

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT ATKINSON

## Board of Education

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2009

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The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of Fort Atkinson was held Thursday, November 19, 2009. President Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., at the Luther Administration Center, 201 Park Street, Fort Atkinson, WI. Vice-President Carrie Chisholm, Treasurer Bob Chady, Clerk Kent Koebke and Member Rodger Thomann were present. President Johnson 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." The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chisholm moved, seconded by Koebke and passed unanimously by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated October 15, 2009. Chisholm moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the special meeting dated October 23, 2009. Chisholm moved, seconded by Chady and passed unanimously by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the closed session dated October 26, 2009. Chisholm moved, seconded by Chady and passed unanimously by voice vote, to approve the minutes of the special meeting dated October 26, 2009.

### RECOGNITIONS

**Recognition of Girls' Tennis Team** - The Board of Education recognized members of the Girls' Tennis Team for qualifying for state competition and coaches Mike DeRubeis and Kari Dahl.

**Recognition of Cross-Country Team** - The Board of Education recognized members of the Cross-Country Team for qualifying for state competition and coaches Chick Westby and Chris Reed.

**Partnership Awards** - The Board of Education presented Partnership Awards to Vince Kent, a representative of F.A.S.T. and Mike Wallace of Fort Healthcare for the hard work and donations for state-of-the-art starting blocks at the Fort Atkinson High School pool.

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** - Jens Jorgensen presented a report on Fort Atkinson Middle School activities. Jason Straub and Ashley Jensen reported on activities in other buildings.

### INSTRUCTION

**New Course Proposals** - High School Principal Jeff Zaspel and Middle School Principal Rob Abbott presented information regarding new course proposals. Board Members discussed the course proposals. Chisholm moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote the High School course proposals Construction II, Consumer Care: Home & Auto, Elementary Algebra (Dual Credit MATC) and Diversity in America and the Middle School course proposals French 8 and Spanish 8 be placed on the table for one month and be considered for adoption at the regular Board meeting in December. A copy of the course proposals is attached.

**Strategic Plan Updates** – Barrie Elementary Principal Tony Bolz, Purdy Elementary Principal Rick Brietzke and Director of Special Education and Pupil Services John Peterson presented the progress on Strategic Plan goals. Highlighted focus areas included Response to Intervention (RtI) and balanced literacy at the elementary level which includes collaboration in the area of student monitoring and problem solving, staff development in the area of RtI and its guiding principals, ensuring every student has a full reading block in terms of instructional time and content, and staff development related to early literacy and language acquisition and balanced literacy at the secondary level which includes continuing to provide secondary special education teachers staff development in the area of reading.

**Postsecondary At-Risk HSED Requests** – No requests.

**Board Instruction and Pupil Services Committee Report** – Mr. Thomann stated the committee reviewed MAPS and data points.

**Comments on American Education Week** – Dr. Fitzpatrick recognized and thanked staff during this American Education Week.

## NONINSTRUCTION

**Board Buildings and Grounds Committee Report** – Director of Buildings and Grounds Dennis Kuchenmeister reported on the progress of the alternative energy projects.

**Report on Geothermal Energy Savings** – Mr. Kuchenmeister presented a report on geothermal energy savings. Before the installation of the geothermal systems, energy usage costs for Barrie, Purdy and Rockwell Elementary Schools and the Middle School was \$353,124 compared to \$282,182 after the installation. Mr. Kuchenmeister hopes to increase these savings even more in the future. A copy of the report is attached.

**Board Finance Committee Report** – Mr. Chady stated the committee reviewed WRS refinancing.

**5-Year Financial Projection** - Director of Business Services Jason Demerath presented the financial projection for the District. Mr. Demerath presented different scenarios because future state funding is unknown. The “worse case scenario” projects the District will need to go back to the citizens for additional help in 2010-2011 school year. A copy of the presentation is attached.

**Request to Transfer Funds** – Mr. Demerath stated the first request is for in-city student transportation in the amount of \$200. The District asked an older sibling attend Rockwell Elementary for special education needs and the parent wanted the younger sibling to attend the same school, but was unable to pay for bus transportation. Chady moved, seconded by Koebke and passed unanimously by roll call the 2009-2010 General Fund (Fund 10) Expenditure budget be adjusted as follows: Decrease General Administration by \$200 and increase Business Administration by \$200. Mr. Demerath stated the second request is for the Business & Information Technology department/program at the High School. The budget submitted was based on past years and anticipating changes due to new courses offered. The need to replace equipment arose as a result of the current equipment failing. This was not anticipated in the budget and this transfer is moving supply money to equipment repair and replacement within the same department/program budget. Chady moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by roll call the 2009-2010 General Fund (Fund 10) Expenditure budget be adjusted as follows: Decrease Vocational Curriculum by \$3,127 and increase Vocational Curriculum by \$3,127.

**Review of Election Timeline** - Board Clerk Koebke indicated an election for the School Board will be held April 6, 2010. The spring election will be for two three-year terms currently held by Bob Chady and Carrie Chisholm. Any citizen interested in becoming a School Board Member should contact the District's Director of Business Services Jason Demerath. The deadline for filing is January 5, 2010.

**Board Policy Committee Report** – Mr. Thomann indicated the committee reviewed and recommended the following policy changes. Koebke moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 171 – Regular Board Meetings be removed from the table. Thomann moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 171 – Regular Board Meetings be adopted for use in the School District of Fort Atkinson. Koebke moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 411.1 – Student Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying be removed from the table. Thomann moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 411.1 – Student Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying be adopted for use in the School District of Fort Atkinson. Chisholm moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 374 – Student Fund-Raising Activities be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Thomann that Board Policy 375 – Contests for Students be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Board Members agreed to change one word. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Koebke moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 881 – Relations with Community Organizations be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 881.1 – Relations with School Support Organizations/Booster Clubs be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 881.2 – Relations with Parent-Teacher Organizations be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Thomann and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 881.3 – Relations with Religious Organizations be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 881.4 – Relations with Educational Foundations be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting. Koebke moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote Board Policy 690 – Disposal of Equipment, Furniture, and Supply Items be placed on the table and considered at the December Board Meeting.

**Board Communication and Technology Committee Report** – Mrs. Chisholm made comments on the recent Superintendent Advisory Meeting, testimonials and the District's new website.

**Date to Conduct the Semiannual Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools** – It was noted the board will conduct the semiannual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools on Friday, January 15, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## **PERSONNEL**

**Consider Resignation** - Thomann moved, seconded by Chisholm and passed unanimously by voice vote the resignation request of Noreen Montgomery, teacher of English Language Learners at the High School, effective January 22, 2010, be accepted, that section 1.05(6) of the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the Fort Atkinson Education Association, Inc., be applied and the Board of Education thanks Noreen Montgomery and wishes her well.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** - Mr. Chady presented the Treasurer’s Report. Koebke moved, seconded by Chady, and passed unanimously by roll call, that District bills be approved for payment as posted up to October 31, 2009, in the amount \$1,263,173.06.

**WASB/CESA REPORT(S)** – A recently attended WASB conference was discussed.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS** – Kohl nominees, final approval of new course proposals, Strategic Plan updates, WRS refinancing, audit report approval, election timeline review, approval of 4K provider contracts and update on 4K Program. Graduation requirements will be reviewed by Instruction and Pupil Services Committee.

**CLOSED SESSION** – At 10:22 p.m., Chady moved, seconded by Chisholm 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:**

  
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Kent Koebke, Clerk  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT ATKINSON

December 17, 2009  
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Date