

HIGHGATE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

HIGHGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

March 10, 2016

6:15 PM

AGENDA:

- 6:15 PM Call Meeting to Order
- Agenda Amendments
- 6:20 PM Board Reorganization
- Chair, Board Chair, Clerk, FNWSU Board Reps, etc. see board reorganization checklist.
 - Welcome Chris Shepard (new School Board member)
- 6:30 Public Comments Regarding Current and Future Agendas (Listen) *
- Possible Topics for Future Board Meeting Agendas
- 6:35PM Approval of February Board Minutes (Action)
- 6:40 Business Report
- Check Warrants
- 6:45PM Principal's Report (Listen)
- Updates, Announcements and Celebrations
 - Professional Development
 - Calendar Highlights
- 7:00PM Superintendent's Report (Action and Listen)
- FY2017 Calendar
 - Board Code of Ethics (Action)
 - VSBA New Board Member Orientation Workshop
 - FNWSU Board Member Orientation
- 7:15PM Old Business
- Buildings and Grounds Update – Safety Audit
 - Act 46 \$20,000 Unification Study (Deliberation)
- 7:35PM New Business
- Teacher Un-Paid Leave Request (Action)
 - Schedule Board Goal Setting Session
- 7:45PM Meeting Dates
- FNWSU School Board Meeting – April 6th at 6:30pm in Swanton
 - Next Highgate Board Meeting – April 14th at 6:15pm
- 7:50PM Anticipated Executive Session – (Answer the Executive Session Compliance Question...*Where premature public knowledge would clearly place the Board or other party at a substantial disadvantage*)
- 8:15PM Exit Executive Session
- Anticipated Action

8:20PM Adjournment

Board Goals:

1. Focus on improving the school workplace environment and morale.
2. Build support for the effective integration of fine arts within the overall school program.
3. Create a long term buildings and grounds plan that prioritizes playground needs and creates a process for upgrades.
4. Develop a position regarding Act 46, the school governance legislation.

***Public Comments at Board Meetings**

The FNWSU and District School Boards are working to improve the response to public comments made at Board meetings.

The Board reserves the right to ask visitors the following questions before they are invited to address complaints to the Board:

- Have you directed your complaint through our “Complaint” Policy i.e.
 - Attempt to address the complaint first with teacher/staff member, and,
 - If not satisfied, discuss complaint with the principal, and,
 - Still not resolved, then meet with the superintendent,
 - Only then, will the Board hear your concern at a Board meeting.
- When speaking with the Board, if the complaint becomes personal, disrespectful, or threatening, then the Board chair may rule the speaker “Out of Order” or,
- If the complaint addresses specific personnel or is evaluative then the Board chair may invite the complainant into executive session, and,
- The Board chair may limit speaking time for each individual and ask that similar points of view from multiple speakers not be presented.

Anyone making a comment can expect a response from the Board that will fall into one of the following categories:

- Thank the person with no further action planned.
- Respond immediately by the Board chair or administration.
- Direct the administration to contact and respond to the person.
- Seek clarification from the administration at a specified meeting.
- Add the topic to a future Board agenda.
- Refer the matter to an executive session.
- Hold a public hearing on the matter.
- Send a note of appreciation.