

**FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
September 16, 2015
6:30pm**

Present: Tim Magnant, Chairperson, Thomas Gates, Bob Berger. Joyce Hakey, Principal, Winton Goodrich, Superintendent, Becky Hart, Business Manager, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Others present: Annie Wagner, Farm To School Grant Coordinator

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order- Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- Agenda Revision

Visitors from Community and Staff:

Farm To School Program: Annie Wagner, Farm to School Grant Coordinator, provided an over view of the program. She explained that the Farm To School Program provides a connection between school and community and makes a connection to the food cycle letting children know where their food comes from. They began a garden and grades K through 3 visited a dairy farm. They hope to bring other grades to the farm and bring kids to an apple orchard. They have harvested the vegetables the kids have prepared and ate some of the products from the garden. There are a number of activities planned for this year. Joyce thanked Annie for all she has done.

Approval of Minutes: Thomas Gates moved, seconded by Bob Berger to approve the July 28, 2015 board minutes as presented. The board approved the motion on a 3-0 vote.

Financial Report: Becky Hart will bring an updated financial report to the next meeting. The board tabled the financial report. Becky handed out a summary of the check warrants. Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the check warrants for July totaling \$146,480.63 and August totaling \$151,758.54. The board approved 3-0 vote.

Check Warrants: The board reviewed the check warrants. Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the June check warrants totaling \$182,546.05. The board approved 3-0 vote.

Principal's Report

School Happenings: Joyce Hakey reported that they had a great opening of school. They had four in-service days. They had an opening breakfast and meeting with mandatory training information; Farm To School meeting; planned First Friday; went to the Supervisory Union In-Service for the keynote on standard based grading; followed up on summer work including training on independent reading assessment, local assessment plan, wellness conference, science information and following up on June In-Service, looking at local and statewide assessment data including SBAC data and revising the school's action plan. They also had their Kindergarten orientation during the In-Service week. Then the students started on the 25th and there was a very smooth opening of school. Since school started, Franklin had Fun First Friday (with a farm theme), Back To School Night with a good turnout, had a Meadow Farms Kickoff, which is the school's major fund raiser, and just had the summer reading program recognition.

SBAC update: Joyce provided an overview of the SBAC Tests. This first year of the tests will provide baseline data. There were a number of reasons the State Board said the results should not be used this year for any student judgments or to evaluate a school's adequate yearly progress. The reasons included that the administration was all on computer and they want to make sure that the test is measuring math/literacy not computer skills, students were asked to do problem solving in an applied context which is a huge change, the test needs to be validated as to how well it's measuring college and career readiness, and students were tested as if they have been being taught these standards their whole school career when we have only recently transitioned to these standards. With all of that said, Joyce was still very proud of how hard students worked and that at every grade level and in each content area, they scored above the supervisory union and the state average. The feedback received was very general and it has been a challenge to use it to target areas of curriculum/instruction to work on. However, they had very good discussions and looked for where the data reinforced information from local assessments.

Safety Audit: VSBIT has completed a safety audit of the school. The audit was very thorough and will be discussed at a later time.

Act 46: Win reported that the ACT 46 Governance Study is a local school board decision. He presented the school board with a time line with the preliminary progress report estimated to be ready in December. They talked about the involvement of the committee members in the study. Franklin's representative on the committee is Bob Berger. Win reported that Peter Clark is coming to the Supervisory Union Board meeting on September 30th. He will provide more information about the governance study, explain the difference between a \$5,000 study and \$20,000 funded by a State Grant. Tom Gates moved, seconded by Bob Berger that the Franklin School Board authorizes the \$5,000 governance study with the other member schools of Highgate, Swanton, Sheldon and MVU to explore the benefits and challenges of an Act 46 school district merger. The board approved the motion 3-0 vote.

Education Quality Standards: The other part of Act 46 is the education quality standards. The Agency of Education is launching a pilot on education quality review to determine how local communities/schools are meeting the education quality standards. The Agency of Education are asking local Supervisory Unions to help decide how to assess the educational quality review. They will need teams of teachers, principals, students, and two members of Central Office Staff to participate. The teams will be looking at academic achievement, personalized learning, safe, climate, high quality staffing and financial efficiencies. The Supervisory Union Board has authorized participation in the study provided that the majority of the principals approve. The training will take place in Dec. 1 and 2 for the January/February. The second training will take place on April 27 and 28 for the April study. There is a financial incentive to participate. Joyce had felt there could be some benefits but was concerned about taking people out of the building for the training and also wondered how close the work done would be to what the review would actually end up being. The April training is during SBAC testing and because Franklin is such a small school, they will need all their staff members to be available for the testing. She is not sure that Franklin will be able to send someone to the training. Win agreed that not all schools had to send someone.

Policy on Harassment, Hazing and Bully of Students: Win explained that this is a new model policy for the board's review and adoption. Tim Magnant moved, seconded by Bob Berger to adopt the policy on the prevention of harassment, hazing and bullying of students. The board approved 3-0 vote.

Meeting

- Next Franklin School Board Meeting October 20th.

- FNWSU Collaborative Board Meeting September 30th at 6pm at MVU.
- Local school board meetings will follow the SU meeting around 7pm.

The board set the next monthly meeting dates for November and December. November 17th and December 15th.

Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to enter executive session at 8:45pm for contract issue inviting Pierrette Bouchard to join. The board approved 3-0 vote. The board exited executive session at 9:05pm. Tim Magnant declared the board meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gates,
School Board Clerk by
Pierrette Bouchard School Board Secretary