

School District of Fort Atkinson
Board of Education
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT ATKINSON

Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of Fort Atkinson was held Thursday, December 18, 2008. President Kent Koebke called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., at the Luther Administration Center, 201 Park Street, Fort Atkinson, WI. Vice-President Carrie Chisholm, Treasurer Bob Chady, Clerk Rodger Thomann and Member Scott Johnson were present. The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance. President Koebke read the District's mission statement, "The School District of Fort Atkinson is committed to delivering the quality opportunities and services each student needs to achieve his or her academic and personal potential."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Thomann moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated November 20, 2008. Motion seconded by Mrs. Chisholm and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Thomann moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting dated December 5, 2008. Motion seconded by Mrs. Chisholm and unanimously approved by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Kohl Teacher Award Nominees - The Board of Education acknowledged the nominees for the Herb Kohl Fellowship Award, which recognizes excellence and innovation: Martha Firari, Justin Frey, Karen Gomez, Lori Held, Teresa Landowski, Kristen McDaniel, and Leigh Ann Scheurell. Martha Firari, Karen Gomez and Justin Frey were recognized and the remaining four nominees will be recognized at the January Board Meeting.

Recognition of Ardell Wiederhoeft - State Representative Andy Jorgensen presented a plaque from the State of Wisconsin to Business Manager Ardell Wiederhoeft recognizing him for his 40 years of service.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA AND NONAGENDA ITEMS – No comments.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Will Cook presented a report on the Middle School activities. Kim LeRoy and Joe Loof presented a report on activities in other buildings.

INSTRUCTION

4K Program Report and Approval of Contracts – Barrie Elementary Principal Tony Bolz and 4K Coordinator/Speech and Language Pathologist Kathy Volk presented information regarding the 4K Program. A copy of the presentation is attached. Mr. Chady moved the contracts with 4K providers for the 2009-2010 school year be approved. Motion seconded by Mr. Thomann and approved unanimously by roll call.

Data Point Presentation on School Performance Report – Director of Instruction Naomi Gray and High School Principal Jeff Zaspel presented data point information on attendance, graduation, retention, truancy and expulsion rates, extra/co-curricular participation, and suspensions. Information will be given

to Board Members on reasons for suspensions by categories and if same students had multiple incidents. A copy of the presentation is attached.

21st Century Grant Opportunity – Mr. Chady recused himself from the Board during this agenda item. Director of Special Education and Pupil Services John Peterson and Boys and Girls Club Director Bob Chady presented information on a 21st Century Grant opportunity for the District. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Approval of High School Course Proposals – Mr. Chady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved unanimously by voice vote the high school course proposals IT Essentials I, IT Essentials II, Personal Finance, Television Writing & Productions, Introduction to Hospitality (ProStart Level I) and Culinary Arts/Food Service Management (ProStart Level II) placed on the table at the November 20, 2008 meeting, be removed from the table. Mr. Chady moved, seconded by Mr. Thomann and approved unanimously by roll call the high school course proposals IT Essentials I, IT Essentials II, Personal Finance, Television Writing & Productions, Introduction to Hospitality (ProStart Level I) and Culinary Arts/Food Service Management (ProStart Level II) be approved for use at the Fort Atkinson High School.

Postsecondary At-Risk HSED Requests – No requests.

Board Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Thomann reported the Committee discussed data point reports and textbook adoptions.

NONINSTRUCTION

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – No report.

Board Finance Committee Report - Mr. Chady reported the Committee discussed savings from investments and the requirement for a Post Employment Benefits audit.

Approval of Audit Report – Mr. Chady moved, seconded by Mr. Thomann and approved unanimously by roll call, the Board of Education accept the audit report for the 2007-08 fiscal year as presented by Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2009-10 Budget Discussions – Mr. Koebke presented, and the Board discussed, the following budget assumptions for the development of the 2009-10 budget: 1) The State imposed revenue caps will continue and will provide for an annual per student increase of 2.97%, K-12 enrollment will increase by three students, 4K enrollment will increase by two resident students for each of the next two years, Summer School will provide a full-time equivalency of 88 students, open enrollment will provide a net gain of 62 students, the State will continue to utilize and fund the equalization aide formula, the District will move forward with a “0” staffing assumption unless enrollments exceed assumptions, will maintain programs and services in honoring April 2006 referendum promise, enrollments at elementary schools may need to be shuffled to balance class sizes, attrition opportunities or reallocation of resources will be implemented for savings, course programming at the High School will be reviewed for cost effectiveness, and the District will continue finding creative ways of raising revenues. Members of the Board Finance Committee will craft the wording to add the District will maintain and grow fund balance to prevent short-term borrowing in an effort to make wise non-recurring investments resulting in payback opportunities and savings.

Open Enrollment Application Alert - Dr. Fitzpatrick stated the open enrollment application window is February 2 to 20, 2009. Board Members discussed and agreed it is important to inform families of this application window. The Communication Committee will assist in this effort.

Approval of Paid Tuition Agreement – Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by roll call the Board of Education approve students JG and KG as paid-tuition students for the second semester of the 2008-09 school year.

Board Policy Committee Report – Mr. Thomann reported the Committee discussed the following policies. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 345.6 – Graduation Requirements be removed from the table. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 345.6 – Graduation Requirements be adopted for use in the School District of Fort Atkinson. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 453.1 – Emergency Nursing Services be removed from the table. Board Policy 453.1 will be returned to the Policy Committee for further revisions. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 453.11 – Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) be removed from the table. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 453.11 – Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) be adopted for use in the School District of Fort Atkinson. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 458 – Student Nutrition and Wellness Education be removed from table. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 458 – Student Nutrition and Wellness Education be adopted for use in the School District of Fort Atkinson. Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 222.31 – Retirement Program for Administrators (Employed On or After July 1, 1997) be placed on the table and considered at the January Board Meeting. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 411.1 – Student Harassment be placed on the table and considered at the January Board Meeting. Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 528 – Interaction Between Students and District Employees/Volunteers be placed on the table and considered at the January Board Meeting.

Request for Early Graduation Option from Fort Atkinson High School - Mrs. Chisholm moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved unanimously by voice vote, current Fort Atkinson High School senior EL be permitted to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 2008-09 school year.

Board Communication Committee Report – Mrs. Chisholm indicated the Committee discussed the need to inform the public of the District's "success story" and a countdown to referendum.

School Board Election – Mr. Thomann reviewed the School Board election timeline.

Receipt of Gift to the School District - Mrs. Chisholm moved, seconded by Mr. Thomann and approved unanimously by voice vote the Board of Education accept the donation of dictionaries to the elementary schools from Rock River Valley Pioneers Club and the Board of Education thank Rock River Valley Pioneers Club for the generous donations.

PERSONNEL

Resignation - Mr. Thomann moved, seconded by Mrs. Chisholm and approved unanimously by voice vote the resignation request of Naomi Gray, Director of Instruction, effective December 31, 2008, be accepted, and the Board of Education thank Naomi Gray for her seven and a half years of service and dedication to the students and community of the School District of Fort Atkinson.

Amendment to Retirement Request - At its regular meeting on April 17, 2008, the Board approved Mr. Wiederhoeft's retirement, effective at the end of January. The sharp decline in the financial markets will have a significant adverse impact on Mr. Wiederhoeft's annuity from the State Retirement System but the impact can be reduced somewhat by changing his retirement or termination date to December 30, 2008. By letter dated December 12, 2008, Mr. Wiederhoeft has asked the Board to consider amending his retirement or termination date from the end of January 2009 to December 30, 2008. Mr. Chady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved unanimously by voice vote the retirement or termination date for Ardell Wiederhoeft, Business Manager, accepted at the April 17, 2008, meeting, be amended from the end of January 2009 to December 30, 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Treasurer Chady presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Chady and approved unanimously by roll call District bills be approved for payment as posted up to December 10, 2008 in the amount of \$484,193.72 and the construction bills in the amount of \$55,355.55.

WASB/CESA REPORT(S) - Mr. Koebke urged Board Members to convey their thoughts and concerns to him on the resolutions for WASB 2009 Delegate Assembly.

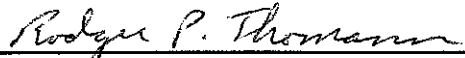
ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS - Data points on District level demographics, HSED student progress, 5 & 10 year buildings and grounds report, open enrollment application alert, School Board election update, preliminary nonrenewal notices, School Board Convention (Jan. 21-23) and 21st Century Grant submittal approval.

CLOSED SESSION - At 10:40 p.m., Mrs. Chisholm moved, seconded by Mr. Thomann and passed unanimously by roll call, to convene in closed session as authorized under ss. 19.82(1) and 19.85(1) and 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes to discuss negotiations and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Kopps
Board Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED:



Rodger Thomann, Clerk
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT ATKINSON

01/15/09

Date