



Fruitport Community Schools
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 15, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Fruitport Community Schools Central Office
Board of Education Meeting Room
3255 E. Pontaluna Rd.
Fruitport, MI 49415

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Board President, Dave Hazekamp.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Elroy Buckner, Kris Cole, Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, and JB Meeuwenberg; Absent - Tim Burgess.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 24-8. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Franklin to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.
- IV. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. School Board Recognition Month: Each Board member was provided with a certificate of recognition from the Michigan Association of School Boards, and a special dessert was prepared and served to Board members from staff member Pam Gustafson. Board members received some Fruitport gear, and discussion pertaining to the annual framed art recognition was discussed. This was done in recognition of School Board Member Appreciation Month.
 - b. 2023-2024 General Fund/School Service Fund Budget Amendment: Mark Mesbergen presented a mid-year budget amendment for the General Fund and the School Service Fund to the Board of Education for their consideration.

V. COMMUNICATIONS:

- **OK Conference Communication - Dated: December 21, 2023**

The Board reviewed a communication from the OK Conference that was received by the District on December 21, 2023. This communication denied a petition by Caledonia Schools seeking to vacate the recent realignment of the OK Conference.

- **Thrun Law Firm Communication: New Attorney Contact**

The Board reviewed a communication from Thrun Law Firm regarding a new attorney contact that the District will be working with at the Firm. The shareholder that the District has worked with is moving to “Of Counsel” status, so the District will be working with another shareholder within the firm, effective January 1, 2024.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **Review of Muskegon County School Report Card Data:** The Superintendent reviewed recently released school report cards for each of the District schools in comparison to schools across Muskegon County with the Board. A spreadsheet was provided to the Committee that included grades, Reward School status, graduation rates, attendance rates, and peer comparison data.
- **Alternative and Adult Education Graduation Requirements:** The Superintendent reviewed a proposal from the Instructional Council with the Board to consider reducing the number of credits required for graduation from the Alternative and Adult Education programs from 22 credits to the State mandated 18 credit minimum requirement. All core course credits will still be required and a formal proposal will be forthcoming to the Board for consideration.
- **Strategic Plan Draft Review:** An updated draft of the strategic plan was reviewed with the Board. This will be further reviewed by the Board at the February 2024 Board meeting and considered for approval then.
- **National AASA Conference on Education - San Diego, CA:** The Superintendent shared that he will be attending the AASA National Conference on Education in San Diego, CA in February. The Superintendent is an Executive Board Member of the Michigan Associations of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA). Airfare, hotel costs, and meals will be covered by MASA.

VII. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Pam Gustafson was in attendance at the meeting and shared a special thank you with the Board of Education for their service to students, staff, and the community. Pam made a special homemade dessert for the Board in recognition of School Board Recognition Month. Pam also shared that she believes the Chromebook situation that she spoke with the Board on months ago has not gotten better at the middle school. Some staff members want to see Chromebook carts added back to the classrooms, while others do not. Pam personally believes that the middle school students are not responsible enough to care for the Chromebooks when they take them home, and that Chromebooks should stay at school for middle school students.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 24-9. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to approve the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Approval of Bill Listing in the amount of \$358,623.02
2. Acceptance of Monthly Financial, Bond, and Capital Projects Report
3. Acceptance of Student Activity Summary Report
4. Acceptance of Credit Card and Utilities Report
5. Approval of Transfers and ACH Transactions Report
6. Approval of Personnel Report (includes confirmation of new hires, resignations, retirees, and transfers)
7. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes - December 18, 2023 (Two (2) separate meetings with one (1) at 5:30 p.m. and one (1) at 6:00 p.m.)

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

IX. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS: None

X. BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting held on January 8, 2024

Elroy Buckner reported on a Business and Finance Committee meeting held on January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Elroy Buckner, Kris Cole, Mark Mesbergen, Jessica Wiseman, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation Process, the upcoming collective bargaining process, including the negotiation of the 2024-2025 school calendar, and Mark presented the budget amendments for all of the funds to the Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

2. 2023-2024 General Fund Budget Amendment

Item 24-10. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget Amendment, as discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Buckner - yes, Burgess - absent, Cole - yes, Franklin - yes, Hazekamp - yes, Kelly - yes, Meeuwenberg - yes.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

3. 2023-2024 School Service Fund Budget Amendment

Item 24-11. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Cole to approve the 2023-2024 School Service Fund Budget Amendment, as discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Buckner - yes, Burgess - absent, Cole - yes, Franklin - yes, Hazekamp - yes, Kelly - yes, Meeuwenberg - yes.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Report of committee meeting held on January 8, 2024

Steve Kelly reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held on January 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Dave Hazekamp, Steve Kelly, JB Meeuwenberg, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee discussed the Personnel Report for January 2024. The Committee also reviewed the Superintendent's Evaluation Process. The Committee reviewed an update on the Office for Retirement Services communication received by Districts, and discussed an update on the negotiations process, including a discussion on the calendar negotiations process. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report of committee meeting held on January 8, 2024

Susan Franklin reported on a Student Affairs Committee meeting held on January 8, 2024 at 5:34 p.m. Susan Franklin, Dave Hazekamp, and Jason Kennedy were present. The Committee reviewed a second reading of the Thrun Law Firm Personnel Policy Updates to bring current policies into compliance with new legislative changes to the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act (PERA), the State School Aid Act, the Revised School Code, and the Teachers' Tenure

Act. The Committee reviewed recently released school report cards for each of the District schools in comparison to schools across Muskegon County, and it discussed an updated draft of the strategic plan, the Superintendent's evaluation process, and a proposal from the Instructional Council to consider reducing the number of credits required for graduation from the Alternative and Adult Education programs from 22 credits to the State mandated 18 credit minimum requirement. The Committee also reviewed an update on the negotiations process and sample calendars. The Committee also discussed a desire to see the addition of a drama class and/or club added to offerings for students at the middle school and high school levels to support the addition of the new Performing Arts Center and great work that is already happening in this department to continue. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

2. Thrun Law Firm Professional Staff Board Policy Updates - Second reading

Item 24-12. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Buckner to approve the second reading of the following Thrun Law Firm Professional Staff Board Policy updates, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

- a. 4108 - Union Activity and Representation
- b. 4207 - Third Party Contracting
- c. 4402 - Placement
- d. 4403 - Performance Evaluation
- e. 4404 - Performance Based Compensation
- f. 4405 - Reduction in Force and Recall
- g. 4407 - Discipline
- h. 4408 - Termination
- i. 4409 - Non-Renewal
- j. 4503 - Performance Evaluation
- k. 4504 - Performance Based Compensation

3. Overnight Trip Request - DECA State Competition - Detroit, MI

Item 24-13. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Buckner to approve the overnight trip request from Danielle Hershey for high school students to participate in the DECA State Competition at the Huntington Place in Detroit, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

4. Overnight Trip Request - Golf Team Spring Break Trip: Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail (Birmingham, AL)

Item 24-14. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Buckner to approve the overnight trip request from Aaron Gregory for student athletes on the golf team to participate in the spring break golf trip to Birmingham, AL, as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

1. Closed Session: Pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(a)

Item 24-15. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Cole to enter into closed session at 7:55 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(a) to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent for the year ending December 31, 2023, as a public officer of the District, and as requested in writing by the Superintendent.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Buckner - yes, Burgess - absent, Cole - yes, Franklin - yes, Hazekamp - yes, Kelly - yes, Meeuwenberg - yes.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

2. Return to Open Session

Item 24-16. MOTION by Franklin, SECOND by Cole to return to open session at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent

3. Superintendent's Evaluation

Item 24-17. MOTION by Cole, SECOND by Kelly to approve the Board's evaluation of Superintendent Jason Kennedy, and assign an effectiveness rating of highly effective, for the calendar year ending December 31, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent

XIV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Kris Cole shared that the middle school robotics team is working with Trinity Health Arena to potentially host a robotics competition there. Kris shared that the Green Team's robot was ranked in 2nd place for design of the robot, and that the team was interviewed,

honored, and recognized by First Updates Now (FUN). The team did a great job with the interview, and both middle school teams had a great robotics season this year.

Steve Kelly shared that the winter drumline is currently underway and preparing for their 2024 percussion season. The team expects to make a top 5 finish this year, and has been working hard. Nick Lootens will be able to provide a copy of this year's schedule.

Dave Hazekamp shared the hard working ethic of a District family and how he handled a situation that he was recently faced with in a positive way.

XV. AGENDA ITEMS for FUTURE MEETINGS & SCHEDULING OF ANY SPECIAL MEETINGS

1. The Business and Finance Committee will meet on February 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Committee will meet on February 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Student Affairs Committee will meet on February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. The Board of Education will meet on February 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

XVI. REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 24-18. MOTION by Buckner, SECOND by Franklin to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0; 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Franklin, Board Secretary

Danielle VanderMeulen, Recording Secretary