

Fowler Public Schools

Board of Education | Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, November 11, 2024 at 7:00pm | Fowler High School Media Center

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance - Recited.

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

Superintendent/ HS Principal Patrick O'Rourke, Elementary/Middle School Principal Paul Minns, Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director Kris Ernst, Business Manager Pamela Stump, and Secretary Tiffany Martin were also present.

Presentation – A presentation by Samantha Cain from Weinlander Fitzhugh was given for the Financial Audit of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

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

Elementary/Middle School Principal report: Paul Minns provided a report on the Elementary/Middle School.

Athletic Director's report: Kris Ernst provided an update from the Athletics Department.

Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools-

Lori Miller shared with the Board that the Fowler and East Grand Rapids varsity volleyball teams went trick-or-treating after their scrimmage on Halloween. It was an awesome experience for both teams and a great team bonding idea.

Bill Sillman thanked Cari and Jason Smith for all their work running the Red Cedar Basketball League.

Board Committee Reports – An update was given from Matt Epkey that the Policy Committee had met prior to the regular board meeting. Matt reported that the committee met to discuss recent policy updates and that a majority of the updates were language/verbiage updates.

Matt Epkey, Bill Sillman, Andy Weber, and Patrick O'Rourke were in attendance of the Policy Committee meeting.

Public Participation: 3 Guests. No Comments.

Old Business for Discussion

- A. Bond Project Update: Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the bond.
- B. Driver's Education: Patrick O'Rourke reported that he had reached out about more information for driver's education and will continue to research driver's education options.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Bill Sillman approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2024 and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business for Action:

Motion by Matt Epkey to approve the 2023-2024 Financial Audit. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Kristin Phillips to approve and accept the walk-in freezer/cooler quote from Merchandise Equipment & Supply. Supported by Lori Miller. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Matt Epkey to approve the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant of \$2,000 for ASL curriculum. Supported by Bill Sillman. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business for Discussion:

- A. First reading of Board policy updates po1130, po3110, po4110, po3120.08, po5330.02, po5340, po5500, po6110, po6111, po6112, po6114, po6325, po6550, po7310, po7450, po7540.09, po8321. Patrick O'Rourke discussed with the Board the updates to current policies.
- B. Refrigerator/Freezer – Waldron. The three bids received for the Refrigerator/ Freezer for Waldron Elementary/Middle School were attached. Patrick O'Rourke and the Board discussed the bids received from Merchandise Equipment & Supply, Stafford-Smith Inc., and Elliot Food Equipment, L.L.C.

A motion was made by Matt Epkey to move the approval and acceptance of the walk-in freezer/cooler quote from Merchandise Equipment & Supply from a discussion item to action item 13B. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Education Foundation Grant Recipients: Kristin Phillips reported that the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation had met and discussed the applications for the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant. She reported that the committee has recommended a \$2,000 grant for ASL curriculum. Another possible grant for the potential addition of a pavilion was discussed but was tabled for a later date.

A motion was made by Bill Sillman to move the approval of the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant of \$2,000 for ASL curriculum from a discussion item to action item to action item 13C. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Brett Thelen to adjourn meeting. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Epkey/ tm

Secretary