

Fillmore Central Schools  
Board of Education  
Community Meeting  
February 9, 2011  
Fountain Community Center

The special board meeting for Community discussion was called to order at 6:32 pm on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011 at the Fountain Community Center by Chairman Ross Kiehne. Present: Superintendent Luehmann, Board members: Britton, Kiehne, Love, Torgrimson. Absent: Topness, Ristau, and Sikkink. Community members: Don Besse, Dorrie Besse, Lisa Brainard, FC Principal Heath Olstad, Dean of Students Chris Mensink.

Torgrimson made the motion to open the meeting to the overview presentation and community discussion. Britton seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Power Point presentation about Flexible Learning Year was presented 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) Is there a concern among the board that a superintendent isn't in place for next year? Ms. Luehmann is retiring at the end of this school year, but a search is in progress and the board is sure a replacement will be hired prior to July 1, 2011.
- 2) What are the feelings of the teaching staff regarding this plan? Board members and Mr. Olstad responded about the meetings held with staff and their responses being mostly positive. Mr. Olstad noted concerns about possible hot weather in August. Mr. Mensink added that as a small district, staff will benefit from the shared staff development opportunities.
- 3) Board should look at how families are affected. These meetings will bring family concerns to the board's attention. Fillmore Central just completed a large HVAC project and the district needed to have an early start/early out to facilitate the project timeline. Board noted that this schedule has been done with many positive results, including making AYP for the first time in three years.
- 4) 4-H, FFA, and other end of summer programs will be affected by early start. Is the board sensitive to this? Mr. Olstad and board members responded that 70-75% of our students are in school-related activities in August (football, volleyball, band camp). Students need to prioritize.
- 5) Has the board considered that it may not be the smartest thing to be in the first round of this plan? Board members offered feedback from districts that are part of the current SW Consortium and their positive experiences. Also one district now wishes they'd opted to be in the program, but wasn't. Board reiterated that no decision will be made until our March board meeting and the community meetings are to gather information for that decision.

Sikkink and Ristau joined meeting at this time.

- 6) Is the board trying to educate our students at the expense of others' livelihoods? References were made to businesses that hire students for the summer, farm families that may need kids home to help, etc. Discussion followed regarding the community needs and the reasons for the plan. The Board will weigh responses from other meetings before a decision is made.

No further questions came before the board. Chairman Kiehne reviewed the timeline, including the other Community meeting dates and times.

Motion made by Torgrimson, seconded by Britton to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Love, Vice-Clerk, ISD #2198