Cochrane-Fountain City School District Regular School Board Meeting September 15, 2021

President Karen Knospe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. Board members present were Larry Cyrus, Karen Knospe, Lynn Doelle, Bonnie Breza, Rita Greshik, Don Baloun and Kalene Engel. Others present were Jo-Ellen Fairbanks, Karen Domine, Steve Stoppelmoor, Lance Litchfield, Carissa Hall, Dan Rolbiecki, Sonia Dietrich, Tanner Lisowski, Dan Wicka, Carrie Krause, Kelsey Baures, Zeke Secrist, Niki Secrist, Theresa Henderson, Rachel Rich, Kevin Rich, Josie Knauber, Dave Rynders, Wyatt Abts, Mike Weber, Will Schellhammer, Ethan Osborn, Aiden Lisowski, Sol Simon, Kenmund Mehus, Gavin Rich, Hale Madsen, and Ethan Dillinger.

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

Karen Knospe attested to the publication of the meeting.

## **Public Comments/Appearances**

Sonia Dietrich-responsibilities of Board and superintendent, Carissa Hall-mandates are not freedom, Tanner Lisowskimasks, Dan Wicka-masks, Hale Madsen-masks, Theresa Henderson-medical freedom, Rachel Rich-masks, Kevin Richmasks, Niki Secrist-masks/consistency, and Wyatt Abts-masks/food service.

## **Consideration of Adjustments to the Agenda**

Karen Knospe made a motion to approve the agenda adding Josie Knauber, Buffalo County Public Health Officer, as letter B under Presentations. Seconded by Lynn Doelle. Motion carried.

## **Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Board of Education minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 18, 2021.
- B. Approval of August 18, 2021 September 15, 2021 vouchers.
- **C.** Approve recommendation to hire:

Tristan Schmidtknecht – Counselor (short-term position)
Alisyn Dovenberg – Business Education (long-term substitute)

Don Baloun made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **Recognitions/Donations**

- A. Rick and LuAnn Flury \$750 in school supplies for the Elementary School
- B. Beverly Engel Sewed adult and child size cloth face masks
- C. Sandy Duellman Flowers/plants for the outside, main door planter
- D. Treasure Trove \$ 1020 for signs, decorations, & prizes for the school Open House

\$ 750 for New Teacher swag bags

\$ 1080 for new State Champions sign

\$ 3,869.89 for Small Engines Training Kit

\$ 331.18 for Sensory Space

Those listed above were recognized by the Board for their donations to the district.

# **Presentation**

# A. Athletics Report – Lance Litchfield

Athletic Director Lance Litchfield gave the Board a report about fall athletics. His presentation included how many athletes were participating in each fall sport, conference school mask mandates, COVID forced forfeitures, new uniforms for this school year, the Booster Club, and the live streaming of football games.

#### **B.** Josie Knauber – Buffalo County Public Health Officer

Josie Knauber showed the Board a power point presentation on COVID. She showed data on current statistics and trends for both Buffalo County and the state. She explained why masks, social distancing, and vaccines are just some of the ways to help control the spread of COVID.

## **Information Items**

# A. Principal's Report

Mr. Stoppelmoor thanked the Class of '66 for setting up a Guardian Angel Fund to help struggling families. He also gave the Board a report on the number of students and classes that are being offered as transcripted classes through Western Tech. He mentioned the deadline for applying for the Early College Credit program for the Spring semester is October 1, 2021.

# **B.** Superintendent's Report

# 1. Personnel

Dr. Fairbanks gave the Board the personnel report. Deb Barth resigned, and Angela Beck moved to a full-time food service employee. Bonnie Bork was hired as a part time food service worker to replace Angela. Karen Lane was hired as a study hall paraprofessional.

## 2. Budget

Dr. Fairbanks explained to the Board the revenue limit and how it correlates with equalization aid and property taxes. The way the joint finance committee has the school funding currently set; property taxes will increase after two years when ESSER funds expire.

# 3. COVID Dashboard

Dr. Fairbanks reported that there is now a COVID Dashboard on the school web site. It lists the total number of school year to date cases as well as the current number of students and staff testing positive or in quarantine.

## C. CESA Report

Larry Cyrus gave the Board an update on the last CESA meeting. He mentioned the paraprofessional summit, the superintendent meeting, the DPI and ESSER funds.

#### **Action Items**

# A. Discuss and consider recommendation to update the 2021-22 Ready to Learn plan

The current Ready to Learn Plan requires face coverings for all students, staff, and visitors. The Federal mandate for face coverings on buses was extended to January 18, 2022. After much discussion with each Board member giving their input, Don Baloun made a motion to continue the Ready to Learn Plan as written, reviewing every month. Kalene Engel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Discussion Items**

A. None

## **Future Agenda Items**

Superintendent Evaluation Process – October Work Study – January Solar Power – TBD Staff Recognition – TBA

Items added: Lunch update, fundraising, co-curriculars, and communication plan/strategy

## **Review Timeline and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings**

A. Thursday, October 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole 6:00 p.m.

B. Wednesday, October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

C. Monday, October 25 2021 Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m.

D. Monday, October 25, 2021 Special Board Meeting Immediately following Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting

E. Thursday, November 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole 6:00 p.m. F. Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

#### **Adjournment**

Larry Cyrus made the motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Kalene Engel seconded the motion. Motion carried.