

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Minutes of the Education Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 501 Kings Highway East-2<sup>nd</sup> floor Board Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairman Mrs. Sue Brand. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Mr. John Mitola. Ms. Stacey Zahn was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Ann Clark, Fairfield Ludlowe HS Student Representative Sarah Finlaw, Fairfield Warde HS Student Representative Tom Wolff and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 50 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

1. Mrs. Brand led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Moment of Pride-
  - Recognition of Sarah Finlaw, Fairfield Ludlowe High School Senior/Board of Education Student Representative
  - Recognition of Tom Wolff, Fairfield Warde High School Senior/Board of Education Student Representative

Mrs. Brand recognized Sarah Finlaw and Tom Wolff for their service as Student Representatives to the Board of Education and wished them the best next year in college.

3. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education approve the appointment of a teacher within the Fairfield Public Schools effective July 1, 2010 with the initial assignment as Headmaster at Fairfield Ludlowe High School.

Dr. Gary Rosato introduced Mrs. Vanessa Reale as the recommended candidate. Mrs. Reale currently serves as Principal at East Haven High School and previous to that she was a middle school assistant principal and a social studies teacher at both the middle and high school levels. Dr. Rosato introduced and thanked the members of the search committee.

Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to amend the motion to insert Mrs. Vanessa Reale's name into the motion.

“that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mrs. Vanessa Reale as a teacher within the Fairfield Public Schools effective July 1, 2010 with the initial assignment as Headmaster at Fairfield Ludlowe High School”

Motion carried: 7:0:1. Mrs. Dow abstained.

4. Public Comments and Petitions-

Michelle McCabe, Chairperson of Fuel for Learning Partnership, stated that she hopes the Board will vote in favor of pursuing Healthy Food Certification, and if this moves forward, her committee would be honored to assist the district in the transition. She also thanked the members of the Board of Education for considering the request for a review of the School Lunch Program. She presented a letter of support from local pediatricians and a petition signed by over 780 members of the community in support of performing such a review.

Wendy Bentivegna, Fairfield Ludlowe High School parent and Co-chair of the Freshmen Forum, thanked everyone who helped make this program a success.

Nancy Billington, Fleming Lane, thanked everyone for the successful year of the joint Task Force that was started for alcohol prevention. She also thanked everyone involved in the concept of the routine breathalyzer policy.

Kim Fawcett, State Representative for Fairfield and Westport, spoke in support of the Fuel for Learning Partnership. She stated that last week she officially became an angry mom. She was referring to a documentary called *Two Angry Moms*, which tells the story of the type of food being served to children across the country. Until there are 2 million angry moms and dads voicing their concern about the type of food being served to our children, the change that is needed won't happen. She urged Board members to join the movement.

Pam Brennan, Lampwick Lane, thanked Nancy Billington and her alcohol task force for inviting Warde parents to join in what is a community-wide problem. She hopes Warde can get their team together and start educating their community as well as Ludlowe has.

## 5. Extraordinary Business

- A. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education approve the contract between the Fairfield Board of Education and AFSCME Council 4-Information Technology Technicians dated July 2009-2011.

Attorney Don Houston stated that this is the first collective bargaining agreement for this group. The union was certified by the State Labor Board in April 2007 but did not come to the table until January 2008. Negotiations have been continuous since then. Since this is a first collective bargaining agreement, it takes much longer to negotiate because every section is new language.

Board questions and comments followed.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- B. Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education allow the sale of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes to students on school premises provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Mrs. Joann Fitzpatrick stated that this vote takes place each year and is required by the State of Connecticut because of the restrictions on beverages that are available to students during the day and after school hours. This vote will deal with serving beverages at football games, on weekends, etc. The beverages are outside of the Food Services budget.

Board questions and comments followed.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- C. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education approve participation in Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning sale of food to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored.

Board questions and comments followed.

Dr. Clark asked the Board to approve this motion and stated that there could be a negative financial impact on the Food Services operating budget.

Board questions and comments followed regarding bake sales during the school day, school events on the weekend and the difference between events and fundraisers.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick commented on the difference between food that can be given to students versus selling it to students and what is considered an event versus a fundraiser.

Public Comments-

Michelle McCabe, Merritt Street, commented that other than candy, everything else has some sort of representation on the list from the state for not just fundraising but for substituting items on the ala carte menu.

Susan Bellissimo, Millspaugh Drive, commented that the obesity rates in this country have been growing over the last four years. Children and their parents need to be educated. In order for these kids to learn, they have to be given the right nutrition.

Tina Dejarnette, Quaker Lane, commented she is all for healthy food but is concerned for the clubs that live by bake sales and pizza sales. What will they do to fundraise?

John Convertito, Oyster Road, stated that he is all for healthy lunches but is concerned with the process. He has watched this debate for four years and every time, at the recommendation of the administration, the Board decided not to go this route. He does not think the new Board has flushed this out enough to make a decision tonight.

Senja Kocsi, 309 South Street, commented that she had a conversation with a parent who is a member of the Fuel for Learning Partnership and as a result she has become a member as well, and the voice of concern is getting stronger.

Peter Kraus, Eastlawn Street, expressed concern with the food being served in the cafeterias. If the Board doesn't vote for the Healthy Food Certification, you need to figure out a way to improve the food that is served.

Board questions and comments continued.

Motion carried: 7:1:0. Mrs. Albin voted in opposition.

- D. Mr. Mitola moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that that the Board of Education allow the sale to students on school premises of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

There were no Board comments.

Public Comment-

Greg Convertito, sophomore representative on the Student Representative Council at Fairfield Ludlowe HS, commented on the student run *Perch*, which is a little concession stand that is open every day during periods 1-3 and sells candy, bagels, muffins, juice and water. Mrs. Fitzpatrick stated that the food sold at the *Perch* would have to meet the state standards.

Board questions and comments followed on what defines an event.

Mrs. Iacono moved to call the question, seconded by Mr. Kery.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- E. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that the Board of Education approve the recommended school lunch prices for the 2010-2011 school year, as contained in Enclosure No. 2.

Board questions followed.

Motion carried: 7:0:0. Mrs. Albin was out of the room during the vote.

- F. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that the Board of Education approve a zero percent salary adjustment for Food Service Workers for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion carried: 8:0:0

- G. Discussion of an Advisory Committee to Review Food Services-

Mrs. Brand read from the Bylaws regarding Advisory Committees: "Advisory Committees consisting of three (3) Board members appointed by the Chairman may be established by majority vote of the Board from time to time for assignments which the Board deems beyond the purpose and scope of the Standing Committees. The Board shall provide a charge for the Advisory Committee, which shall include the preparation of a written report and recommendations for the Board's consideration within a specific period of time. Upon the Advisory Committee's presentation of report and recommendations to the Board for consideration, the Advisory Committee shall be deemed dissolved and only the Board may take further action. The Chairman and the Superintendent, or his or her delegate, shall be ex officio members of the Advisory Committees, and the chairman may appoint ex officio advisors from the community for assistance in gathering information, preparing reports and making recommendations. The Advisory Committee shall follow the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act as required by State law."

Board discussion followed on establishing an Advisory Committee. It was suggested that this be sent to the Policy Committee to review and report back to the Board with a recommendation that would include a timeline and the scope of the work to be done. This should go on the next Policy Committee agenda with a report to the Board in August.

- H. Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve Policy #5145 – Use of Breathalyzers.

Board questions and comments followed regarding conducting a student survey on the use of breathalyzers. It was the Superintendent's opinion that it would be better to do a survey at the start of school in September.

Mr. Mitola moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to table this item until a date certain, Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at the Education Meeting of the Board of Education.

Board comments and questions followed on this amendment, which would give the new superintendent the courtesy of weighing in on this policy before it is voted on and would allow time for a student survey to be conducted. The survey will go through the Policy Committee and be presented to the full Board before it goes out to students.

Public Comment-

Kitty Connor, Co-chair of the Freshmen Forum, stated that RYASAP surveyed the kids, and the Board has that information. A breathalyzer is not the answer but it is one piece of it.

Wendy Bentivegna, Fairfield Ludlowe HS parent, commented on conducting a student survey. She also stated that this year was first time the Prom Promise mentioned that all students may be breathalyzed, and she thinks that helped. She is a proponent of the breathalyzer policy.

J. Alfred Dunn commented that when October 12 arrives we will have the same situation as we have now. There is a rising tide of children imbibing. He can quote times when students and parents came out against a situation that the Board wanted and gave an excellent presentation and the Board still went against what was presented. Nothing will get done.

Nancy Billington, Fairfield Ludlowe HS parent, commented that the Homecoming Dance is the event with the largest amount of alcohol related incidents, and it would be wonderful if a vote could be taken before that dance. If the kids are going to be surveyed, it would be helpful to survey the staff; they are very knowledgeable and are telling you what they want.

John Convertito, Oyster Road, commented that since the inception of this policy he has been against it. If he has to drive his children and their dates to the prom and sign a sheet at the door that says he has had them in his custody from 4 to 8 p.m., he will take the responsibility as a parent. What children do before they get to the prom is not the responsibility of the administrators and the staff.

Board comments and questions continued.

The mover and seconder were agreeable to change the date certain to September 28, 2010.

“to table this to a date certain, Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at the Business Meeting of the Board of Education”

Motion carried: 6:2:0. Mrs. Iacono and Mrs. Dow voted in opposition.

#### 6. Reports and Recommendations-

- ◆ Sarah Finlaw reported that Fairfield Ludlowe High School senior internships started on May 20 and will end on June 21. The Boys' Baseball Team won the FCIAC Championship, which is the first FCIAC Championship for Fairfield Ludlowe HS. Senior Awards Night is June 23 and Graduation is June 24.
- ◆ Tom Wolff reported that Fairfield Warde High School held their senior prom this past weekend and it went very well. The Girls' Tennis Team won the state championship, seniors are finishing their Senior Projects, Awards Night is June 23 and Graduation is June 24.
- ◆ Mrs. Albin--No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Brand reported that the Health Department is working in conjunction with the school district on protocols for school gardens. CES voted on their budget this past week. Mrs. Brand reminded everyone that Dr. Clark's retirement party is June 10 at Fairfield University-Dolan Center. The reception is from 5-6:30 p.m., and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Beverly Dyer at Central Office.
- ◆ Mrs. Dow reported that Dave Schultz, Fairfield Ludlowe HS Athletic Director, attended the last SEPTA meeting to talk about a Special Olympics Unified Sports Track Meet to be held on May 24. SEPTA will hold their last meeting for this school year tomorrow evening, and the new slate of officers will be installed. Anyone with resolutions for the 2010 Delegate Assembly, which is held in connection with the CABA/CAPSS Convention, should submit them by August 4<sup>th</sup>. CABA is now on Facebook. COLPS, Connecticut On-Line Policy Service, is a new service that will put district policies on line. The cost is \$900 for the first year and \$400 thereafter.
- ◆ Mr. Fattibene--No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono reported that Jeff Steele was elected as Moderator of the RTM replacing Jim Walsh who was appointed to the Board of Selectmen. The RTM voted down our capital request for renovations of the Dwight bathrooms. Approval was received for funding for the Tomlinson stair treads. The Finance, Budget and Community Relations Committee will meet on June 15 at 1 p.m.
- ◆ Mr. Kery reported that PTA Council met last evening and the highlights were the introduction of Mary Hogue as the new PTA Council President, the Deanna O'Kiernan Award was presented to Jonathan Kaufman, and a surprise party was held for Dr. Clark in honor of her retirement. At the last Facilities Subcommittee meeting RFIs were received regarding alternate methodologies for

projecting our enrollment long-term. The RFIs and potential feeder patterns at the middle school level will be reviewed at the next Facilities Subcommittee meeting on June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

- ◆ Mr. Liu reported that the Fairfield Woods Middle School Building Committee met and reviewed the water runoff and how it is affecting the parking lot. They also reviewed ideas for the bus loop and where to put Project Adventure. Mr. Boyle commented on a letter that was received from the State Department Bureau of School Facilities regarding the Fairfield Woods project. There are three items of concern. The first item is related to the resolution by the RTM. The wording was not acceptable to the Bureau of School Facilities, and the First Selectman has redrafted a resolution to include the appropriate language. It will be presented to the RTM in June. The second item has to do with enrollment projections. The highest eight-year projected enrollment reported on the ED049 is 896, and the enrollment projections submitted do not support this amount of students. In speaking to Ms. Paige Farnham, a consultant at the Bureau of School Facilities, she indicated that she would like to see the new feeder pattern for the middle schools before moving this forward so that she would have better projections. This all has to do with reimbursements. The Facilities Committee would like to move forward with the feeder patterns, not implement, but complete the identification of the new feeder patterns for Fairfield Woods in August so that it can be submitted to the State. That is not to say this could not be changed afterwards, but it is needed to complete the ED049. The third item has to do with the educational specifications. The proposed scope of the additions/renovations at Fairfield Woods is not clear and more information is needed, which we will be able to provide to them.
- ◆ Mr. Mitola--No report.

7. Open Board Discussion-

Board discussion took place regarding letters that were sent to the First Selectman by the Board of Education Chairman regarding the lease at St. Emery's for the Alternative High School and a request for a building committee for the Sherman School core upgrades. A response has been received regarding the lease at St. Emery's, and a response was received today from the First Selectman regarding the Sherman core upgrades that is unsatisfactory. The First Selectman indicated that there is some confusion over priorities and that he would entertain something in the year 2011. Mr. Kery expressed concern with the First Selectman's confusion. A commitment was made to the Sherman community that when the annex was added the core upgrades would be made. This issue has taken six months and we are still in limbo. Mrs. Brand stated that the First Selectman has sent a response and it was "no". Board discussion followed on this issue. Mrs. Brand will send a statement to the Board of Finance and RTM leadership letting them know the Board's concerns.

Mrs. Brand asked if there is a backup site for graduation in case of rain. Dr. Clark stated the high school gymnasiums would be used.

8. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that this regular meeting of the Board of Education convene to Executive Session at 10:22 p.m. to discuss negotiations with paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians/maintenance, special education trainers and information technology technicians.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

9. Mrs. Brand called the Executive Session to order at 10:24 p.m. Board members present were Mrs. Albin, Mrs. Brand, Mrs. Dow, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Iacono, Mr. Kery, Mr. Liu, and Mr. Mitola. Also in attendance were Dr. Ann Clark, Mr. Tom Cullen, Ms. Andrea Leonardi and Mrs. Bonnie McWain.

10. Return to Public Session at 10:38 p.m.

11. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that this regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.