

APPROVED

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
MAY 10 2011

Minutes of the Executive Session and the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

1. Chairman Mr. John Mitola called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery and Mr. Perry Liu. Mrs. Albin, Mrs. Brand, Mrs. Dow and Ms. Stacey Zahn were absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title and Mrs. Margaret Mary Fitzgerald.
2. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Fairfield Educational Paraprofessionals, the Fairfield Association of Educational Office Professionals and the Information Technology Technicians.

Motion carried: 5:0:0.

3. Mr. Fattibene moved, seconded by Mr. Kery to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

Motion carried: 5:0:0.

4. Chairman Mr. John Mitola called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:40 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Mrs. Sue Dow (arrived 8:30 p.m.). Mrs. Sue Brand and Ms. Stacey Zahn were absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title, Fairfield Ludlowe HS Student Representative Allison Reich, Fairfield Warde HS Student Representative Stephanie Teixeira and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 45 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

5. Mr. Mitola led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. In Ms. Zahn's absence, Mr. Mitola will serve as the Acting Secretary.

7. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education approve the Revised Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2011.

Motion carried: 6:0:0.

8. Student/Committee/Liaison Reports-

- ◆ Allison Reich reported that Fairfield Ludlowe HS recently hosted a number of Spanish students, and over April break students from Fairfield Ludlowe HS will go to Spain as part of an exchange program. Also, in two weeks a number of French students will be visiting Fairfield Ludlowe HS. A new group has just been formed by a junior at Ludlowe called Project Post, which stands for Promoting Optimism and Spreading Tolerance. Students write anonymous notes, complimenting other students, and they are posted on a bulletin board.
- ◆ Stephanie Teixeira reported that the third quarter ends tomorrow and report cards go out after spring break. Physical Education classes will hold a badminton tournament tomorrow. Business Education took second place in the Junior Achievement Challenge against 16 other high schools; the Math Team qualified second in the Fairfield County Math League and also qualified for States. Spring sports have just started. For winter sports, both the Boys and Girls Ski Team won States, and Mike Sullivan won the State title for wrestling. Battle of the Houses will take place on Friday and Italian Day was today. Ten girls, eight from Warde and two from Ludlowe, qualified for FCCLA Nationals which will take place in California over the summer.

- ◆ Mrs. Albin – No report. She commented on the project taking place at Fairfield Ludlowe and suggested changing the wording from “promote tolerance” to “promote acceptance.”
- ◆ Mrs. Brand – Mr. Mitola reported that Mrs. Brand is out of town but emailed her report to Board members.
- ◆ Mr. Fattibene – No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono reported that the Special Projects Standing Building Committee is working on the Sherman project. The committee just saw design plans that are at 50 percent design development and plan to go out to bid May 1st. The administration met with the architects and were pleased with the designs that have come back. The RTM is hearing the Board of Ed budget right now in committee, and the RTM will discuss the budget as a full body on April 25 and vote on May 2. The Board of Finance approved funding for the capital projects regarding the switches and also approved the Holland Hill boiler and the Tomlinson MS façade. These projects have now moved on to the RTM. The Board of Finance approved money, which was taken out of the capital request because they did not think it was a bondable item, to hire an architect to investigate the building envelope concerns at McKinley. The money was put in the hands of the Town Facilities Commission and has moved on to the RTM for approval. The protocol for items that qualify for bonding has been finalized and written up and will go out to all of the Board members soon.
- ◆ Mr. Kery reported that PTA Council met last week. Mrs. Iacono attended and gave an update on the budget process, and there was a lengthy discussion about the Dora Wheeler Scholarship which is given out yearly.
- ◆ Mr. Liu reported that Fairfield Woods MS held its groundbreaking on Friday, and Principal Hatzis and the Fairfield Woods Building Committee hosted a great event. The meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 21, has been cancelled due to spring break; and the next meeting will be Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at Fairfield Woods MS in the Library Media Center.
- ◆ Mr. Mitola – No report.

9. Superintendent’s Report

A. Update on 2011-12 Proposed Town Capital Improvement Projects-

Dr. Title stated that Enclosure No. 2 is an update of where each of the proposed town capital improvement projects stands at this moment. There is \$265,000 of approved projects, which does not include the switches because they did not generate from the Board of Education.

Dr. Title gave a brief update on the Tomlinson field trip to Washington, D.C. last week. On Tuesday evening the Transportation Department received an anonymous call regarding a possible shortage of buses for the trip. Mr. Ficke went to the school the next morning at 6 a.m. and recorded the license plate numbers of the five coach buses as the students boarded and the buses left as scheduled. Mr. Ficke then emailed the DMV with the license plate numbers for verification of all requirements and was notified that the DMV is looking into the ABC Bus Company. That afternoon Mr. Ficke was notified by the DMV to find other transportation for the remainder of the trip because the buses’ license and insurance expired on March 31. The tour company, working with Mr. Ficke and Mrs. Dawson, arranged for buses in the Washington area for the remainder of the day’s events. Mr. Ficke then arranged for transportation from Dattco. Dattco went down to Washington and took over for the remainder of the trip, and on Friday evening the students and staff returned on schedule. Dr. Title stated that his staff has been working with Eileen Kennelly, the Assistant Town Attorney, in terms of what our legal options may be to recoup the money Dattco will charge us for the buses and to seek restitution from the tour operator or the bus company. He will also be reviewing the Board policy and procedures on field trips to see if there is something that should be done differently going forward.

B. Review of Quarterly Financial Report Through March 31, 2011-

Mrs. McWain referred to Enclosure No. 3, which is an update to the financial report that was presented at the March 8th Board meeting. This statement reflects expenditures and payments made through the end of February and in some cases through mid-March. Some of the object lines have been highlighted in the report and notes made where there will be balances to cover

shortfalls. The percentage expended in each of the object lines has been reviewed to determine the appropriateness of the balance remaining at this point in the year and any discrepancies have been justified. Additional adjustments will be made this month to reflect any settled contracts. Funds for contracts that are settled will come out of the wage and benefit reserve. There is money in that account that will be transferred to the individual salary accounts for the contracts that are settled. The dollar amounts for shortfalls and balances will be on the report in May along with a request for transfers.

10. New Business

A. First Read of Policies-

- #5514 – Administration of Medication in the Schools
- #5124 – Transfers Within Fairfield
- #3431.2 – Financial Statements – Quarterly Reports
- #3431.1 – Financial Statements – Monthly Reports (delete)

- Policy #5514 – Administration of Medication in the Schools-

Ms. Leonardi stated that this policy differs from many policies because per the Town Charter, all of our nurses are under the auspices of the Board of Health; and when this law went into effect in October, the Board of Health along with Sands Cleary, Health Director, and Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor, created this policy. It has been passed by the Board of Health, reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee, reviewed by CABE and is now before the Board for a first read and approval on May 10.

Board questions followed.

- Policy #5124 – Transfers Within Fairfield

Dr. Title stated that the change in this policy is to allow students who are currently enrolled in the Fairfield Public Schools whose family moves to another attendance zone within Fairfield during the school year to remain in their prior school. Currently, the student would have to leave immediately unless there was a demonstrable need. It is almost always in the best interest of the child to stay and complete that year. There is already space for the student, and it ends the debate of at what point in the year the student would be allowed to finish the year. Transportation is not provided. If the moves occurs during the summer or they want to remain for more than the current school year, then they need to meet the demonstrable need standard.

- Policy #3431.2 – Financial Statements – Quarterly Reports

Dr. Title stated that there are currently two policies that overlap, quarterly reports and monthly reports. One policy states that financial statements are reported monthly and the other states that they are reported quarterly. It is not necessary to have both policies, and it seems to be the practice to report quarterly. The question arose in subcommittee about reporting sooner if something significant happens between quarterly reports so a sentence was added that if there is a significant change in major accounts, it would be reported at the next scheduled meeting.

Board questions and comments followed regarding what a significant change in major accounts means, sending this back to subcommittee to define significant change and making it abundantly clear so administration is not guessing with respect to what that is.

Mr. Fattibene suggested trying to define significant change by some percent variance from the original budget so when the numbers start deviating from that defined percent or variance that would trigger an event where the Board would be notified.

The policy will be sent back to subcommittee to define significant change with some percent variance. Policy #3430-Monthly Reports will be brought back with Quarterly Reports

- B. Presentation of Physical Education Curriculum, Grades K-5-
Dr. Rosato introduced David Abraham, Coordinator of Physical Education PreK-12.

Mr. Abraham stated that research has shown that quality physical education programs have a significant impact on academic achievement. Healthy students are better learners. The entire physical education program, especially at the elementary level, provides a unique opportunity for all students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active forever. At the elementary level, students have PE two days a week and classes are 30 minutes each. The curriculum has been aligned with state standards in addition to making sure the content areas reflect current trends in PE. He briefly reviewed the course objectives, essential questions, focus questions, unit offerings, and the six state standards. Activities within the curriculum promote fitness, motor skill development, team work and the appreciation and importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle. The goal of the program is to develop physically educated individuals. He briefly reviewed the changes and new additions to the curriculum.

Board questions and comments followed.

- C. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education establish Thursday, June 23, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of graduation for Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Fairfield Warde High School Class of 2011.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

- D. Mr. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education approve the contract between the Fairfield Board of Education and the Fairfield Educational Paraprofessionals Union CSEA, SEIU Local 2001, CTW for the period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

- E. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the contract between the Fairfield Board of Education and the Information Technology Technicians, AFSCME Council 4, Local 1303-439 for the period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

- F. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Fairfield Ludlowe High School Window Replacement/Rehabilitation Project.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

- G. Mrs. Dow moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Fairfield Warde High School Re-roofing Project.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

11. Public Comments and Petitions – None

12. Open Board Comment-

Mrs. Dow reported that SEPTA will meet tomorrow evening and will give out two Friend of SEPTA Awards; one to Jean Gallati a parent at North Stratfield School, and one to Carole McDonald an Ed Trainer at Osborn Hill. Following the presentation of these awards there will be a presentation by Lori Mediate on the health curriculum. On Saturday SEPTA held a community outreach program. So many people in the community support SEPTA, and they wanted to give back to the community by holding an Art Day where the kids got together, drew pictures, wrote notes and brought supplies to

be sent to the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The art work and supplies for the soldiers will be passed on to Project of the Heart, a group based in Fairfield that sends care packages to our soldiers.

Mrs. Iacono thanked PTA Council for the opportunity to speak about the budget process.

Mrs. Iacono asked whether or not the Board should have a special meeting before the RTM vote regarding the \$2 million cuts. Dr. Title stated that he would rather pass on this opportunity and before bringing any recommendations forward would like to have a chance to work through it with staff at all levels.

Mr. Kery commented on the March enrollment sheet, noting that there is an increase of 12 students and asked if all 12 were from the elementary level. He is trying to get a feel if all are coming from the lower level.

Mr. Kery commented that he had an opportunity to visit North Stratfield and see a program with Mr. D'Acosta's students from Fairfield Warde HS teaching a history lesson to the 4th graders. It is a great program and was wonderful to see.

Mrs. Iacono commented that she visited Mr. Flynn's Civics class last week at Fairfield Warde HS and had the opportunity to speak to the students about government, the Board of Education and other political roles. She thanked them for inviting her and thanked the students from that class who are at the Board meeting tonight.

Mr. Liu commented that he and Mrs. Brand also visited one of Mr. Flynn's classes. It was a lot of fun and the students asked great questions.

13. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 9:07 p.m.
Motion carried: 7:0:0.

John Mitola
Acting Secretary