaluation Executive Session and following action item.

Motion by Brett Thelen to enter into executive session, at 7:57 pm. for the Superintendent's evaluation. Supported by Bill Sillman. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Brett Thelen to exit executive session, at 8:53 pm, and return to the regular board meeting. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Bill Sillman to make the Superintendent Evaluation as amended as Effective. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion made by Kristin Phillips to adjourn meeting. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Phillips/ tm

Secretary