Forest Area Community Schools

Board of Education

May 17, 2021

The meeting of the Forest Area Community Schools Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Steve Kniss at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Jody Perkins, Dan Smith, Chrissy Ingersoll (ab), Christie McLeod, Joanna Durfee, Steve Kniss and Jill Snyder (ab).

**Motion** by J. Durfee, supported by J. Perkins to approve the agenda, minutes, bills and financial statements. Motion carried.

**Citizen Comments:**

Anna Durfee: HS Junior, requesting the school board review its policy to allow students in Early Middle College to be eligible for Val/Sal. Forest Area’s current policy does not allow EMC students to be eligible for this honor.

L. Lindsay - Does not approve of the proposed club (GSA) for FACS.

H. Smith - Is in full support of the proposed club (GSA) for FACS.

J. McDonald - Does not approve of the proposed (GSA) club for FACS.

J. Vermillion - Is not in support of the proposed (GSA) club for FACS.

J. Kelley - Is not in support of the proposed (GSA) club for FACS.

T. Deike - Music Boosters is having a “Fun Run/Walk” fundraiser Memorial Weekend.

A Nolff - Does not approve of the proposed club (GSA) for FACS.

S. Kniss thanked everyone that came to voice their opinions during public comment. The proposed club for FACS will not be voted on until the June meeting.

**Correspondence:** Esser II & Esser III money still hung up in Lansing. House and Senate discussing a per pupil increase in funding.

**Student Report:** None

**Deputy Report:**  A grant was received for 14 emergency radios that have been distributed to different staff in the building. These radios not only have the ability to speak with all FA staff, but have the ability to communicate directly with law enforcement if needed. Total of 21 hours have been spent during the month of April 2021.

**Athletic Director:** None

**Elementary Report : Amberle Eaker:** End of year testing at FLE has started. Huge thanks to everyone involved with testing and setup. It’s greatly appreciated. April Students of the Month: Anderson - Maggie Rothwell, Wilson - Valkyrie Litchard, Mullin - Sydney Romano, Tengdin - Riley Vermillion, Merchant - Hunter Miller, Nedow - Colby Bryant, Raupp - Aurora Smith, Rives - Kaidyn Keiser.

**HS/MS Principals Report: Kelly Holeman:** Introduced [Joe Kreider](mailto:jkreider@forestarea.org)with seeds to talk about the Sugar Shack. Renovation started in 2019 and with the help of community members and grants they’ve raised over $7,000 to help with this project. Seeds students Alex Robbins, Ivan Hempton and Ava Burgess talked about the process of tapping, boiling and bottling maple syrup.

National Honor Society inductions took place last week, inducting 13 new members.

MS/HS students of the month: Middle School is Kaylie Remington and Vanek Schultz. High School is Mekhi Marsh and Makayla Dennis.

Seniors from last year and this year are currently working on a PROM for when school is out in June.

Congratulations to the 2021 Valedictorian Emily Norkowski and Salutatorian Maycey Turner.

Wednesday May 26th is our Spring music concert which will be held outside. Friday May 28th will be the seniors last day of attendance. There are currently 12 students in quarantine

**Superintendent Report: Josh Rothwell:** An instant alert will go out this evening letting the community know FACS will continue with the current mask guidelines until the end of the school year. Checking with other schools in our region, they are also keeping their same safety protocols until the end of the school year.

**Board Comments:**

J. Perkins - Thanks to everyone that came.

C. McLeod - Thanks to everyone that came, we all want what is best for kids.

J. Durfee - Vaccinations are available to students ages 12-15. Thanks to teachers and staff for their wonderful comments about the Teen Health Corner.

D. Smith - Thanks Anna Durfee for speaking tonight, your speech was very well put. Thanks to everyone who came and spoke tonight.

S. Kniss - Thanks for everyone coming. The decisions we make are not taken lightly. We will always listen to each side before making our decision. Baseball is struggling this season, FA has a new coach and it’s a learning process for all involved. Softball’s season had a rocky start but things are picking up.

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by D. Smith to go into closed session at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by D. Smith to come out of closed session at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.

**Discussion items:** Graduation will be held outside on Friday June 4th at 6 p.m., FA will follow all the current safety guidelines. Graduation practice, senior breakfast and time capsules will be Thursday June 3rd.

Forest Area MS/HS Club Application - Jade Magee spoke about the proposed GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) club. Referencing it is meant to be a safe welcoming place for ALL students.

S. Kniss - Any new club with Forest Area needs to be student led, without adult influence at the meetings. Adult(s) in the room are there for supervision only. Clubs will need to follow all the school rules and have a set of By-Laws.

D. Smith - Thanks Jade for speaking up. Clubs will need to be student led and have to follow the current policy.

J. Durfee - We need to make sure any school club doesn’t interfere with the school day.

J. Perkins - Nothing

C. McLeod - We have no legal standing to deny it. There needs to be straight forward By-Laws.

The School Board states that the GSA Club cannot meet until it has been approved at the Board level. The Boards decision will be based on clubs in general, not any one specific club.

**Action Items:**

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by D. Smith to approve the ESS Midwest, Inc. Agreement (WillSub). Motion carried.

**Motion by** D. Smith supported by C. McLeod to approve the Food Service Projects/purchases. Motion carried.

**Motion by** D. Smith supported by J. Perkins to approve the Grand Traverse Construction Contract. Motion carried.

**Motion by** J. Dufree supported by C. McLeod to approve the Playground Equipment purchases not to exceed $50,000. Motion carried

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by J. Perkins to approve the hiring of sub bus driver Kim Afton. Motion carried

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by D. Smith to approve the North Ed General Fund Operating Budget. Motion carried

**Motion by** J. Durfee supported by C. McLeod to approve the North Ed Schools of Choice Policy. Motion carried

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by J. Durfee to approve North Ed Biennial Board Election. Motion carried

**Motion by** C. McLeod supported by D. Smith to approve the Fife Lake Public Library Service Contract. Motion carried

**Motion by** D. Smith supported by C. McLeod to approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Reconfirmation. Motion carried.

Extended Continuity of Learning - Public Comment: None

**Motion by** D. Smith supported by C. McLeod to adjourn at 8:27 Motion carried.

Recording Secretary

Susan Ingersoll