Cochrane-Fountain City School District Board Meeting in Committee April 6, 2023

Call to Order

Larry Cyrus called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the High School board room #335. Board members present were Larry Cyrus, Kalene Engel, Darrin Dillinger, Lynn Doelle, Don Baloun, Michael Ayala, and Niki Secrist. Also present were Troy White, Steve Stoppelmoor, Sue McKay, Amanda Brakke, Garek Barum, Allen Bollinger, Dorothy Bollinger, and Carley Hofer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Mission Statement read.

Larry Cyrus attested to the publication of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Darrin Dillinger made a motion to approve the agenda. Niki Secrist seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information Items

• Food Service Report – Amanda Brakke

Ms. Brakke presented information about the food service audit. Topics mentioned were applications, meal counting and claiming, civil rights, wellness policy, professional standards and staff cooperation.

• Maintenance Report – Garek Barum

Mr. Barum outlined the larger projects for completion in the 2022-2023 school year. They include: maintenance on the roof, upgrading some electrical panels, abatement of some asbestos flooring, new flooring, new lighting by the bus parking, tuck pointing of the building's exterior, and blacktopping the bus parking area. Some possible projects for the 2023-2024 school year were also discussed. Custodial labor was listed as a concern because of retiring staff.

• Mental Health Services -- Administration

Mr. Stoppelmoor told the board the main mental health issues are stress and anxiety. Other issues are conflict with peer groups and social emotional issues. He said there are two counselors on site to help the students. The district also is using an online program called Empower You as an intervention. Mr. Stoppelmoor also signed up for Speak up, Speak out Wisconsin. This program allows students to report a tip or get help for themselves. It is funded through the state.

Health Insurance Update – Troy White

Mr. White gave the Board an update on health insurance. Rates for next year are not available yet.

Discussion Items

- Legislative involvement
 - Day at the capitol report

Discussion was presented by the board members and superintendent who attended the day at the capitol. Information was shared about the lack of bipartisanship, the common understanding by the legislature around special education funding, and the impact that has on budgets. The board also expressed the need to continue our legislative advocacy, including asking the public to express their desire that schools are funded in ways other than referendums.

Joint Finance Listening Sessions

Discussion was had around the joint finance committee listening sessions that are taking place April 11th in Eau Claire and April 12th in Wisconsin Dells. The superintendent explained that he will be attending the listening session in Wisconsin Dells due to his involvement in a meeting in Madison on April 11th. Board members including Don Baloun, Larry Cyrus and Michael Ayala expressed their intent to travel to the Eau Claire meeting. The board will be putting together a statement that will be shared at that meeting.

• Community Relations

o Fountain City Business & Community Group's Annual Meeting

Troy White and Steve Stoppelmoor attended the Fountain City Business and Community Group's Annual Meeting. Niki Secrist and Mike Ayala were also in attendance. A discussion on how the school could partner with the community group occurred.

• Daycare

A discussion was had regarding expanding the daycare possibilities, which included allocating funds from the district's fund balance to build or modify the existing building to increase the number of a students that could be serviced beyond what has already been approved with the Head Start partnership. Discussion ensued around the financial impact, including the possible need to cut or reduce current programming and conducting an operating referendum much sooner. The board recommended the superintendent determine the cost of retaining school perceptions to survey the community to have data around the actual need versus perceived need for childcare. The superintendent presented forecasting models on the financial impact of spending down the fund balance to build or expand the daycare.

• District Policy Updates

o 345.6 Graduation requirements

Mr. White shared the new graduation requirements moving from 23 to 26 credits over the next four years including community service, financial literacy, and academic & career advisory requirements.

- 535.12 Break Time for Nursing Mothers
 Mr. White explained the WASB recommendation for nursing policy changes.
- 751.5 Use of Alternative Vehicle to Transport Students
- 751.5 Exhibit Alternative Vehicle Authorization Form

Mr. White gave an explanation on policy 751.5 alternative vehicles for transporting students.

Future Agenda Items

- Surveys

Review Timelines and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings.

Tuesday	April 18th, 2023	New School Board Member Gathering	7:00 p.m. @ CESA 4
Wednesday	April 19th, 2023	Regular Meeting (New Board Oaths)	4:30 p.m.
Thursday	May 4th, 2023	Special Meeting (Board Organization)	6:00 p.m.
		Committee of the Whole	Following the special meeting
Wednesday	May 17th, 2023	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	June 1st, 2023	Committee of the Whole	6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Darrin Dillinger made a motion to adjourn the committee meeting. Lynn Doelle seconded the motion. Motion carried at 8:30 p.m.