School Board Meeting

OCT 18 2021

APPROVED

Frontier School Corporation
126 E Main St
Chalmers, IN 47929

Regular Meeting of the School Board
Frontier Jr.-Sr. High School Library, One Falcon Drive, Chalmers, IN 47929
Monday, September 20, 2021, 7:10 pm

Present: President Andie Mears, Vice President Shelley Christopher, School Board Member Laura Bell, and School Board Member David Rosenbarger

Absent: Treasurer Cortney Parrish, School Board Member Stephanie LaOrange

Also Present: Superintendent Dan Sichting, Attorney Robert Little

President Mears called the Meeting to order at 7:10 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Routine Business

Laura Bell moved to accept the agenda. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meetings of the Board of School Trustees held on July 26, 2021, and August 16, 2021. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the Fund Report as presented. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the Appropriation Report as presented. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David Rosenbarger moved to approve the Revenue Report as presented. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the Bank Reconciliation Report as presented. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the 2020 Bond Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the September claims as presented. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Technology Report

Mr. Hoover reported his concern about the supply of devices for students due to a shortage of parts and labor as well as the increase in the number of students. Fifty-four Chromebooks were out for repair; 16 had been returned. Older Chromebook models are kept as spares. Twenty new Chromebooks are on order. Ten new iPads are on order. Next month, more devices will be ordered depending on funding. Current licenses are still valid. Reimbursement will be made with the Adtec grant.

Mr. Hoover explained why Google has an issue with dropping Wi-Fi connections, and that this is not specific to Frontier School Corporation. FCS and our Chromebooks are not at fault; this is a national issue. Our maximum bandwidth use is around 40%. Mr. Hoover provided more details about the situation.

Elementary Report

Mrs. Layton was absent. Mr. Sichting gave the report she had prepared.

Screening for dyslexia is complete. Title I services are in full swing. Small groups of students were given additional instruction to bring them up to proper reading level. NWEA data meetings were held on 09/08/2021 and three testing windows opened. High-Ability needs were discussed. Reading is the subject with the lowest growth at 39.5% passing on ILEARN evaluations. Guided reading groups at all levels will be organized to provide additional reading support.

Teacher observation will begin soon. Mrs. Layton will conduct the short observations; Mr. Burgess will conduct the long observations. Mr. Burgess and Mrs. Layton are coordinating observations to ensure inter-reliability.

Field trips have begun. The school improvement team met to finalize goals and strategies. Parent-teacher conferences were held on 09/24/2021.

Teachers have completed free professional development webinars about effective disciplinary strategies. Mrs. Layton started leadership training.

Special education, RTI, speech, and 504 meetings have taken place. FES enrollment is at 361 students.

Jr.-Sr. High Report

Mr. Hettinger reported that progress reports had been sent. Tutoring and study tables have been successful. Study tables are in use for make-up assignments. ESSER grant funds are being used to target learning loss, particularly in language arts and mathematics. Study tables are held for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays and bus transportation is available.

Parent-teacher conferences were held; attendance was high for the junior high school.

The professional development committee has been meeting weekly since the beginning of the school year.

The early college high-school leadership team attended the network meeting in Indianapolis. FCS faculty and administrators attended.

Mr. Hettinger attended the IASHA meeting in Huntington.

Mr. Hettinger stated that NWEA meetings were underway for the same purposes in Mrs. Layton's report.

Athletics and Transportation Report
Mr. Burgess did not submit a report.

Transportation Report
Mrs. Hall was absent. Mr. Sichting gave her report.

Mrs. Hall has hired a new minibus driver (Mr. Jerry Carter) and is looking for other drivers to hire. By the end of the 2021–2022 school year, 3 bus drivers will have retired.

Drivers have been assigned and paperwork submitted for all field trips.

Mrs. Hall completed an online course. She is now ITI certified as the Designated Employer Representative for the Corporation.

Bus evacuation drills were rescheduled due to inclement weather. Mrs. Hall is conducting inventory and will submit suggestions for approval of the school board. Bus maintenance and repairs are up to date, and she continues to monitor phone calls.

Counselor's Report

Mrs. Bassett reported that "college go week" took place – a week during which colleges wave application fees for high-school seniors. Dress-up week helped fund the event. She held discussions with seniors about the event. She has received requests for transcripts.

The CTE report deadline was met. All information was submitted. A second CTE report is due on 10/05/2021.

SAT and PSAT were to be held on 10/13/2021. PSAT is for 10th and 11th grades. Twelve seniors have signed up to take the SAT again.

Mrs. Bassett reported on the "Early College Thirty" program. Expectations are that high-school students will earn 30 college credits (non-CTE) at FHS and then start their first year of college as sophomores. Current focus is on this year's 10th grade. Twenty-eight students of fifty students are taking chemistry for the program. Twenty-eight are working for dual credit. She and Amy Turner administered a knowledge assessment test that Ivy Tech requires. Certain test scores are required to receive credit.

Juniors and seniors continue to work on dual credit classes:

- 12 students are taking both English and calculus
- 6 students are taking either English or calculus
- 9 students are taking history
- 11 students are taking advanced speech
- 31 students are taking pre-calculus
- 10 students are taking Spanish

Mr. Sichting offered further explanation of the benefits of the dual-credit program.

Maintenance Report

Mr. Peterson reported that he completed backflow pressure testing at all FSC buildings. This takes place yearly.

He is waiting for one more quote for the gas line project.

He is considering replacing Team MJV for cleaning services due to an unacceptable level of professional service.

All filters have been replaced. Help desk tickets are caught up. We continue to adjust the cooling system for consistency from room to room. Restroom soap dispenser replacement is underway. Some damage in restrooms caused by students has been repaired.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Sichting reported that he had been preparing the 2022 budget. Progress on it is proceeding per statute. At October's school board meeting, budget approval will take place, and then the DLGF 1782 notice will be provided.

State reporting is difficult this year. David Moore has yet to be trained in PowerSchool. Mr. Sichting and Mr. Hoover have been working on the reports. Data are pulled automatically from our reporting system, and many school districts (including Frontier) are reporting errors and system conflicts.

The September Ad Team meeting took place. The negotiation cycle is to begin soon to be finished by the end of November 2021.

The count for average daily membership was held. Funding will be based on an average of 616.72 students. The full count was 662 students in active learning and 2 students in virtual classes on the GEER grant. A slight reduction in membership is anticipated. However, membership is up this year in comparison to last year (631 students). Total increase this year over last year is 40 students.

The Formative Assessment Grant awarded us $9,000 to cover the cost of NWEA testing. The 2021-2022 Secured School Safety grant of $43,000 was approved, which pays Chief Bolen's salary and matching benefits.

Budget/Finance

Mr. Sichting reported that the tuition support distribution had been received from the IDOE. Total distribution: $366.373.68 based on the ADM of 616.76. Future count days are 09/07/2021 and 02/01/2022.

Mr. Sichting requested approval for CD renewal with Fountain Trust Company at an interest rate of 0.55%. The CD came due on 09/07/2021. Mrs. Parrish surveyed area banks and found that Fountain Trust had the most productive return on 24-month CDs. Mr. Sichting recommended that the CD should remain at Fountain Trust. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the renewal of the CD at Fountain Trust, David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval the curriculum director proposal through the Administrative Assistance Curriculum Director Service Agreement in the amount of $7,500 to be used for a part-time Curriculum Director. Mr. Hettinger collected lesson plans and submitted them for assessment. Funds for the proposal will come from the operations fund. David Rosenbarger made a motion to table the proposal pending presentation of a written agreement and mileage reimbursement. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval an Administrative Assistance Accounts Payable Professional Development Service Agreement for Mr. David Moore. The agreement allows training (capped at 10 days) at $90.00 per hour plus mileage. Maximum cost will be approximately $10,000.00. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the agreement. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval an Administrative Assistance Capital Asset and Enhanced Regulatory Reporting Service Agreement, which is required by the Indiana State Board of Accounts whenever schools undergo auditing. The agreement is in regards to building values and depreciations. Bids were taken; the low bid came from Mike Doll at Administrative Systems. David Rosenbarger made a motion to approve the service agreement. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting requested approval of a proposal to have Daikin repair a leak in the chiller at Frontier Elementary School. The extended two-year warranty will cover the cost of repair. Labor and mileage for the repair will cost $3,610. Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the proposal, Laura Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Personnel

Mr. Sichting presented recommendations for the hiring of:

- Mr. Cecil (Jerry) Carter-Frontier School Corporation Mini-Bus Driver (effective 09/10/2021)
- Mr. Alexander Traina-Resident Student Teacher (Indiana Commission of Higher Education Grant)

Laura Bell made a motion to accept the hires. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval, a resolution to add additional Frontier School Corporation positions to the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

- Minibus Drivers
- Chief James Bolen, SRO
- Mrs. April Hall, Transportation Director

David Rosenbarger made a motion to accept the resolution. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval, an hourly rate increase for the positions of Technology Assistant and Part-time Technology Assistant. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the increase. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Field Trips

None.

Other Business

Mr. Sichting presented for approval five donations to FSC for August 2021:

- $800.00 to the elementary school from the Estate of Robert Whited
- $55.00 to the FES library
- $250.00 to the FHS kitchen from Psi Iota Xi
- Two pretzel warmers (value: ≅ $320) to the high school athletic department
- $23,580.00 for school bus washing and repairs from EDP Renewables North America

Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the donations. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the Ivy Tech Community College Memorandum of Understanding. Each campus of the ITCC is responsible for drawing up its own memorandum of understanding.

- South Bend/Elkhart: dual credit in digital business marketing and website development classes (Rural College Network
- Indianapolis: dual credit in culinary arts and hospitality (RCN)

- Lafayette: dual credit in all other courses (RCN)
- Lafayette: dual credit in Double Up program classes (RCN)

Mr. Sichting recommended approval of the memoranda of understanding. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the memoranda. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval the 2021-2022 Secured School Safety Grant Award of $43,000 from The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The grant is used to pay annual salary and benefits to Chief James Bolen (SRO). Shelley Christopher made a motion to accept the grant award. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval, the Frontier Jr.-Sr. High School Improvement Plan to be filed with the IDOE. Mr. Hettinger explained a few changes from last year. David Rosenbarger made a motion to accept the improvement plan. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Testimony
None given.

Shelley Christopher made a motion to adjourn, and David Rosenbarger seconded the motion.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Frontier Elementary School Library.

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Robert Andie Mears
President

Shelley Christopher
Vice President

Laura Bell
Secretary

David Rosenbarger
Member

Stephanie LaOrange
Member