

Minutes Fairfield BoE; May 20, 2014

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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 7:54PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Convertito, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly (arrived 8:30PM), John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Others present were Superintendent David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team and approximately 40 members of the public.

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent to move forward item 6A to right after Item 4, the Board agreed.

Student Ethan King reported on Fairfield Ludlowe High School sports and activities.

Public Comment

- Kelly Crisp, Papermill Lane: Support School Safety
- Elizabeth Courtney, Acorn Lane: Support World Languages
- Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Policy regarding communication, substitutes
- Steve Baker, Charles Street: Support of Dr. Title’s Budget Adjustments
- Stephen Sheinberg, Flax Road: Board Conduct
- Sarah Adhya, Falmouth Road: PreK busing
- Christine Vitale, Verna Hill Road: Support of Dr. Title’s Budget Adjustments
- Zhanna Funaro, Riverside Drive: Support of Dr. Title’s Budget Adjustments

New Business

Approval of the Fairfield Woods Middle School Project #051-0122 EA

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education accept the Fairfield Woods Middle School Project #051-0122 EA as complete”

Motion passed 8-0 (Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly was not present at the time).

Old Business

Approval of Policy #5515 – Students, Protocol for Administration of Emergency Medications by Non-Nursing School Personnel

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education approve Policy #5515 – Students, Protocol for Administration of Emergency Medications by Non-Nursing School Personnel”.

Motion passed 8-0 (Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly was not present at the time)

Mrs. Gerber questioned when this policy will return to the Board.

Mr. Convertito responded that this policy will return in the Fall.

Public Comment:

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive: Support of Policy

Approval of the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2014-2015

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2014-2015.”

Mr. Fattibene expressed concern about not funding the BOE conferences, spoke against the athletic rental charges, and

against eliminating PreK transportation for students that pay full tuition.

Dr. Title provided background on the PreK program and its benefits for racial imbalance as well as for closing the achievement gap. Additionally, he gave assurance that a 2015-2016 budget will be prepared without athletic fees, if the Board wishes. He remains concerned about maintaining facilities, and while not advocating taking money from tech capital, that's where any additional money would come from. He does not support eliminating stipends for liaisons. Board member fees to attend the CABE workshop can be accommodated if requested.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack suggested keeping PreK transportation for the McKinley district only, and mentioned returning other programs that have been cut, such as gifted.

Mr. Llewellyn suggested using the middle school liaison stipend to off-set the cost of PreK tuition, and commented on TIPS, a threat assessment and safety program. He requested finding \$42,000 elsewhere in the budget.

Mr. Patten commented on the PreK program capacity, Board workshops and the climate survey.

Mr. Convertito commented on the amount of the athletic fees, it should be \$75 per student per sport.

Ms. Karnal suggested eliminating the purchase of some of the projection systems, and requested clarification on the deferral of the math text purchase.

Mr. Dwyer spoke in support of the budget adjustments without any changes, and will hold Dr. Title accountable to exclude athletic fees in the next budget.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the recommendations and take out the \$56,000 Athletics rental charges, replacing it with 1) removing the weight room rug replacement at FWHS; 2) removing the installation of the motorized small gym backboards at FWHS; and 3) taking \$17,191 out of the capital technology budget.

Motion failed 3-6 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against).

Mr. Fattibene commented that the athletic fee is unfair, and that the maintenance projects listed in the motion do not change much and do not affect safety.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack supports this motion as it directly affects students and their ability to participate in programs.

Dr. Title reiterated that cutting maintenance is problematic and he does not support cutting maintenance projects for any reason, and offered that an additional secretary would be needed to manage the pay to play fee collection for all students/all sports.

Mr. Patten agreed with Dr. Title regarding maintenance and questioned whether there would be an administrative fee to manage the pay-to-play. He is against cutting \$17,000 in tech capital as this will affect student and program.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly spoke against the amendment, and accepted Dr. Title's assurance that athletic fees will be removed in the next budget.

Mr. Convertito commented that he will not be making a motion regarding pay to play, as he is against additional administrative fees for the management of this program.

Mr. Llewellyn questioned the overhead charge for the administration of pay to play.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Against Pay to Play

Ellen Jacob, RTM District 9: Deferral of Maintenance

Jeanne Pacewicz, Sigwin Drive: Support of Dr. Title's Budget Adjustments

Trudy Durell, Woodcrest Road: Support of Dr. Title's Budget adjustments

Reini Knorr, Alberta Street: Support of Dr. Title's Budget Adjustments

Pamela Iacono, RTM District 9: Read a statement from Joe Palmer in support of Dr. Title's Budget Adjustments

Eric Newman, Eastfield Drive: Against Pay to Play

Zhanna Funaro, Riverside Drive: Board Transparency

Laura Devlin, RTM District 3: Support of Budget Adjustments

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded to amend the recommendations and remove three buses from the Pre-K transportation, replacing it with 1) \$40,000 for MS Gifted; 2) \$34,000 for 5th grade music; 3) \$22,700 for Gifted Assessment; 4) \$9768 for K-8 grammar assessment; 5) \$5000 for TIPS reporting (school climate); 6) \$2400 for CABE conference.

Motion failed 2-7 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr Dwyer, Mr.

Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against.)

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that the Board's number one mission is to strive for higher achievement and that racial imbalance can still be addressed by allowing PreK busing to remain at McKinley.

Mr. Llewellyn commented that the middle school stipend could be used as an off-set.

Dr. Title responded that PreK busing is essential to address racial imbalance and expressed concern regarding surprise additions to the budget.

Mr. Convertito spoke against this amendment as it may put the racial imbalance plan in jeopardy and the Board may address changes to the plan at a later date.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly expressed concern that the listed items are not supported by all Board Members. The efficiency of PreK busing can be addressed separately.

Mr. Dwyer commented that 67 Pre-K students currently use the bus.

Public Comment:

Elizabeth Courtney, Acorn Lane: Support of Music and World Language Program

Kelly Crisp, Papermill Road: Support school climate

Kim Fahey, Overhill Road: PreK Busing Cost

Kelly Jacobson: Acorn Lane: PreK Busing Cost

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive: Encouraged Board Collaboration

Mr. Fattibene said he wished to divide the question and have the reduction of the one pre-K bus as its own item. Mr. Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent. Mr. Fattibene withdrew his motion; Mr. Dwyer said he would return to him later.

Ms. Karnal moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the recommendations and remove \$113,868 from the technology capital line for projection systems, replacing it with 1) \$40,000 for MS Gifted; 2) \$34,000 for 5th grade music; 3) \$22,700 for Gifted Assessment; 4) \$9768 for K-8 grammar assessment; 5) \$5000 for TIPS reporting (school climate); 6) \$2400 for CABE conference.

Motion failed 3-6 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against.)

Ms. Karnal commented that while technology is very important, cutting some projection systems is a trade-off.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said this is a good trade-off. The cheaper alternative is to move the projection systems away from classrooms where they aren't used much, such as the in the lower elementary grades.

Dr. Title mentioned that technology has been underinvested and it is very difficult to determine on the spot the changes that this motion would bring.

Mrs. Parks commented on the technology needs of the district, the three year technology plan, and the PTA's SmartBoard donations to various schools. The secondary level would be the most impacted if the projection systems were cut. Moving projection systems, once installed, is costly.

Mrs. Gerber spoke against the amendment and that the district is already behind on technology.

Mr. Patten spoke against the amendment as it would impact secondary technology projects.

Mr. Hatzis commented that mobile projection systems on carts can pose safety issues with wires, and confirmed that projection systems are a tremendous resource and are used as an extension of the teacher's computer.

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to extend beyond 11PM. The Board agreed.

Public Comment:

Brenda Anziano, Riverfield Principal: Support of Projection Systems

Eileen Roxbee, Sherman Principal: Support of Projection Systems

Eric Newman, Eastfield Drive: Funding technology

Lisa Havey, Longview Avenue: Funding technology

Kristen Tharrington, Walbin Court: Support of Technology

Chirstine Vitale, Verna Hill Road: Against motion

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Asked question about projection systems
Jill Bargas, Pilgrim Lane: Against motion
Steve Baker, Charles Street: Against motion
Kevin Chase, Mill Hill Principal: Support of technology and Projection Systems
David Hudspeth, Osborn Hill IIT, Support of Projection Systems
Bonnie Rotelli, Merritt Street: Against motion
Zhanna Funaro, Riverside Drive: Support of Projection Systems

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded to call the question. Mr. Dwyer clarified that the Board is actually calling two questions since the motion is divided.

Motion passed 7-1-1 (Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack against; Mr. Llewellyn abstained).

Public Comment:

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Timing of budget process

The main motion (moved by Mr. Patten/seconded by Mrs. Gerber), now divided per Mr. Fattibene's request, with the first part reading "that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2014-2015, absent the elimination of one Pre-K bus",

Motion passed 8-1 (Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack against).

Mr. Llewellyn asked to overrule the ruling of the chair in regards to the process of calling the question for both parts of the divided motion.

Motion failed 1-6-2 (Mr. Llewellyn in favor, Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly against; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Patten abstained).

The second part of the main motion "that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2014-2015, as shown on the transportation line, which is the elimination of one Pre-K bus for a savings of \$42,521"

Motion passed 6-3 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn against)

Open Board Comment

Mr. Dwyer suggested the deferral of the balance of the agenda to the next regular meeting and this was accepted by the Board. Mr. Dwyer will be the liaison for FEA and Mr. Patten will be the liaison for FSAA.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested that the restoration and extension of World Language be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Adjournment

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn".

Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 11:26PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jessica Gerber
Fairfield BOE
Secretary