

Fillmore Central Schools
Board of Education
Community Meeting
February 14, 2011

The special board meeting for Community discussion was called to order at 6:30 pm on the evening of Monday, February 14, 2011 in the Fillmore Central Elementary Meeting Room by Chairman Ross Kiehne. Present: Superintendent Luehmann, Bookkeeper Darla Ebner, Board members: Britton, Kiehne, Love, Ristau, Sikkink, Topness and Torgrimson. Absent: None. Community members: Jim & Sheila Marzolf, Dustin Arndt, Karen Schmidt, David & Nancy Harrison, Kurt & Tracy Raaen, Jade Wangen, Lisa Brainard, FC Principal Heath Olstad, Dean of Students Chris Mensink.

Power Point presentation about Flexible Learning Year was given by Superintendent Luehmann. The presentation included the rationale for the application by the consortium, specifics about common requirements, and also a draft of possible Fillmore Central school calendar for 2011-2012.

Chairman Kiehne opened the meeting for questions. Questions/topics are listed below along with some of the responses by Board members, Superintendent Luehmann, Principal Olstad, and Dean Mensink.

- 1) Q: If this arrangement isn't working can the district leave the Collaborative? A: No, probably not. The application does not address that issue. A district is able to join for the second or third year but would have to pay the full three year staff development costs.
- 2) Q: Will the \$10 per student cost increase or decrease the budget? A: There is no budget ramification. We currently budget more than \$10/student for staff development purposes so this would just come from that line item.
- 3) Q: Is the entire board in favor of joining this Collaborative? A: The entire Board decided to go forward with the community meetings. The Board is in the process of gathering input from the community.
- 4) Q: Will a survey go out to all district families? A: At this time there is not a plan to send out a district wide survey. The meetings are being held for families to voice their opinions.
- 5) Q: What voice does Fillmore Central have in the application process? A: Ms. Luehmann and Mr. Olstad have both attended meetings. The work group has been very good at keeping Superintendents informed. Each district has one vote. Fillmore Central has one vote and Rochester has one vote.
- 6) Q: At the beginning of the school year football practice has 2 practices a day. How will this schedule benefit those kids? The kids get too tired.
A: Chris Mensink noted that the only year he hasn't had a player late for practice was the year that FC started school early. The two-a-day practices only affect grades 9-12. Grades 7-8 will only have one practice per day.
- 7) Q: Graduation is currently scheduled for Trout Days weekend. Trout Days couldn't operate on the same weekend as graduation. A: Fillmore Central can adjust the date of graduation.
- 8) Q: How do the teachers feel? How is the change being handled? A: Mr. Olstad has met with K-6 and 7-12 staff to inform them of the possible upcoming changes. He asked staff to give positive and negative feedback. The staff's responses were overall quite positive. Concerns include: staff development choices, weather, and 4-H/FFA activities.
- 9) Q: Basically the two main issues are budget and testing? A: There will be no impact on budget and whether or not there are improved test scores won't be known until the school year has been completed. The theory is that more instruction time prior to the test will help with scores.
- 10) Q: Has a 45-15 schedule been considered? A: There is currently one school in Rochester and one in Austin using that schedule. To help educate our children we should add days to the school year; however that will cost additional money that the district does not have.
- 11) Q: Where any questions asked at the first meeting that weren't addressed tonight? A: Not really.
- 12) Q: Might this schedule go statewide? A: Probably not.
- 13) Q: If we are included in the application are we in or out as a group? A: Yes. The application will be approved or rejected for the entire Collaborative.

14) Q: Any thought of participating in the Collaborative but starting school after Labor Day? A: No.

15) Q: Can we apply as in individual district to start before Labor Day? A: In order to start prior to Labor Day state statute mandates that a district has to be completing a construction project that totals more than \$500,000.

No further questions came before the board. Chairman Kiehne thanked the community members for attending the meeting and for their comments.

Motion made by Ristau to adjourn. Motion seconded by Britton. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ristau
Clerk, ISD #2198