

FOND DU LAC BOARD OF EDUCATION
Goodrich Little Theatre
72 West Ninth Street
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
February 8, 2021

CONVENE

Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Moment of Reflection/Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Jones at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Gedemer, Godfrey, Jurgella, Strand, Teifke, Uselmann, Jones

Administrative Staff members present: Simon, Buchholz, Gerlach, Moder, Noonan, Reichenberger, Seyfert, Snyder, Williams

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
COMMUNICATIONS

None.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS
AND DELEGATIONS

Bill Morgan, 47 Sammy Jo Circle, FHS teacher and President of the Fond du Lac Education Association, presented information from the teachers' group, stating that teachers want students back in school 5 days a week, in a way that is safe for all. Concerns outlined included: vaccines, distancing and space, increased quarantine possibility, masking inconsistency, staff/sub coverage, loss of Wednesday for connecting with remote students, planning time, and sanitizing. A survey indicated concerns about returning to 5 days. Teachers accepted the blended decision vs. virtual from the start of the year, despite the size of the district. They encourage board members to reach out to teachers and make decisions based on facts and not emotion. Final message: together we are stronger, together we are better.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT
RESOLUTION AGENDA

MOTION BY Jurgella, seconded by Godfrey to approve the consent agenda as follows:

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. January 4, 2021 Board of Education Workshop as presented.
2. January 11, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting as presented.
3. January 25, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting and Workshop as presented.

B. Business Services Approvals:

1. January Financial Statement - Accepted and its publication authorized.
2. Current Expenses – To approve bills of the Board of Education in the amount of \$11,860,478.16 and to have warrants drawn for their payment.

C. Human Resources Approval:

1. Retirements - Roland Faust, technology education teacher at Fond du Lac High School, effective June 10, 2021; and Robert (Dru) Mitchell, physical education teacher at Fond du Lac High School, effective February 12, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATOR
REPORTS

Business Services

2019-2020 District Audit
Overview

Mike Gerlach, Director of Business Services, walked the Board through the District Audit from last school year. Per usual, the auditor suggested having an on-staff auditor, but this is not a fiscally reasonable adjustment. The district retains an excellent bond rating and is in good fiscal shape. He thanked Linda Bauer for her help with preparing the audit. Questions included the General Fund balance and its purpose, which includes having enough cash on hand to not have to do short term borrowing and having it contribute to the district's AA3 credit rating, which netted favorable borrowing terms for the recent referendum borrowing. It is also used as a "rainy day" fund, for unexpected capital expenses. The budget for this year was conservatively constructed, knowing there might be extra expenses related to different learning models, so an overage or underage of funds is not expected.

Facility Services

Facilities Referendum Update

John Williams shared the progress on the referendum construction. Phase 2 continues, including the Roberts' office and a special education area. Three classrooms at a time are being worked on in each school, along with a bathroom at Sabish. Parkside is getting an addition. A question was asked about libraries at Chegwin and Theisen, which are now reassembled. Theisen was just finished this week.

Superintendent

COVID-19 Data

There is a significant decrease in the COVID case numbers, both in the community and in the schools.

Update on Return to School on
February 15, 2021

Going back to 5 days next Monday. In the high school there were 387 remote students at the start of the year, 530 at semester, and now 476. Middle school has gone from 302 to 243, and elementary from 573 to 432. Ms. Buchholz thanked all staff and families in dealing with staff realignments. Three staff are returning to in-person instruction from remote. One position was posted. Staff with health concerns can stream in remotely and have class supervised by another adult. Questions included handling class sections that include both remote and in-person students.

There was a question about pep band. Current limitations are 2 spectators per event, four for playoffs. There are some concerts happening at the high school. More students will be added to the limits as it is prudent.

Mr. Williams answered cleaning questions, stating there was deep cleaning nightly, disinfecting high touch surfaces. With respect to cleaning supplies, staff had requested wipes or spray versus bucket and rag to use on technology. It was suggested a wrung-out rag might still be best.

Parent volunteer communications will be finalized tomorrow, and positions are posted to help: custodial, instructional assistants, and subs.

Vaccine Distribution

Approximately 25% of the staff have been offered at least one dose of vaccine. Distribution to all staff that would like to be vaccinated is expected March 1st.

Board Members Superintendent Search

Hazard, Young, and Attea has the position posted on their site. The survey is closed, there were 919 responses. Twenty completed applications are in, and there is a good amount of interest. They are beginning Zoom screenings of candidates, and a leadership profile will be formed based on community feedback. A question was asked about a closed session to determine what should be included in the superintendent contract.

Student/Staff Activities

Mrs. Uselmann mentioned the Woodworth concert and spelling bee, and drive-through art supplies at the high school.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATE MATTERS

A question was asked about going back to two Audience to Visitors and Delegations opportunities now that the board is meeting in person again.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Uselmann, seconded by Jurgella that the Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Linda Uselmann, Secretary/Clerk