

**Fremont Community Schools
Board of Trustees
Meeting Summary
April 20, 2015
6:00 PM
Fremont Community Schools
Administration Office
1100 West Toledo Street
Fremont, Indiana**

Board Members Present: President Marty McNeal, Vice-President Laura McLatcher, Secretary Jill Cox, Liaison Officer Peggy Bailey, Gary Baker, Kim Bennett, Anna Creager

Representing Administration: Superintendent Lori Vaughn, Corporation Business Manager Brandon Penrod, Head Start Director Susan Swager

Visitors in Attendance: Melissa Hardwick, Nancy Swager, Dan Cairl, Jenny Hoffbauer, Betsy Fowler, Joni Thompson, Barbara Wheeler, Mary Sacquitne, Mark Sherbondy, Drew Kuespert, Mark Fowerbaugh, Mike Marturello, Jim Measel

Board President Marty McNeal welcomed visitors in the audience and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting agenda was adopted with the following additions:

- Two additional employee retirements
- One additional high school volunteer
- K-6 Summer Program
- Summer Feeding Program
- Steuben County Promise

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 16, 2015, Regular Meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CLAIMS APPROVAL

Business Manager Brandon Penrod provided a brief overview of the monthly claims citing explanations for some of the larger claim amounts.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

1. Steuben County Promise – College Choice 529
Elementary Principal Barbara Wheeler and Superintendent Vaughn attended the Steuben County Promise informational meeting on April 9, with leaders of the program and area school administrators. Principals were asked to ready and send Parent/Family letters and surveys home with their K-2 students for return by April 20. Principal Wheeler and Elementary Guidance Counselor Christine Phillips will be attending the Community Leaders Training on April 24, at Manchester University.

2. State Budget

The state legislature is winding down this month with the last day on April 29th. We continue to be cautiously hopeful that the Senate and the House will work together on a plan that will not impact Fremont Community Schools and other small and/or rural school negatively, as we contend with declining enrollment and increasing financial and academic burdens.

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS

1. Credit Card Information

The Board voted to begin allowing credit card use for textbook rental and other student fees. Business Manager Penrod presented information that compared the potential credit/debit card transactions between two vendors. One vendor had a flat rate of 3.99%. The second vendor had a lower flat rate, but added more fees on for various uses. After questions and discussion regarding the cost of equipment and compatibility with our existing software, the Board voted to accept credit card payments using the RevTrak system and also to purchase four (4) machines – one for each building and one for the Administration Office. The 3.99% fee will be passed on to the customer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Employment Recommendations

Retirement: Kay Clark, MS Cook
Susan Crankshaw, EL Teacher
Mike Rumsey, MS/HS Teacher

Resignations: Bruce Brown, Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach
Katie Minard, JV Volleyball Coach
Kevin Shopell, Varsity Volleyball Coach

Hiring: Candee Arnold, (2015-2016) 5th/6th Grade Student Council Advisor
Trenton Ehinger, Substitute Bus Driver - pending completed satisfactory paperwork and training
Alexis Skeens, MS Coed Intramural Tennis Coach

2. Middle School Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee

Middle School Principal Mark Fowerbaugh requested the following teachers and parents serve on the Middle School Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee:

Teachers: Eric Pentecost
Drew Kuespert
Terri White

Parents: Amy Baker
Amy Bruney
Tabitha Meeks

Mr. Fowerbaugh's recommendation met with approval from the Board.

3. 2017 High School Band and Choir Trip

The Board approved a 2017 trip to New Orleans for the High School Band and Choir. Band Instructor Melissa Hardwick and Choir Instructor Betsy Fowler were present to provide details of the trip which departs on March 27, 2017, and returns on April 2, 2017. (Dates are flexible pending Spring Break schedule.) The trip would expose our high school band and choir students to music history, jazz

education, blues, swing, and rock music while learning about the French and Cajun culture and the impact it had on modern day music.

The students will visit Destrehan Plantation, the French Market and French Quarter, Mardi Gras World, the National WWII Museum, the Audubon Zoo. They will also take a Haunted French Quarter Walking Tour, a New Orleans Cemetery Tour, the Steamboat Natchez Dinner Cruise, and the Jean Lafitte Swamp Tour. In addition there will be performance opportunities for both the band and choir and they will participate in the Heritage Music Festival.

Cost per student is \$1,309/person – based on 55 participants.

4. Additional Elementary and High School Volunteers

The following volunteers were approved by the Board:

Elementary: Daniel Aker
Marsha Aker
Rebekah Freds
Matthew Stevens
High School: Michael Friend
Michelle Friend
Todd Beer
Steve Rhonehouse
Kristina Beer
Mary Rhonehouse
Autumn Seidel
Larry Weicht
Trina Arnos
Shawna Connelly
Daniel Connelly
Kurt LaRose
Alice Fitzpatrick
Brian Welch
Lisa Weicht
Vita Sperry
Rorie Carmona

All volunteers satisfactorily completed required criminal background checks.

5. 2015-2016 Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices

The Board voted to increase student and adult meal prices for the 2015-2016 school year. The new prices are reflected below:

Student Breakfast	\$1.75
Adult Breakfast	\$2.00
Student Lunch	\$2.25 (K-2)
Adult Lunch	\$3.30

Food Service Director, Nancy Swager reported that increases are primarily due to directives from the Indiana Department of Education. In addition grocery prices have increased.

6. K-6 Summer Program

Fremont Elementary and Middle School, in partnership with the Steuben County Literacy Coalition, will once again be offering summer school classes for children in

Grades K-6 who need or would like additional support in the focus areas of literacy, math, and science to maintain learned skills.

When: June 8-26, 2015 (Monday – Friday)

Where: Fremont Middle School

Student Hours: 8-11:30 a.m.

Free breakfast and lunch provided.

Transportation provided if requested.

Interested parents may contact their child's school for more information.

7. Summer Feeding Program

Fremont Community Schools will once again run a summer feeding program for not only our students participating in summer school, but anyone, ages 1-18 years old. It will be offered from June 8-26, from 11-11:45 daily. Meals are free and will be served at Fremont Middle School.

8. Head Start Report

Director Susan Swager reported that our Head Start Program has received the balance of their funding for the Fiscal Year. We recently were visited by Federal Head Start employees who conducted routine reviews of our programs and facilities. Mrs. Swager felt that the reviews went well, but has not heard anything back from the program administrators. Mrs. Swager also shared that she and her employees were working on a plan to increase enrollment for next year's program – as dictated by the Federal Head Start Office.