

Board of Education, Fairfield Public Schools  
501 Kings Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room, Fairfield, CT  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2013**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Voting Summary:

**Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Jennifer Kennelly (arrived 7:40PM), John Convertito, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Pamela Iacono, Paul Fattibene, Tim Kery and Sue Brand. Perry Liu was not in attendance. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 50 members of the public.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2013.***

Mrs. Brand moved/Ms. Iacono seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2013.” Motion passed 7-0-1 (Mr. Kery abstained.)

**Convene to Executive Session**

Mr. Kery moved/Ms. Iacono seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session to discuss Superintendent Evaluation” Motion passed 7-0 (Mrs. Kennelly was not in the room at the time.) at 8:45PM.

At 9:37PM the Board came out of Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Convertito moved/Mr. Kery seconded the recommended motion “that this regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn” Motion passed 7-0 (Mrs. Kennelly was not in the room at the time). Meeting adjourned 9:39PM.

Detailed Minutes:

**Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Jennifer Kennelly (arrived 7:40PM), John Convertito, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Pamela Iacono, Paul Fattibene, Tim Kery and Sue Brand. Perry Liu was not in attendance. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 50 members of the public.

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

**Presentations**

**Honor 25 Year Pin Recipients**

Ms. Leffert began the 25-Year Pin Presentation by describing some 1988 events: Ronald Reagan was president, gas was 91 cents/gallon, the Hubble telescope was launched, and a favorite movie may have been *Rainman*. Ms. Leffert stated she is proud to honor the significant accomplishments of the staff members who have completed 25 years of service with the Fairfield Public Schools as follows:

Kimberly Allen-Grapski - Grade 1 teacher, Stratfield  
William Banks - Maintenance Department  
Connie Baranyar - Paraprofessional, Sherman

Colleen Collier - Paraprofessional, Osborn Hill  
Diane Dionis - Paraprofessional, Fairfield Woods  
David Doherty - Grade 6 teacher, Fairfield Woods  
Eric Erff - Art teacher, Mill Hill  
Ann Felner - Custodian, Fairfield Ludlowe High School  
Michael Fernz - Custodian, Fairfield Warde High School  
Adele Josovitz - Library Media Specialist, North Stratfield  
Marie Kass - Gifted Resource Teacher/Instructional Improvement Teacher, Stratfield  
Betsy Lincoln - Speech and Language Pathologist, Fairfield Ludlowe High School  
Mindy Morena - Special Education teacher, Community Partnership Program  
Dale Morrissey - Pre-school teacher, Dwight  
Gail Seirup - Headmaster's Secretary, Fairfield Ludlowe High School  
Cheryl Slatky - Executive Secretary, Human Resources Office  
Jennifer Smith - Special Education teacher, Fairfield Ludlowe High School  
Gail Szlinsky - School Lunch employee, Roger Ludlowe Middle School  
Darlene Trupp - Paraprofessional, Dwight  
Sue Yorulmaz - School Lunch employee, Fairfield Warde High School

Mr. Dwyer stated that agenda item 3C is a duplicate of item 3A.

#### Naming of the Alternative High School

Dr. Title stated that last June he received a letter from retired Alternative High School (AHS) teacher, Peter Holskin, to re-name the Alternative High School in honor of Walter Fitzgerald; as required by policy, a letter was also received by Margaret Mary Fitzgerald in support of this request. Mr. Holskin thanked Ms. Fitzgerald, Co-op students, teachers and Walter's friends and colleagues for being in attendance to support this request. Mr. Holskin stated that Walter was a native son; taught for 25 years at the Learning Co-op, coached basketball; cared deeply about his students; and provided students with creative and challenging opportunities. Mr. Holskin stated that this unique opportunity will give AHS an identity that will embody the basic principles and values of Walter, and will also provide a way to honor a dedicated and committed person who made enormous contributions.

Mr. Convertito stated that he thinks giving the AHS an identity is a marvelous idea; he would like take this idea further to have the identity develop; see a mission statement; and ensure these students are treated as active participants in the educational system. Ms. Donowitz (AHS Principal), stated that while she did not know Walter, she has heard about his principles including responsibility, respect and the highest integrity; that his name would allow the students to follow these with a passion.

Ms. Iacono asked what the exact name proposal would be; Dr. Title stated that will be clarified at the next meeting. Ms. Iacono stated that she thinks this a great thing to do.

Mrs. Kennelly seconded the idea to give the school an identity; Walter's contributions are appropriate with policy, and it is exciting to hear of someone who is so worthy of this.

Mr. Convertito stated that he would prefer to not have the term 'alternative' in the name of the high school.

Mr. Fattibene would like to look at the existing names of the high schools to see if the new name fits in.

Mr. Dwyer stated that the community was involved in the naming of the 2 high schools; working out the details of this name is all that will be needed; the public may speak on this item at the next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Brand moved/Ms. Iacono seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2013.” Motion passed 7-0-1 (Mr. Kery abstained.)

**Board Committee/Liaison Reports**

Mrs. Brand stated that the Board of Health announced a new policy regarding the medication epinephrine will be forthcoming; that school nurses are using Infinite Campus and finding it very helpful; and there is a CES meeting on Thursday.

Mrs. Gerber stated that the FLHS Building Committee held the first meeting and a chair and vice-chair were selected. Mr. Dwyer stated that Dr. Title and Town Boards have been instrumental in moving this project forward.

Ms. Iacono stated that there will be a Riverfield Building Committee next Tuesday that will be open to the neighbors for input on construction issues.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Title stated the Kindergarten enrollment is very close to the projected number; schools have been staffed almost exactly to what was budgeted; FWMS is the largest middle school as expected; the Early Childhood numbers are expected to increase; there is an initiative to do an updated enrollment forecast; the centralized registration process is helping with standardization; there is a plan to have a registrar available at all times; the teacher evaluation plan is being rolled out; the K12 Alert system has been replaced; class lists were delivered through Infinite Campus; students and staff can access school files when at home; the wireless access project has been completed; the administration continues to work closely with the Fairfield Police Department; a new Police Sergeant will soon be assigned full time at Central Office overseeing 4 officers in the district; the district is in the process of installing key-card access to elementary and middle schools; transportation currently has 150 bus stop change requests, and Mr. Ficke continues to work through these as well as issues with construction on bus routes, road closures, and new buses that don’t fit under the railroad bridges.

Dr. Title presented a list of major maintenance and capital projects that were completed over the summer; the FLHS generator was a joint project with the Town.

Mr. Convertito requested an update on maintenance projects that were budgeted for and not yet complete.

In response to Ms. Iacono, Dr. Cutaia-Leonard stated that the Burr preschool is full, but some students are unable to start until they turn 3 and will not appear on enrollment. Dr. Title confirmed that the Opt-In program for McKinley is still available, but the Opt-Out program is no longer available.

Mrs. Brand requested an update on the Racial Imbalance Plan and the cost savings regarding full-day kindergarten. In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated that key card access for the high schools is planned, and that the high schools are committed to having someone physically stationed at the door at all times as a monitor; and that the cost saving for kindergarten is the elimination of the mid-day bus runs. In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated the cost of the Osborn Hill library follow-up testing is already covered without having to tap in to the Operating Budget.

In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated that there are some growing pains with Infinite Campus, but it is a value-added tool and as people get more comfortable with it, it will be easier to see all the benefits.

In response to Mrs. Gerber, Dr. Title stated that the school websites are currently being populated with data.

### **New Business**

Mr. Fattibene stated the Policy Committee made a motion to amend Policy #6200-Instruction-Curriculum and read the added statement; he stated that 6200AR relates to how pilots will be performed within the school district. He stated this was done to put the district in compliance with a settlement agreement that was entered into with various complainants during a proceeding that went before the State Board of Education. Mr. Dwyer stated the Board has approved the settlement agreement to which the Administrative Regulations were attached.

### **Public Comments and Petitions**

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road, stated that her child, a freshman, does not have access to Infinite Campus yet; she requested that BOE obtain a district response on what was successful in the Strategic Plan; and she is concerned about safety at the high school level.

Christina Dejarnette, FLHS teacher, stated that freshmen typically wait 2-3 weeks to get system access; she requested that students log in to Infinite Campus on computers and not use the phone app, so that school messages will be seen; and she stated that she monitors the office entry way during period 7 as part of the security measures now in place.

### **Open Board Comment**

Mrs. Brand requested that the transfer of funds for Food Services be on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Fattibene stated the he is pleased to see Dr. Clark's picture on the Board room wall with other former superintendents.

Ms. Iacono thanked Dr. Title for moving forward the process of numbering the high school parking spots, and requested an update on how this is working.

Mr. Dwyer asked Board members to review the Budget Development Process document and provide him with any comments.

### **Convene to Executive Session**

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### **Adjournment**

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Meeting adjourned 9:39PM.

*Jessica Gerber  
Board of Education, Secretary*