

Board of Education
Fairfield Public Schools
Fairfield, CT

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M.

501 Kings Highway East
2nd Floor Board Conference Room

Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call

Mr. Phil Dwyer called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Other members in attendance were Mrs. Jennifer Kennelly, Mr. John Convertito, Mr. Perry Liu, Mrs. Jessica Gerber, Ms. Pam Iacono (arrived 7:34 p.m.), Mr. Paul Fattibene (arrived 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Tim Kery, and Mrs. Sue Brand. Also in attendance were Dr. David Title, Central Office Administrators, Fairfield Ludlowe High School Student Representative Alice Rocha, Fairfield Warde High School Student Representatives Acacia Longley and Danielle Clarke, and approximately 150 members of the public.

Mr. Dwyer led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a procedural motion in deference to the veterans attending the meeting who would like to discuss the calendar.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand the procedural motion “that the Board of Education suspend the rules and allow consideration and action on the 2013-2014 calendar to proceed following the Pledge of Allegiance, then Student Reports, and place Committee and Liaison Reports just prior to Public Comments”

Motion Carried: 7:0:1 Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Liu, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Kery, and Mrs. Brand in favor, Ms. Iacono abstained (*Mr. Fattibene was not present for this vote.*)

Old Business

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Liu the recommended motion that “the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Student Calendar as proposed with the First Day of School changed to August 27, 2013”

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she is opposed to the motion, and that she will not be making a motion to hold school on Veterans Day. She stated that she is open to having a dialogue on teaching students about Veterans Day. Mrs. Kennelly stated that she is opposed to opening school earlier.

Ms. Iacono offered a friendly amendment to the motion, accepted by Mr. Kery and Mr. Liu to “change the Professional Development Day on February 4 to February 13”

Board discussion followed.

Amendment Failed: 0:9:0

Ms. Iacono requested that the Board close school on Veterans Day as a matter of policy and offered a motion “that the Board of Education close school on Veterans Day as a matter of policy” and further moved that “the Policy Committee draft said policy”

Mr. Dwyer stated that he did not think a motion was necessary, rather it could be referred to the Policy Committee. Ms. Iacono stated that she did not want the Policy Committee to review it rather she would like the Board to say that we close school on Veterans Day as a matter of policy and is asking the Policy Committee to draft it and bring it before the Board.

Mr. Convertito, as a point of order, stated there was already a motion on the table. Mr. Dwyer agreed, and ruled the motion out of order, but will refer it to the Policy Committee to be brought back.

Mr. Kery asked if, with a 2/3 vote, the Veterans Day motion could be brought back to the table once the current motion is voted on. Mr. Dwyer stated that the Veterans Day motion may be brought back during Open Board Comment. Ms. Iacono stated that she did not think that was fair to make the veterans sit through the entire meeting for that.

Mr. Convertito moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand to amend the main motion to read “that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Student Calendar as proposed.”

Amendment Carried: 8:1:0 Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Liu, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. Iacono, Mr. Fattibene, and Mrs. Brand in favor; Mr. Kery against

Public Comment on the Amendment Only:

Ann Pasco, FEA President, said that these past 2 years were unusual and she does not support starting school earlier.

Public Comment on the Amended Main Motion

Mr. Tom Quinn, veteran. He stated that he has received notes from students thanking him for his service. He thanked the teachers that taught about Veterans Day, and asked the Board to keep Veterans Day as a holiday.

Roger Crossland, Colonial Drive, Captain of the US Navy, retired. He stated that holidays reflect society values and this is a chronic issue. Veterans should not have to return year after year to ensure that Veterans Day remains a holiday.

Ron Drew, Orchard Hill Lane, stated that he served three combat tours in Vietnam. Veterans Day should be kept as a holiday out of respect for all veterans, alive and dead.

Timothy Kelly, Longdean Road, stated that he has been invited to speak at schools, and believes that schools should be teaching about all wars.

Adele Josovitz, Rosemere Ave. and North Stratfield teacher, stated that veterans have served their country because they are proud and they work for peace.

Sherry Miro, Stevenson Road and North Stratfield paraprofessional, stated that she is from a strong military family. She stated that we owe veterans respect, and it is because of them we have our freedom. She stated that veterans deserve no less than a holiday.

Diane Devalt, North Stratfield teacher, implored the Board to keep Veterans Day as a day of honor, and that her son served in Iraq.

Jim Lee, Unquowa Road and previous Board member and Chairman, stated that having a developed plan via dialogue, regarding Veterans Day, would be a good thing.

Jessica Gerber stated she had a letter from David Sturges, Warner Hill Road. The letter stated he is in favor of keeping Veterans Day as a holiday.

Mr. Dwyer repeated the amended main motion “that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Student Calendar as proposed.” and requested a vote.

Amended Main Motion Carried: 9:0:0

Mr. Dwyer led the Board and audience in a round of applause for the veterans who had attended the meeting.

Ms. Iacono, as a point of order, requested clarification, and wanted to make certain that she was to wait for Open Board Comment to present the motion regarding Veterans Day, and Mr. Dwyer responded that it was his preference, out of deference to the presenters and audience.

Superintendent’s Report

- A. AON-Hewitt Update on Health Insurance Projections
Mr. Carlton Lindgren, Mr. Steve Ribeiro

Dr. Title stated this presentation will show the biggest cost driver going forward to the Town, and felt the Board should see it before getting the budget. He stated Doreen Munsell would take the Board through the medical profit/loss information.

Mr. Lindgren presented the enclosure and stated the claim information is received from each vendor and summed up on one page 1.

Mr. Dwyer stated the AON report is being provided a month earlier than normal, at the Board’s request, and asked that, while Board members should feel free to ask questions, that not too much time be spent on AON tonight, due to the large crowd in attendance.

Mrs. Brand stated that she sees a large increase in claims, and asked how long it had been going on. Mr. Lindgren answered that he noticed a significant increase in claim activity from December 2011 to current. Mr. Lindgren stated that page 2 shows the headcount that developed those claims. Page 3 is an update to the budget projection from the prior year, and we are trying to see if we are ahead or behind budget. Mr. Convertito asked whether the number of claims has gone up, or if headcount has gone up. Mr. Lindgren stated that claims and headcount have both gone up, but that is not reflected on page 2. It is important to understand the math. On page 1, there is a gross claim number of 17 million for the active members. Of that number, claims in excess of the Individual Stop-loss Limit totaled \$272,000. Stop-loss is an insurance policy on top of the self-insured employers' plan to protect against catastrophic illness. There is an individual deductible on each person and if the claims go above and beyond that individual deductible, then they are no longer the responsibility of the Fairfield Board of Education and will be picked up by the stop-loss carrier. AON considers a large claimant to be anything over \$50,000. In response to a question from Ms. Brand, Mr. Lindgren stated the change in the stop-loss amount from previous years had no impact on the increase. Mr. Lindgren stated that the term "trend" is, for lack of a better word, medical inflation. He stated that AON trends those claims forward to get \$17,747,951, divide it by the headcounts responsible for those claims, which gives a per capita claim of \$13,997, multiply it by the projected headcounts going forward, equals \$17,940,407 in claims. To that we have to add 3 components underneath, the admin charge, the network access fees, and the stop-loss, which comes to \$19,265,329. When the budget was set for this year, that number was expected to be in the \$17 million range, so we are 12.7% higher than expected.

Mrs. Brand asked about any clusters or patterns on why this is happening. Mr. Lindgren responded that we don't have access to this data yet, but in this current period there were 53 claimants with claims over \$50,000. The large claim activity has gone up by about \$3 million.

In response to a question from Mr. Convertito, Mr. Lindgren stated that this presentation is an update on the projections, from July 2012-July 2013.

Mrs. Kennelly asked how much this would change if the stop-loss coverage was changed. Mr. Lindgren responded that in July 2011 the stop-loss coverage was changed from \$150,000 to \$300,000, giving a savings of \$550,000 in the premium that was paid at the lower level, but claims were higher so the difference in claims meant that it was a break-even point.

Mr. Lindgren stated AON projected \$24,750,908, and it is now expected to be 26,996,892. The next page shows the trend that will extend to 2013-2014 year, which is \$29,150,726. If you compare that to the budgeted number, it is a \$4.4 million dollar increase.

Dr. Title asked for an explanation of line 14, which is new. Mr. Lindgren stated that line 14 is a new charge that is levied on every self-funded policy holder in the State, that goes to Anthem, then to the federal government, then back to Connecticut to run the State health exchange. This is a new law effective January 2014, and Anthem expects the charge to be \$16.30 per employee per month.

Mr. Lindgren responded to a question from Mrs. Brand, that the projection used assumes the \$300,000 stop-loss. Mrs. Brand stated her concern is determining the risk going forward; should the stop-loss be changed. Mr. Lindgren stated that the size of this group warrants \$300,000. Stop-loss is unpredictable due to the nature of catastrophic illness.

Mr. Convertito asked if the \$4.399 million is projected what the next fiscal budget should include as the increase? Mr. Convertito asked, through the Chair to Dr. Title, that this number does not include the \$2 million projected shortfall. Dr. Title said that this answer would be given by Doreen Munsell in the profit/loss statement.

Mrs. Brand asked whether we have been trending higher. Mr. Lindgren stated in the last 5 years, there was only one year in the double digits. Dr. Title offered that we also used 2xIBNR.

Mrs. Munsell discussed the profit loss summary sheet in the enclosure and went through the Final Budget 2012-2013 and the Estimated 2012-2013 columns. Moving forward, Column A shows the 7% trend with 2xIBNR, column B shows the 9.2% trend with 1xIBNR and Column C shows the 7% trend with 1xIBNR. Column A would be a budget increase of almost 6.4, Column B would be 5½ million increase and Column C would be about a 5 million increase. Dr. Title stated that the actuals will be slightly different in the budget, since we have a few months to go. Keeping 2xIBNR allowed us to absorb the higher claims that came in throughout the year, but it does force us into a position of needing to refund the IBNR to some level.

Mr. Kery asked if this trend will continue to deteriorate further and Mr. Lindgren stated he did not know. Mr. Kery asked whether we are keeping track of the retirees, and if we are breaking even in trend over years with that particular group. Mr. Lindgren guessed that the retirees do not cover their own liability. Mr. Kery would like an idea of what that liability is. Mr. Kery requested more information on the administration of this program, and how it is paid out and whether there might be a savings there.

Mrs. Brand stated that with regards to the proposals on the profit/loss sheet, she is reluctant to go with the 7%, based on the history. Mr. Lindgren stated that 6 of the last 11 years have been under 7 percent, but other years were 13.2%, 19.8%, 15.9%. Without looking at the data, large claimants are hard to determine.

Mr. Fattibene asked whether Mr. Lindgren felt we should go with trend rate of 9.2, and whether that is more probable. Mr. Lindgren stated he felt that the rate will actually trend at 8.15, which is not reflected on either sheet. Mr. Fattibene stated he thought that page 5 would be the recommendation. Mr. Lindgren stated the information is provided in order to make an educated decision, and that the 9.2 trend is given based on all types of clients across the country. Mr. Dwyer stated that we do have a month to go, and there will be additional discussions on this sheet. Mr. Lindgren stated that AON feels more comfortable using 7, if the IBNR is funded at 2x.

Ms. Iacono stated that there was a lengthy process with the Town to have 2xIBNR. Dr. Title stated the Town wanted us to keep 2xIBNR, so we felt comfortable using the lower trend. From the budgeting perspective we are better off with B than with A in terms of dollars we have to add to the budget. Mr. Fattibene asked whether it was Dr. Title's understanding that we will keep 2xIBNR. Dr. Title stated that the Board discussed this last year, it was an informal agreement, and that we are trying to balance the Town's AAA bond rating, with the Board's budget. Mr. Dwyer stated that it is a combination of Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, and Board of Education that will determine the final choice. Ms. Iacono stated that she wanted to be clear that the IBNR number will come from a meeting with the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance, and the Board of Education. Mr. Dwyer answered that there will be a discussion among the leaders of those Boards to produce a recommendation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Convertito moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand, the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Organizational/Regular Meeting of November 27, 2012”

Motion Carried: 9:0:0

Student/Committee/Liaison Reports

Ms. Rocha, Fairfield Ludlowe High student representative, stated that the CT Challenge was won, and the next round will be Feb 8th. Pep rally is scheduled for tomorrow. “The Hobbit” play was on November 30 and that was a success. The candlelight concert is coming up on Thursday, and the blood drive was today. Future Business Leaders of America club had a book drive benefitting Yale Hospital.

Ms. Danielle Clark, Fairfield Warde High School student representative, said PSAT scores are coming out and Alpha Prep classes are beginning. The Fashion Merchandising class has “Trends”, a store that is opening this week that will fund 2 scholarships. Key club is holding fundraisers to buy gifts to donate to underprivileged kids. Ms. Casey Longley, Fairfield Warde High School student representative, stated that the winter sports season is underway. Carillon tickets have sold out, and rehearsals have started for the spring musical. There were over 50 students that auditioned.

Superintendent’s Report

Update on Secondary Math Curriculum

Karen Parks, Dr. Meg Boice, Dr. Paul Rasmussen

Mr. Dwyer stated that for members of the public, public comment will be allowed, but not public dialogue. Further dialogue may take place at a later time, as we take this issue very seriously. The math curriculum will also be reviewed in the spring. Mr. Dwyer thanked the audience for the politeness that has been shown. Dr. Title stated that this is not the entire presentation of the secondary math curriculum. Future Board meetings will also be addressing the math curriculum; K-2 will be addressed in February, and secondary will be addressed in May.

Ms. Parks stated that she is here to attempt to clear up the confusion regarding Algebra 1 and how it is being taught, and make clear what has changed and not changed. The curriculum for Algebra 1 has not changed. It is the same curriculum that was adopted by the Board in 2006. Two things have changed; the instructional approach and the textbook. Both of these changes were driven by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which demand much greater levels of mathematical concepts and procedures.

A new component of the CCSS are 8 mathematical practices which are:

1. to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. model with mathematics
5. use appropriate tools strategically
6. attend to precision
7. look for and make use of structure
8. look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Ms. Parks stated these 8 practices would be difficult to implement by working individually. Several states have piloted the new assessments based on the common core and their math scores plummeted. Ms. Parks stated that the district is taking the common core very seriously. Several mistakes were made in the process to implement the new instructional approach. Ms. Parks stated the use of the CPM textbook is the area where mistakes were made, as it was originally intended to be used in addition to the McDougall-Littell textbook. In order to avoid confusion over using 2 textbooks, the McDougall-Littell textbooks were not distributed. In response to parent requests for a more structured text to help their children, Ms. Parks stated that parents may access (online) a CPM parent guide, and each student will be given a McDougall-Littell textbook providing more structure and examples.

Ms. Parks stated that she regrets that the Board was not notified of using CPM textbook as a pilot. The cost to the district for using CPM as a pilot is approximately \$13,000. CPM has loaned the district 25 textbooks and full access to the electronic on-line version of the text. If the CPM textbook is adopted by the Board in the spring, then the full cost of using CPM would have to be paid. Should it not be adopted, then the books would be returned at no additional cost to the district. Ms. Parks stated that the district will not make this same mistake and that attempts have been made to meet with concerned parents.

Dr. Boice stated that curriculum is a document; the district is in the process of revising the curriculum to align with the CCSS. Curriculum is written by teachers, under the direction of curriculum leaders or coordinators and is not written by a third party. Teachers then take the curriculum and develop lesson plans. Curriculum is of no value unless implemented with fidelity in the classroom, which is done through the use of instructional strategies that support the delivery of the curriculum and prepare students for assessments that measure student mastery of the standards in the curriculum. Dr. Boice stated that teachers need instructional materials to accomplish this. The approach to math is a balanced one with conceptual development, skills and procedural practice, memorizing, and fluency with facts. This instructional model is being implemented in the K-5 elementary level and standardized math scores have significantly improved. This model will be expanded to the secondary level. The math practices align very closely with the “Habits of Mind” at the middle school level. Dr. Boice stated that we are preparing our students for 2014 assessments that will be more rigorous than current assessments.

Dr. Boice stated that parents had questions about grading in Math. It is 70% summative, 20% formative, and this would include group work, and 10% behavioral. Another question parents had was tutoring. Algebra 1 teachers at Fairfield Ludlowe did survey students, and found that there were fewer students with a tutor this year than last. Dr. Boice also wanted to respond to questions about constructivism, and stated that it is a learning theory and not a model. Singapore Math and Math in Focus both support constructivism; it is not unique to the model that we are using. In regards to Math levels, Fairfield and Mansfield are very similar. In response to an article in “The Atlantic” that was shared, Dr. Boice stated that she spoke to a professor of Mathematics Education of City College in New York, and her comment on the article was that the article fails to distinguish curriculum vs. the materials used to teach the curriculum. A CPM video on the CPM blog shows a small class which Dr. Boice stated is used for training purposes, and was not intended to reflect a true classroom size. Dr. Boice said a “one size fits all” approach can be applied to any textbook. The bottom line is how well the students’ needs are met depends on the teacher and not the book. Teachers who are teaching Algebra 1 using CPM, understand that they can pull students aside for extra help. This is a professional judgment.

Ms. Mason, an Algebra 1 teacher at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, stated she has observed her class consistently making progress as they learn the material. Current students performed better on a more challenging assessment, than previous classes. These are young adults who have developed a new excitement for math.

Dr. Rasmussen stated that he had collected both quantitative and qualitative data on the secondary mathematics department instructional model. Quantitative data includes current data on how students perform on higher order tasks. Dr. Rasmussen referred to an enclosure, showing current PSAT data, and stated the striking thing about the graph is that Fairfield performs below Connecticut and National averages in 4 of the 5 categories that relate back to the CCSS mathematical practices. Referring to the mathematical reasoning graph, Dr. Rasmussen stated it shows that Fairfield is performing below similar demographic schools. Both graphs came from assessments requiring higher-order thinking. To address this problem, a change in instruction is needed. Students must become better thinkers in order to better problem solve. Referring to a CAPT task enclosure, Dr. Rasmussen stated that a quick analysis of the data reveals that 77% of students received a 1 or a 0 (out of 3), and also shows that students are not able to apply the algebraic concepts. Dr. Rasmussen stated that at the time of the test 40% of students were in Algebra 2 or higher. When this same task problem was given to 8th and 9th grade Algebra 1 students this year, 13% scored a 3; 46% scored a 2; 26% scored a 1, and 16% scored a 0, showing significant improvement.

Dr. Rasmussen shared some teacher comments, also provided in the enclosure, to provide qualitative data. He stated it is still the beginning of a change to the instructional approach, and change takes time. Evaluations are continuing, and they are working to overcome issues. The goal is to improve the learning of mathematics for all students, and this requires students to engage in the learning process.

Board comment followed.

Ms. Iacono thanked the presenters, and asked where in the lesson was the concept first taught before breaking out into groups. Ms. Mason explained that this is done at the beginning of the class, teachers present the basics and the idea, and it is recapped throughout the lesson. Ms. Parks stated that some of the confusion over “teacher is not teaching” statement from the parents, is with the differences in the textbook.

Mr. Fattibene asked whether the CPM program was piloted. Ms. Parks stated that the instructional model asks open-ended questions, and the textbook supports that model. The consultants were hired to teach the teachers how to use the textbook. Ms. Parks said she feels they have chosen the best method to address the CCSS.

Mr. Kery said he would like to understand how the CCSS will help us learn math better. Is it damaging to start this new program in the 8th grade, rather than in earlier grades? Ms. Parks answered that there is an attempt to mirror the mathematical model in grades K-5, and grades 6-7 as well. Dr. Rasmussen stated that starting this program in 8th grade is a challenge, but we are raising the bar.

Mrs. Brand asked whether this math program was budgeted for last year. Dr. Title answered that it is a phased process. Going forward, we have to decide how quickly to phase it in, and the jury is still out on the best approach.

Mrs. Kennelly has read the Common Core for Math, and there were 4 different methodologies for covering Algebra 1. Using CPM means that the methodology has been chosen, and where does the department stand with the methodology? Dr. Boice stated that she disagrees with the use of the word methodology, and thinks the correct term might be curriculum. Ms. Parks stated that teachers will be writing curriculum, and have not gone with the blended approach. Math practices have been added. Essentially, the concepts and procedures will remain the same.

Mr. Convertito asked whether this is the same instructional model in the curriculum adopted last year, and is it only 8th grade where this is being rolled out? Dr. Rasmussen answered that this is the instructional model that we are pushing towards, and have been using and training for during the last year. Ms. Parks stated that we are using a balanced approach, and it is being used throughout the district.

Mr. Liu read a CPM statement, saying that Fairfield Public Schools will owe CPM \$13,000 for the 1 year use fee of the textbooks if they are not purchased. Ms. Parks confirmed that this covers professional development and teacher materials. Mr. Liu asked if an employee is a CPM rep. Ms. Parks stated that she has no knowledge of this.

Mrs. Gerber asked about the rigid group roles in small group learning, and stated that this is a concern for parents. Ms. Mason responded that the roles switch in the teacher textbook, and roles are an option and she does not use them in her classroom.

Ms. Iacono commented that she is happy that the other textbook will be brought back and stated she feels the presenters are doing an excellent job of explaining what goes on in the classroom. Ms. Iacono asked about the concept, with regard to the teacher textbook, where students are “allowed to struggle”, and how does that not cause frustration? Ms. Parks answered that in this environment, we can observe the student struggle, whereas if they are working individually, we cannot see that. The goal is to not have a child struggle to the point of frustration, but to not always have the answer ready for them.

Mr. Fattibene asked whether any reference groups adopted or utilized the CPM program. Dr. Rasmussen stated that Mansfield is the only other district which has used CPM. Mr. Fattibene stated that he wonders why other districts have better scores than we do.

Mrs. Brand asked if the textbook was presented to the curriculum committee, and understands that teachers were consulted and Mansfield was visited. Ms. Parks answered that is not part of the process unless it is being considered for adoption.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she found the presentation enlightening, but we are using an unapproved textbook. This group instructional model is rigid, and the textbook has not been measured against others. This should be addressed more quickly than the spring curriculum review.

Mr. Convertito stated that this is a failure to communicate. He stated he has received numerous comments from teachers saying this is a successful model, but the parents are frustrated with it.

Mr. Liu asked what will happen in April. Ms. Parks stated that in April, the Board will receive new curriculum and a text recommendation after it goes through the full curriculum committee review. Ms. Parks stated that they are in the process of writing the new curriculum in grades 6 through Algebra 2.

Mrs. Gerber asked if we could not use the CPM book anymore, what would that do the curriculum delivery. Ms. Parks stated that it would be a problem and the biggest concern is that teachers are observing excellent high-level learning with 100% engagement.

Mrs. Brand stated that she has never seen a textbook used without approval.

Ms. Iacono acknowledged that there was a breakdown in process, and perhaps there could be a meeting of the minds going forward.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she would like to add an item to the agenda, “to stop the mandated use of CPM in the classroom”. This was seconded by Mr. Liu.

Mr. Dwyer stated that a 2/3 vote is needed to add it to the agenda.

Mrs. Kennelly, if approved to add an item to the agenda, would add the recommended motion “that the Fairfield Board of Education instructs the Superintendent’s Office to cease use of the unapproved textbook CPM.” This was seconded by Mr. Liu

Mr. Convertito stated he will not vote for such a motion because there is not enough information on the text. This would leave a whole population of the educational system out on a limb. Mr. Kery stated that his concern is the public may not have appropriate notice to speak their mind on this topic. Ms. Iacono is not in support of adding this item to the agenda for that same reason. Mr. Fattibene stated that he feels it would do more harm than good when dropping the text so quickly, and he is not certain that it is an unauthorized text. Mrs. Brand supports putting it on the agenda.

Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber, the motion “to suspend the rules and extend the meeting until 11:30 p.m.”

Motion Carried: 7:2:0 Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Liu, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Kery, Mrs. Brand in favor; Ms. Iacono, Mr. Convertito against.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she withdraws her motion. This was seconded by Mr. Liu.

Mr. Dwyer stated the motion is withdrawn on a friendly basis.

Mrs. Kennelly requested direction from the Chair to add a special meeting on January 8 to address the unapproved text issue. Mr. Dwyer stated that he will discuss this with Dr. Title.

Old Business

Second Reading of Policy#6417 – Instruction – Student Internet Use

Mrs. Kennelly stated that this is listed as a second reading, but substantial changes were made and perhaps it should be held over to the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Fattibene stated that this would in fact then be a first reading.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Liu, the motion to “table this item to the next meeting”

Mr. Convertito stated in the interest time to allow public comment, he asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to add item 8A, so that we table item 7B and 8A to the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Kery accepted the friendly amendment to the motion. After Board discussion, Mr. Convertito changed the friendly amendment to read “table all remaining agenda items (7B, 8A, 8C, 8D) except for 8B, to the next regularly scheduled meeting” Mr. Kery and Mr. Liu accepted the friendly amendment.

Amended motion carried: 9:0:0

New Business

Mr. Convertito moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber, the recommended motion “ the Board of Education request a supplemental appropriation from the town in the amount of \$820,613 for PCB remediation at Osborn Hill School”

Dr. Title stated that he wanted to be clear that this does not include final costs for the gymnasium. That will come forward as a separate capital project with the windows. Mr. Kery asked whether this money is needed before June for budget purposes. Dr. Title answered yes, and that a plan needs to be submitted to the EPA on remediation and for a permanent solution. Mrs. Brand asked for a list of impacted items, if the funding was not received. Mr. Fattibene stated that we have a substantial expense in our budget already, so we have a need to get this moving within this fiscal year.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

Liaison Reports

Ms. Iacono stated that the Riverfield building committee will be asking for a \$15 million dollar appropriation for the design and development process, which was originally \$11 million. Some estimates came back at \$17 million.

Mrs. Brand stated that Sands Cleary was reappointed unanimously to the Dept. of Health last night.

Public Comments and Petitions

Tina Dejarnette, Quaker Lane, stated that she is a math teacher at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, and said it was upsetting to see the numerous blogs implying that teachers have done something detrimental to the students, without basis. She stated that the Board has given the parents a venue to speak and she asks the Board to go to the teachers and listen to the other side. Many teachers are doing a phenomenal job and never hear from the parents.

Jay Markus, Osborne Lane, finds it frustrating that our scores are below average. The math program is a failure, as represented by the test scores.

Barbara Bennett, Algebra 12 teacher at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, read a letter from 5 math teachers at Fairfield Ludlowe HS, and stated that she attended the intensive 1 week training. The letter stated that teachers were in support of this method. Teachers collaborate with one another, and the teachers are allowed to reach more children for differentiated instruction.

Approved by BOE 1/15/2013

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road, stated that she wanted to commend the teachers for telling parents that the children are in a pilot program. She stated her problem is the failure to communicate, and the people in the middle are the 8th graders.

Kelly Crisp, Papermill Lane, stated that she feels her child's future has been jeopardized, and asked that this mess be fixed.

Cindy Johnston, North Benson Rd., stated she is not against the method or the approach, and is not against her child struggling. She stated this was an implementation issue, and is not sure there were checks and balances.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber "to suspend the rules and extend the meeting 10 minutes"

Motion carried: 9:0:0

Christine Vitale, Verna Hill Road, does not have an 8th grader, but has a 6th grader who participated in the pilot program last year and loved it, and now misses the environment. She stated she would be hesitant to throw out a textbook.

Susie Byrne, Cross Hwy, stated that her son was also in a pilot program last year in 7th grade pre-Algebra and he was OK; this is about a book. She stated she has written numerous letters of complaint to the teachers, the Board, and the administration, and has looked into State statute 10-4A to file a complaint with the State.

Open Board Comment

Dr. Title stated that this meeting in the past year was when the Board approves the capital non-recurring projects, last year there was a booklet. Following the Board's approved Facilities Plan, there are no projects that fall under that category, all of our projects were approved last year. Our projects are either in the operating budget, or will be large capital projects, such as Osborn Hill. Additionally, if the Board had any suggestions on improving the budget book, Dr. Title asked that those suggestions be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

Ms. Iacono asked whether there was a vote on all committees. Mr. Dwyer stated the only committee that was voted on was the Communications Committee. Mission and Goals, Training and Roberts Rules, and Budget Engagement are not committees. Mr. Dwyer would like to have more discussion on this.

Mrs. Brand moved, seconded by Mr. Fattibene the recommended motion "that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 11:37 p.m."

Motion carried: 9:0:0

Jessica Gerber
Secretary