

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Farmington Municipal Schools District Number Five**  
**Wednesday, June 28 & Thursday, June 29, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stephanie Thompson, President  
Keith Corley, Vice President  
Andra Stradling, Secretary  
Joan Vallee, Deputy Secretary  
Barbara Tedrow, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS MEETING WITH THE BOARD:**

Cody Diehl, Superintendent  
Nicole Lambson, Executive Director of Curriculum  
Ted Lasiewicz, Chief of Operations  
Bobbi Newland, Chief Financial Officer  
Chris Pash, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Nathan Pierantoni, Executive Director of Support Services  
Robert Emerson, Chief Technology Officer  
Colton McClanahan, Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Blades, Administrative Assistant  
Roberto Taboada, Public Information Officer  
Lauryn Gonzales, Media Specialist

**ABSENT:**

**BOARD RETREAT - 8:00AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Called to order at 8:02am by President Thompson.

### **CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Superintendent Diehl recommended the agenda be adopted as written.

It was moved by Keith Corley, seconded by Andra Stradling to adopt the agenda as written. The motion carried with the following - Ayes: Barbara Tedrow, Keith Corley, Andra Stradling, and Stephanie Thompson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **Day 1 - Wednesday, June 28**

### **HIGH RELIABILITY SCHOOLS (HRS)**

Dr. Phil Warrick shared a presentation with the Board regarding High Reliability Schools and highlighted the first three focus points of the program. Level 1 being Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture, Level 2 Effective Teaching in Every Classroom, and Level 3 Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. Ms. Lambson and Mr. Pierantoni noted that the HRS framework has been adopted as the FMS Strategic Plan.

### **REPORTING CALENDAR BY MONTH**

Members of the Cabinet, Nicole Lambson and Nate Pierantoni, shared information regarding the Reporting Calendar for monthly Work Sessions.

### **BREAK AT 10:00AM TO 10:17AM**

### **PROVE/IMPROVE CYCLES**

Members of the Cabinet, Nicole Lambson, Nate Pierantoni, and Robert Emerson, shared information regarding the implementation of the previous year's HRS into the FMS 22-23 Strategic Plan (SP) and shared the updated 23-24 SP for the coming school year. Ms. Thompson and members of the board agreed that the 23-24 SP should exclude District Goal Five: Board, Community & Staff Relations. It was agreed that this goal should be worked into the Boards Self-Evaluation to allow for a broader review of the data and would still allow for community transparency. Also, the opening paragraph was reworded to include the opening comment from the excluded goal. The 23-24 SP was updated on the spot. It was noted that the HRS Leadership Portfolio and District Focus were not solely designed by the Leadership team but rather by teachers and principles so that the framework is comprehensive and unified.

## **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

Ms. Lambson shared updates regarding Safe, Supportive, & Collaborative Culture, Effecting Teaching in Every Classroom, and Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Pierantoni shared updates regarding the Multicultural Office and the New Indian Education Director, Nursing and Mental Health, Exception Programs, and Attendance & Behavior.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Emerson shared updates regarding the Leadership Development team and that each location will have a Leadership Coach to help Coach teachers for Leadership positions.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Emerson shared updates regarding new Visitor Management System which will replace the current displays with ipads to simplify the process, Access Control integration with security cameras which will allow all access points to be automatically monitored by cameras when activated, Interactive Projector installation in all classrooms to allow teachers and students to interact using a digital whiteboard program, updated computers for elementary students, improved Financial Reporting system, and new assessment platform and data analysis systems that are integrated with Schoology and Powerschool.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Mr. Pash shared updates regarding the employee utilization of Ulliance which increased substantially since the last school year and allowed staff members to interact and request assistance easily.

## **FACILITY UPDATES**

Mr. Lasiewicz shared updates regarding; the construction plans for PreK, and schedule for Heights and Mesa Verde, Roofing for Mesa View and Esperanza, Roofing at Ladera and Hermosa, HVAC approvals for Apache, Bluffview, and McCormick, Hutchinson Stadium Track is being repaved in a way that will guarantee the warranty, Playground upgrades for Animas, Bluffview, Esperanza, Ladera, and McKinley noted as Priority One, and Restroom renovations for Bluffview, Ladera, and McCormick noted as Priority Two, & Facility Maintenance Assessment Report (FMAR) is above 90% for all schools. Further he shared that the Fed reimbursement for Student Nutrition is now 100% with a one million dollar guarantee by K12 by

Ellior, and that there is a delay in relocating all Plant Ops to the Transportation property due to excessive construction bids.

### **BUDGET**

Ms. Newland shared that the 23-24 budget has been approved and moving forward improved internal controls will be implemented, it was shared that this includes better oversight and controls for cash handling.

### **SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS SY21-22**

Superintendent Diehl shared that; Country Club and San Juan College High School have been designated as Spotlight Schools, Animas, Apache, Esperanza, Ladera, McCormick, Mesa Verde, Northeast, Hermosa, Tibbetts, FHS, & PVHS have been designated as Traditional Schools, The following received Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) designations; Heights received Students with Disabilities (SD) and English Learners(EL), Mesa View for Student with Disabilities (SD), Bluffview for Native American (NA), and Mckinley for Students with Disabilities (SD). Rocinante received Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) designation for Grad Rate.

### **RECESS**

Superintendent Diehl recommended the Board take a Recess until 8am Thursday June 29.

It was moved by Joan Vallee, seconded by Keith Corley to recess until 8am Thursday June 29, 2023. The motion carried with the following - Ayes: Barbara Tedrow, Keith Corley, Andra Stradling, and Stephanie Thompson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board disbursed at 11:55am.

## **Day 2 - Thursday, June 29**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Thompson announced that the Recess had ended and the meeting was called to order at 8:03am

## **BOARD TRAINING**

FMS Legal Counsel, Dan Castille of Cuddy McCarthy shared a presentation with the FMS Board regarding the powers of School Board members and the Superintendent, Ethics and Governmental Conduct Act, and Public Comment at the Board Meetings. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to oversee the Superintendent and the FMS Budget. Board Members Stradling, Vallee, and Tedrow shared concerns regarding the chain of command regarding public communication directly with the board about complaints or issues. It was shared that public concerns regarding students or personnel should first go through the school Principal, if the parent is not satisfied with the actions taken by the Principal to resolve the issue, then they may contact the Superintendent, if the issue is still not resolved. The board is willing to hear concerns regarding students and or personnel but are not able to do so in a public setting such as a Board Meeting. In the course of this training a discussion was held regarding the current Public Comment policies and practices. Ms. Vallee and Ms. Stradling shared their concerns regarding the limiting of the Public Comment Forum during the Regular Board meetings. Superintendent Diehl and Board President Thompson shared that a motion is on the agenda for this policy to be changed.

## **BREAK AT 9:55AM TO 10:13AM**

## **BOARD TRAINING CONTINUED**

In continuing with the training, Mr. Castille noted that there are no statutes or laws that require a Board to have a Public Comment Forum but it is a common practice among New Mexico School Boards, the current policy/procedure being implemented by FMS is also common practice among New Mexico School Boards though it was within the Boards power to amend this policy as they see fit. Ms. Vallee recommended that the board consider removing the limitations on the Public Comment Forum that restricts the community from discussing any topic unrelated to items on the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Pash expressed concerns that by opening up the comments to any topic, that this would also allow them to bridge topics that the Board is powerless to act upon and or would invite derogatory comments about FMS, its employees, or even the Members of the Board. Mr. Castille did suggest that instead of removing limitations, that the Board amend those limitations to allow a wider range of topics but still prevent discussions regarding personnel issues, pending litigation, or individually identified students. Ms. Vallee also expressed concerns regarding the timing of the meeting and felt that the Work Session and or Board Meeting timing may interfere with a community member's ability to attend and share in the public comment section. She would like to see the start time change to later in the afternoon and or see that the placement of the Public Comment section be moved to the end of a meeting rather than near

the beginning. A discussion regarding additional changes to Board Policy Section B were added to the July Regular Board Meeting.

### **POLICY & PROCEDURE CHANGES**

The FMS Board of Education and Superintendent shared input and made final edits to the existing Policy B-2150 regarding Public Comment at Regular Board meetings and amended the limitations in regards to topics allowed for public comment. Mr. McClanahan made changes to this policy as directed, changes to this policy have been updated and are reflected within the School Board Policy B. Due to a lack of time the remaining items on the agenda; Naming Facilities, High School Grading scale, Armed Security Pilot Program, and the Board Evaluation, have been moved to the July 11, 2023 Work Session. Superintendent presented possible changes to policy regarding the policy edit process, instead of having the Review and then Edit/Approval step, he suggested; Review/Edit and then Approval, additional discussion regarding additional changes to the policy section B will be added to the July Meeting agenda.

### **\*APPROVAL OF B-2150 POLICY CHANGES**

Superintendent Diehl recommended the Board approve the changes to policy B-2150 as presented.

It was moved by Andra Stradling, seconded by Joan Vallee to approve the changes to policy B-2150 as presented. The motion carried with the following  
- Ayes: Barbara Tedrow, Keith Corley, Andra Stradling, and Stephanie Thompson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **\*DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO LEGAL COUNCIL**

Superintendent Diehl notified the Board that Mr. Castille is leaving his current employer Cuddy McCarthy Law Firm and moving to Ortiz & Zamora Law Firm. Though the Board was given the option to choose between; (1) releasing Cuddy McCarthy as legal Counsel, (2) Retain Cuddy McCarthy and dismiss Mr. Castille, (3) retain both Law Firms whereas Cuddy McCarthy would continue to serve as legal counsel to FMS and Mr. Castille would be the legal counselor to the Board of Education, the Board did select option 3 to retain both Law Firms.

Superintendent Diehl recommended the Board approve changes to the Legal Council as presented and retain both Cuddy McCarthy and Ortiz & Zamora.

It was moved by Keith Corley, seconded by Joan Vallee to approve the changes to Legal Counsel as presented. The motion carried with the following - Ayes: Barbara Tedrow, Keith Corley, Andra Stradling, and Stephanie Thompson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Joan Vallee, seconded by Andra Stradling, to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote – Ayes: Joan Vallee, Keith Corley, Andra Stradling, Barbara Tedrow, and Stephanie Thompson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Andra Stradling, Secretary

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Thompson, President

Approved: July 11, 2023