

VOTING SUMMARY

Regular Meeting Notes Fairfield BoE; March 11, 2014

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 7:34PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:40), John Convertito, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the central office leadership team, student representatives Danielle Clarke, Acacia Longley, Ethan King and Bill Moeder and approximately 20 members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2014

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2014." Motion passed 8-0-1 (Ms. Karnal abstained).

Old Business

Approval of Policy 0100, Fairfield Public Schools Mission, Goals, Objectives: Mission Statement

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0100 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Policy 0110, Fairfield Public Schools, Goals, Objectives: Long-Term Goal

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Patten seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0110 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Policy 0200, Fairfield Public Schools, Goals, Objectives: Educational Goals.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0200 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Amend the 2014-2015 Calendar

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "I move to amend the motion relating to the 2014-2015 school calendar, adopted at the December 10, 2013 meeting, by substituting the Superintendent's recommended 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 2, for the Board of Education's adopted 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 3"

Mr. Convertito made a point of order to say that the motion should be amended to include the words "rescind and" just prior to the word "amend". Mr. Convertito made a friendly amendment to change the motion to read, "I move to rescind and amend the motion relating to the 2014-2015 school calendar, adopted at the December 10, 2013 meeting, by substituting the Superintendent's recommended 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 2, for the Board of Education's adopted 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 3." The Board accepted the friendly amendment. The amended motion passed, 7-2 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack and Ms. Karnal against).

Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the regular Meeting of January 14, 2014." Motion passed, 8-0 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack declined to vote).

New Business

Approval of Educational Specifications for Mill Hill Elementary School Re-Roofing Project

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Mill Hill Educational Specifications dated 2/27/2014, for the Mill Hill Elementary School Re-Roofing Project.” Motion passed, 9-0

Mr. Llewellyn moved/Ms. Karnal seconded to suspend the rules to go beyond 11PM. Motion passed 9-0.

Adjournment

Ms. Karnal moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 11:32PM.

Detailed Minutes:

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:34PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:40), John Convertito, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, student representatives Danielle Clarke, Acacia Longley, Ethan King and Bill Moeder and approximately 20 members of the public.

Mr. Dwyer led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and received unanimous Board consent in allowing Student Reports as the first agenda item.

Student Reports

Mr. Moeder and Mr. King reported for Fairfield Ludlowe High School (**FLHS**): Congratulations to Annie Moeder for receiving the FCIAC Scholar/Athlete Award, Gymnastics placed second in FCIACs, the senior class recently modeled for Project Runway, the AP course test registration is underway, the SBAC testing and battle of the Houses has been moved to May, the sophomore dance will be held this Friday, and spring sports begin in 2 weeks.

Ms. Clark and Ms. Longley reported for Fairfield Warde High School (**FWHS**): Sophomores start CAPT Science tests this week, Girls and Boys Basketball won against FLHS, Boys Hockey plays tonight against Amity, the Dance Team won FCIAC States, Girls Skiing won States for the 4th consecutive year, congratulations to Ahmed Hourani for winning FCIAC States in Wrestling, the orchestra concert is tonight, the choir will have a concert off-site in March, rehearsals are ongoing for the May 2, 3 and 4 show “Merrily We Roll Along”, and the freshman/sophomore dance is this Friday.

Chairman Dwyer took a moment of personal privilege and asked the Board and audience for a moment of silence in memory of faculty member Rick Natale and FWHS student Katherine O’Neill who both passed away over the weekend.

Presentations

Math Curriculum Grades 11-12

Dr. Boice stated there are few changes in the rigorous curriculum for Algebra 2 and above. Dr. Rasmussen presented the Grades 11-12 Math Curriculum overview via Powerpoint, illustrating the curriculum, improvements to the curriculum documents, the resource search process, and next steps. Dr. Rasmussen stated that the curriculum was last reviewed in 2006, and courses need to be aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards; the curriculum was developed by research and review of Connecticut’s Core Standards and other standards after which it was organized into units of study; parent

focus groups were consulted; and feedback was elicited from the community, former students, a Fairfield University math professor, and the district level Curriculum Council.

Several teachers spoke about the curriculum enhancements and changes: FLHS Algebra Teacher, Ms. Nova-Robison presented Algebra 2; FWHS Calculus Teacher, Mr. Smoler, presented Pre-Calculus; and FLHS Teacher, Mr. Mirrer, presented Financial Algebra.

Dr. Rasmussen recommended maintaining current resources for Algebra 2, Calculus, Financial Algebra, Modeling/Trigonometry, and Statistics; and recommended the Glencoe Common Core Pre-Calculus text for Pre-Calculus; he reviewed the anticipated costs associated with the Pre-Calculus resource (\$51,200), the Algebra 2 resource 'holding cost' (\$75,000) and summer work (\$10,100), totaling \$136,300.

Ms. Karnal asked about the resources and why so much time was spent on checking and savings accounts in the Financial Algebra course. Dr. Rasmussen stated that the resources are the Pre-Calculus text and an Algebra 2 text 'hold' for next year; teacher feedback was the reason for the amount of time given to checking and savings in Financial Algebra; Dr. Boice stated that teachers have flexibility to shorten units.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn, Dr. Boice stated that updated numbers to the upper level math chart, to include Geometry, will be provided.

Board discussion followed on the sequencing of math courses as students progress from elementary to secondary. Dr. Boice stated that the chart explaining the math sequence was complicated, and the new information was an effort to make it simple and direct. Mr. Llewellyn requested clarification on grade 5 and 6 transition requirements, and asked why there was a test requirement change. Dr. Boice responded that the curriculum has changed to align to the Common Core; while the achievement test has changed, the requirements have not; it is yet to be determined whether the SBAC results will be included; other changes are the use of the Progress Report in the elementary school and teacher recommendations; parents can always request reconsideration.

Mr. Llewellyn stated that his documentation, as provided, showed that students must meet all 6 indicators; Dr. Rasmussen explained that the qualifying transition criteria from grade 5 to grade 7 is different than the grade 5 to 6 transition. Dr. Boice stated that new articulation documents clearly state the requirements; a question was raised as to whether the Board received the most updated version. Mr. Llewellyn requested a venn diagram of current and past methodology to show where students land with old and new requirements; Dr. Boice said that she would do that but stressed that the goal is to place students where they belong and can be successful.

In response to Mr. Patten, Ms. Nova-Robison stated that Algebra 31 is an accelerated class for Calculus-bound students; the difference in number of instructional weeks is to account for flexibility in covering topics; the class may study Calculus when all topics have been covered. Dr. Rasmussen stated that students may choose to be in Honors, and the \$75,000 Algebra 2 Resource 'hold' cost is to purchase new Algebra 2 books next year.

Board discussion followed on the sequencing of Algebra 2, and the course standards. Mrs. Liu-McCormack stressed her concern that the curriculum should expose students to content, and that STEM jobs require students to be pushed earlier. Dr. Boice clarified that the curriculum provides students with opportunities to excel; it would be a grave disservice to place students into a course they are not ready for. Mr. Dwyer requested that this topic be discussed at a later time to allow the Board to move forward and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that while sequencing is an excellent topic, she requested fellow Board members concentrate on agenda items and not be sidetracked.

In response to Board questions, Drs. Boice and Rasmussen stated:

- correct articulation documents will be provided to the Board
- examples will be provided of areas that are excelling and lacking

- the Financial Algebra course includes algebraic reasoning
- the shift to the Common Core allows for higher standards to be implemented
- teachers have curriculum delivery flexibility with pacing
- review is embedded and can occur throughout the year
- the professional development guides provide preparation materials for implementation
- 'next steps' on page 11 of the presentation includes common assessments that are used to measure student achievement in terms of the curriculum and teacher pacing and delivery of the curriculum
- teachers requested a one book approach in Pre-Calculus
- it is good instructional practice to provide review immediately prior to the content that will be taught, as proposed in Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus

Mr. Llewellyn requested that pacing be on the next agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 4, 2014

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2014" Motion passed 8-0-1 (Ms. Karnal abstained)

Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that the PTA Council will provide a community service grant for interested schools and PTAs; applications should be submitted prior to April 7.

Superintendent's Report

Update on the 2013-2014 Operating Budget

Dr. Title stated that there is no change in status from last week and that there was a productive session with the Board of Finance (BOF) to end the budget in the black.

Board discussion followed when Mr. Llewellyn stated he would like to recommend a motion to obtain monthly financial reports. Chairman Dwyer ruled that no motion would be made after which Mr. Llewellyn requested a clarification from Mr. Fattibene; Mr. Fattibene agreed with Chairman Dwyer; he stated that adding an agenda item requires 2/3 vote, but added that closer supervision over the budget may be required.

Mr. Dwyer stated he received assurance from the Town that the BOE budget would be balanced, and that the Superintendent has been providing updated information on a regular basis. Dr. Title stated that a regular quarterly report will be presented at the next meeting, and that moving to monthly financial reports may require input from the Policy Committee since the Board had previously voted to receive quarterly financial reports.

Old Business

Approval of Policy 0100, Fairfield Public Schools Mission, Goals, Objectives: Mission Statement

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0100 as recommended"

The Board agreed to hear information on all three policies at once.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly provided some background on the process of updating the Fairfield Public Schools' mission statement, long-term goal, and educational goals. Mrs. Brand, former BOE member and Chair of the Goals Advisory Committee, explained how input from community members and administrators was solicited; the hours spent in review meetings; the process to forward to Policy Committee, and finally to the Board for approval. Mrs. Brand stated the Policy Committee did not change the content, only the format.

Board discussion followed on Board goals, Superintendent goals, by-laws, strategic planning, and the hierarchy, timing and measurability of each. Mr. Dwyer added state law to the list; Dr. Title explained that the mission is the end result and the Board will approve a strategic plan embedded with the 'how;' the Board will decide on the process. Mrs. Brand added that the policy statement is meant to be broad. Mrs. Liu McCormack handed out a possible amendment to the policy and the Board discussed. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that if the Board wished to go in this direction it was up to them, but that she felt the policy before the Board addressed the issues covered in Mrs. Liu-McCormack's handout.

The public was invited to comment on all three policies.

Public comment:

Lisa Havey, Longview Avenue, spoke in support of these policies.

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road, spoke in support of these policies.

Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Policy 0110, Fairfield Public Schools, Goals, Objectives: Long-Term Goal

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Patten seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0110 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Policy 0200, Fairfield Public Schools, Goals, Objectives: Educational Goals.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve Policy 0200 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Amend the 2014-2015 Calendar

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "I move to amend the motion relating to the 2014-2015 school calendar, adopted at the December 10, 2013 meeting, by substituting the Superintendent's recommended 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 2, for the Board of Education's adopted 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 3"

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that she made the motion due to the lack of notification that this change would be made at the December meeting. Mrs. Gerber stated she seconded the motion after much thought, in order to accommodate the CES students and because the student athletes were not going to benefit from the earlier break, as she had originally thought.

Board discussion followed on the length of time between breaks, and testing schedules. Mr. Patten stated that after visiting PTAs, there was an overwhelming support for the original calendar as presented.

Mr. Convertito made a point of order to say that the motion should be amended to include the words "rescind and" just prior to the word "amend". Mr. Convertito made a friendly amendment to change the motion to read, "I move to rescind and amend the motion relating to the 2014-2015 school calendar, adopted at the December 10, 2013 meeting, by substituting the Superintendent's recommended 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 2, for the Board of Education's adopted 2014-2015 calendar, Enclosure No. 3." The Board accepted the friendly amendment. Mr. Llewellyn stated that he had supported the calendar approved in December, but understood that it would make things difficult for parents in Fairfield who teach in other neighboring districts with different break schedules.

Public comment:

Joseph Arrigo, Papermill Lane, spoke in support of the original calendar.

The amended motion passed, 7-2 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack and Ms. Karnal against).

Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the regular Meeting of January 14, 2014”

Mr. Fattibene stated that FAIRTV did not record the votes for the meeting to adjourn, and the by-laws do not prevent meetings from being re-extended.

Motion passed, 8-0 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack declined to vote).

New Business

Approval of Educational Specifications for Mill Hill Elementary School Re-Roofing Project

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Mill Hill Educational Specifications dated 2/27/2014, for the Mill Hill Elementary School Re-Roofing Project.”

Public Comment: None

Motion passed, 9-0

Mr. Llewellyn moved/Ms. Karnal seconded to suspend the rules to go beyond 11PM. Motion passed 9-0.

First Reading of Policy #5519 Students – Wellness

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that this was in response to state statute, and Mrs. Parks stated that several state statute changes are incorporated in this policy.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested information on the hours allocated to health education and will clarify further with Mrs. Parks. Mr. Llewellyn requested information on physical education via a chart with columns showing Fairfield vs. the state.

Discussion on Board Goals

Mr. Dwyer referenced the March 4 memo regarding the Goals Process and requested Board input in writing. Mr. Llewellyn stated that he will be adding a few goals including ensuring compliance with all state statutes and laws, monthly financial reporting, and defining and quantifying goals.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated she will be adding a goal that will compare and update how time and resources are allocated in terms of subject matter.

Mr. Convertito stated he will add a goal to start a formula on a new high school schedule to coincide with the completion of FLHS construction.

Mr. Dwyer clarified that Board and district goals have been different in the past. Discussion followed on detailed goals, strategic planning, strategic initiatives and measurability.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated she will request an updated strategic profile.

Public Comments and Petitions

Mrs. Brand, Goals Advisory Chair, thanked the Board for their support; commented on meeting extensions, Board goals and academic goals.

Brittany Marson, FLHS student, commented that she has had several canceled classes due to lack of a substitute teacher.

Elizabeth Courtney, Acorn Lane, commented on the damage to asphalt curbs at Mill Hill School.

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road, commented that she attended the recent Board of Finance meeting and asked for accountability.

Trish Donovan, Taintor Drive, commented on the Math parent focus group.

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road, commented on the upcoming ELA curriculum and asked that grammar and vocabulary be taken into consideration.

Jeanne Pacewicz, Sigwin Drive, encouraged the Board to hold a SBAC informational session at night to help parents.

Christina Marson, North Cedar Road, commented on the Board having an open dialogue on opting out of the SBAC test.

Susan Brown, Pemburn Drive, echoed concerns regarding the SBAC field test and stated that Stefan Pryor may be bullying the district.

Open Board Comment

Mr. Llewellyn requested an open forum format for the SBAC presentation tomorrow, and stated that students opting out of the SBAC test should get instructional time.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly mentioned that several teams are participating in Odyssey of the Mind competition in Bristol.

Mrs. Gerber stated that she attended Project Runway at FLHS and it was wonderful to hear the senior students' accomplishments as they were being introduced.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that she would be happy to circulate an article regarding the workshop instructional method.

Mr. Dwyer stated that the BOE has, in the past, returned a surplus to the Town; we are one Town and we do help each other; there will be a short Executive Session at 6:45 on Tuesday, March 18th to discuss collective bargaining and negotiations.

Mr. Patten stated that he attended 2 different PTA meetings and is amazed at the amount of parent involvement.

Adjournment

Adjournment

Ms. Karnal moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion "that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn". Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 11:32PM.

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Public Schools
Board of Education
Secretary*