

The Enclosures referred to in the Agenda are available for inspection at each of the three Public Libraries in Fairfield, Fairfield Public Schools' website <http://www.fairfieldschools.org/> and the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East.

THE PUBLIC IS REQUESTED TO SILENCE CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING

Board of Education, Fairfield Public Schools
501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room, Fairfield CT 06825

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:45 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Convene to Executive Session
Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy concerning collective bargaining and the performance of a Board member"
3. Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Presentation
 - A. Student Achievement Awards for Fairfield Woods Middle School
 - B. *Odyssey of the Mind* Student Recognition for Stratfield Elementary School
6. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2013
Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2013"
(Enclosure No. 1)
7. Student Reports

Marco Congello	Fairfield Ludlowe High School Student Liaison
Alice Rocha	Fairfield Ludlowe High School Student Liaison
Acacia Longley	Fairfield Warde High School Student Liaison
Danielle Clarke	Fairfield Warde High School Student Liaison
8. Board Committee/Liaison Reports
9. Superintendent's Report
10. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Secondary Math Curriculum, Grades 6-10
Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Math Curriculum, Grades 6-10"

- B. Approval of Secondary Math Resources, Grades 6-10
Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Math Textbooks, Grades 6-10, per the memorandum dated April 26, 2013”
 - C. Approval of Superintendent’s Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2013-2014
Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2013-2014”
11. New Business
- A. First Reading of Policy #5112-Students-Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy
(Enclosure No. 2)
 - B. First Reading of Policy # 5115-Students-Attendance, Dismissal of Students
(Enclosure No. 3)
 - C. First Reading of Policy #5117-Students-Attendance, Excused Absences
(Enclosure No. 4)
 - D. First Reading of Policy #5118-Students-Attendance, Truancy
(Enclosure No. 5)
 - E. Board Discussion and Guidance on Policy #6200-Instruction-Curriculum
 - F. Discussion on Planning for the 2014-2015 Budget Review Process
12. Public Comments and Petitions
- During this period the Board will hear comments and receive petitions from any citizen present at the meeting. Any single presentation must be limited to two minutes, and audio-visual equipment cannot be used without the advance authorization of the Chairman. **The Board will not hear comment on individual personnel matters or comments addressed to a specific member(s) of the Board.** Decorum will be enforced. Citizens are asked to comment on any voting item at the time the item is under consideration by the Board.
13. Open Board Comment
14. Adjournment
Recommended Motion: “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11, 2013	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. 501 Kings Highway East 2 nd Floor Conference Room
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RELOCATION POLICY NOTICE

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Pupil & Special Education Services
501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825
Telephone: (203) 255-8379

MAY 21 2013

Board of Education, Fairfield Public Schools
Fairfield Ludlowe High School Auditorium, 785 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Voting Summary:

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013.

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Iacono seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013." Motion passed 8-0.

Old Business

Approval of Fairfield Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Fairfield Teacher Evaluation Plan, the Fairfield Administrator Evaluation Plan, and the Alternative Implementation Plan, to the CT State Department of Education."

Mr. Convertito moved/Mr. Liu seconded to amend to the motion to read as follows: "that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Fairfield Teacher Evaluation Plan, the Fairfield Administrator Evaluation Plan, and the Alternative Implementation Plan, to the CT State Department of Education for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and that the plan be re-evaluated and approved by the Board for the 2014-2015 fiscal year." Motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Convertito moved/Mr. Liu seconded to call the question. Motion passed 8-0.

The amended motion passed 8-0.

Motion to Extend

At 10:58 p.m. Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Kennelly seconded to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. Motion passed, 8-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Kery moved/Mr. Liu seconded the recommended motion "that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Adjourn." Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned 11:30 p.m.

Detailed Minutes:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. Present were members Jennifer Kennelly, John Convertito, Perry Liu, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Pamela Iacono, Paul Fattibene and Tim Kery. Sue Brand was absent. Others present were Dr. Title, student representatives from FLHS and FWHS, members of Central Office and approximately 30 members of the public.

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

3. Presentation of Secondary Math Curriculum and Resources, Grades 6-10

Dr. Boice introduced Dr. Rasmussen as presenter and stated that it would be a 3 part powerpoint presentation: Overview of Curriculum, Resource Recommendations, and Next Steps.

Part 1

Dr. Rasmussen thanked staff and members of the public for their hard work and contribution to this process. Dr Rasmussen stated that the goal is to improve mathematical learning for all students and walked the Board and audience through the “Curriculum Document Structure” in the enclosure. He stated that the proposed curriculum documents contain updated specific standards, and are more precise. Dr. Rasmussen stated that he would be introducing several teachers to discuss changes to courses from Grade 6 to Geometry.

Nicole Massella, Fairfield Woods Middle School Grade 6 Math teacher, stated that there are similarities with the current and proposed curriculum. The proposed curriculum delves more deeply in several areas; most notably in ratio and rate concepts, division and fractions, and working with positive and negative numbers. Ms. Massella stated that some content mastery has been moved to earlier grades, such as addition and subtraction of fractions, area of squares and rectangles, and volume. Math 6 students are expected to learn several algebraic concepts that will lay the foundation for future coursework including variables and absolute value and inequalities.

Ms. Massella also discussed the proposed Transition to Pre-Algebra Curriculum. Ms. Massella stated that the students in this course will still be exposed to the same foundational content as in the Math 6; this course also contains 2 Math 7 units with positive and negative number operations, and two and three dimensional geometry.

Michelle Taddei, Tomlinson Middle School Math 7 Teacher, explained the new curriculum differences in Math 7. She stated that students will still learn basic pre-algebra skills and ratios and proportions; the new curriculum will expect students to apply formulas as well as derive and explain where those formulas came from.

Ms. Taddei also discussed the proposed Pre-Algebra 7 Curriculum; students in this course will still be solving and graphing equations extensively, and still be learning ratios and proportions, statistics, and geometry. Most of the differences in the proposed curriculum exist in the extensiveness of application of reasoning skills. Added content is solving and graphing multi-step inequalities, proving the Pythagorean Theorem, and analyzing geometric concepts.

Rukmini Zacchia, Tomlinson Middle School Math Resource teacher, stated the current Pre-Algebra 8 curriculum has 4 units and the proposed Pre-Algebra 8 Curriculum has 7 units. These 7 units are closely aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Many of the same topics will continue to be taught and learned in this course. Some topics have been shifted to earlier grades such as computation with rational numbers and number lines and grids.

Ms. Zacchia also discussed Algebra 8 Curriculum; it has 9 more specific units and is aligned with the Common Core; some topics have been shifted out to earlier courses, such as algebraic expressions and basic graphing; some topics have been shifted into Algebra 8.

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Seth Fry, Fairfield Warde High School math teacher, has taught all math levels and abilities, and spoke to the Algebra 12 Curriculum. He stated that in the proposed curriculum, students will still spend time graphing equations and defining functions. In the proposed curriculum, students will go into more depth in statistics, functions, and quadratics. Students will be expected to apply theory to real-life problems and interpret their answers.

Katie Poole, Fairfield Ludlowe High School Geometry teacher, stated that the proposed curriculum for Geometry 21/22 has many similarities; students will still focus on the basics of geometry; some content such as 3-dimensional relationships, has been moved to the middle school level. In the proposed curriculum, students will use technology, study conics in more depth, and learn additional trigonometry topics.

Dr. Rasmussen spoke to the domain progression from grade 6 through high school; the grade 6 sample task was to find the volume of a truck and a box, and then determine how many boxes fit in the truck; the grade 7 task was to find the volume of a triangular prism; the grade 8 task was to find the volume of a cone first and use that information to find the radius of a sphere. Dr. Rasmussen then discussed a task regarding stacking cans and solving the most efficient way to stack them; he then spoke to a slide which showed fluencies in middle grades into high school.

Part 2:

Dr. Boice stated that the Resource Review Process included an initial teacher search committee, a final resource review committee, a teacher survey, and community viewing/feedback. She introduced Mark Friedman as the PTA Curriculum representative, and Beth Griggs, Fairfield Woods Middle School Math teacher, to discuss the process.

Mark Friedman stated that he provided a parent perspective on the secondary resource review. He stated the process was thorough and involved parents, teachers, outside consultants, and administrators. He stated the committee heard from 5 different resources, and samples of resources were given out for a more in-depth review; the public also had the opportunity to review the resources and provide feedback.

Beth Griggs stated that the first phase consisted of 20 teachers looking at various publishers; a Common Core focus checklist was completed by each teacher; the teachers had 13 focus points when rating the resources; and the top 5 resources were chosen. Phase 2 narrowed the choices to the top 5 and expanded the reviewers to include parents and other outside experts. Publishers sent representatives to more thoroughly explain the text, online resources and professional development. In the third phase, the top 2 resources were more critically analyzed for Common Core Alignment.

Dr. Rasmussen spoke to the data collection in the process, where resources were rated from 1-4, with 4 being the highest, on instructional support, differentiation, assessment/data analysis, and skill practice; this data showed the highest 2 resources to be Big Ideas and Glencoe Math. Big Ideas was chosen as most closely aligning with our curriculum, and this is the text recommended for Math 6, Transition to Pre-Algebra, Math 7, Pre-Algebra 7, and Pre-Algebra 8.

Dr. Rasmussen stated the same procedure was used for the high school resources. From the ratings, the highest 2 resources were Discovering Algebra/Geometry and the Pearson Common Core. Dr. Rasmussen reviewed additional CPM analysis regarding grade distribution and student/parent survey results; which eliminated CPM as a resource choice. Dr. Rasmussen stated the top 2 resources were further analyzed for Common Core alignment; the district recommends Pearson Algebra 1: Common Core for Algebra 1 Grade 8 and Algebra 12 (Grade 9 Math); the district recommends Pearson Geometry: Common Core for Geometry 21, and Geometry 22.

Part 3

Dr. Rasmussen stated the next steps, after Board of Education approval, are to have teachers work over the summer to build implementation guides, and provide professional development for teachers; observations will be used to help evaluate the implementation of the written curriculum.

Dr. Boice stated the cost for the middle school resource is \$171,000, the high school cost is \$109,000, and summer work is \$19,400; \$160,000 will be from the current year budget and \$120,000 from next year's budget.

Board Questions:

Mr. Convertito asked for clarity on the 5th slide, and asked whether CMT and CAPT results identified where the curriculum might need help. Dr. Rasmussen said yes. Mr. Convertito stated that he found the current and proposed curriculum comparisons helpful; there is a persistent shift of levels of learning, for example from 8th grade to 6th grade, and how do you ensure that today's 6th graders don't lose out? Dr. Rasmussen stated that has been prepared for in units of study. Mr. Convertito stated that the fruition of this may not be seen for four years. Dr. Boice stated that Math is a cumulative subject, and builds year upon year; there will have to be a tremendous amount of support for students and teachers; this curriculum implementation will be watched very closely. Mr. Convertito stated he loves the curriculum and questioned whether there will be additional resources. Dr. Rasmussen stated that this will be constantly monitored; Dr. Boice stated that both texts provide additional online resources. Mr. Convertito thanked the committee and the participants.

Mr. Kery stated that students have learned a certain way in the last 8 or 9 years, and now there is a shift; how do we make this change? Dr. Boice stated that the instructional method from K-5 is continuing into middle and high school; there is a variety of instruction; there is a place for group work, individual instruction, and paired work. Mr. Kery asked whether the cost accounts for the growth in the high school in the next few years. Dr. Boice stated that she used the most accurate numbers, and may have to add to the inventory.

Mrs. Gerber asked if we are looking more towards a mix of different aspects of teaching. Dr. Boice stated that she did like CPM, but it did have its drawbacks; it did not look like a math book and parents struggled with that.

Mr. Liu asked if CPM was gone, and Dr. Boice confirmed yes. Mr. Liu asked if this review process cost us any money, Dr. Boice said no. Mr. Liu asked why the CPM review cost \$13,000 and this one did not cost us anything. Dr. Title stated that the review processes were completely different. Dr. Rasmussen stated that CPM provided 6 days of training and classroom visitations. Mr. Liu asked to see the parent ratings, and if supplements are required, does that mean that the text is not enough. Dr. Boice stated that there is extensive supplementation online.

Mr. Fattibene thanked the presenters and asked if any content was removed. Dr. Rasmussen answered that very little was removed, a few small topics in Geometry.

Mrs. Kennelly thanked the presenters and asked if there will be any online homework. Dr. Boice stated that there are online lesson plans and activities for teachers looking to supplement. Dr. Boice stated that Big Ideas has a 2014 copyright, and was written by a well-known author. In response to Mrs. Kennelly, Dr. Rasmussen stated that the assessments will be built after curriculum approval; teachers can identify learning strengths and this information can be tracked through Infinite Campus. Mrs. Kennelly asked if teacher instruction is becoming more standardized; given the truck task example. Dr. Rasmussen stated that there are multiple

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ways to solve that and all are encouraged. Mrs. Kennelly mentioned the Capstone Project; Dr. Rasmussen stated that this is something to be built into the 21st century skills, to encapsulate everything learned in Geometry. Dr. Rasmussen, in response to Mrs. Kennelly stated we are going above the Common Core by going through 4 years of math in 3 years in middle school, and going above the Common Core in Geometry.

Dr. Title thanked the teachers, parents, and leaders for the work involved in the curriculum process; the next meeting will have 2 separate motions; one for the curriculum and one for the texts.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013.

Dr. Title clarified, in response to Mrs. Kennelly referring to page 2 of the minutes, that teachers may choose which student assessments to use in their evaluation/goals.

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Iacono seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013.” Motion passed 8-0.

5. Student Reports

Alice Rocha, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, reported that spring sports are going well. Preparations for prom are underway with the mock crash for juniors taking place soon. This past weekend, the play *Oliver* took place and it was a great success. The May 1 college deadline has passed and everyone is excited about where they are going. AP tests are ongoing. The French and Spanish students visited and all had a great experience. Orchestra, Chorus, and Band competed in Virginia and all ensembles won awards.

Danielle Clark and Acacia Longley, Fairfield Warde High School, reported that Battle of the houses will be May 17; the Music Dept. also went to Virginia to compete and Choir, Orchestra and Band all won awards; AP exams are underway; final exams were just posted; and spring sports are going well.

6. Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Gerber stated that she attended the ribbon cutting for the new Girls’ Softball Field and it was a great event.

7. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Title gave an update on security enhancements; all elementary and middle schools now have state of the art camera/buzz-in/intercom systems. The Police Dept. is still evaluating the infrastructure of each school, but the Police Chief is available to provide an update at any time.

In response to Mr. Convertito, Dr. Title stated that the Board will be given the opportunity to provide input on the Sherman and Stratfield Building Project acceptance.

8. Old Business

A. Approval of Fairfield Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Fairfield Teacher Evaluation Plan, the Fairfield Administrator Evaluation Plan, and the Alternative Implementation Plan, to the CT State Department of Education.”

Ms. Leffert, to reiterate a few key points, stated that the committee chose parent feedback rather than peer feedback, and that the climate survey data could be used. Ms. Leffert stated that a ‘whole school learning indicator’ was chosen by the committee to unite the school team; rather than student feedback. Ms. Leffert stated that this plan will be re-evaluated every year and stated that Ann Pasco, FEA president, was not able to attend tonight’s meeting, but provided a statement of support. Ms. Leffert noted that the state is expecting this plan to be submitted tomorrow.

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Mrs. Kennelly asked if the plan comes back to the Board when it is re-evaluated. Ms. Leffert stated that it will come back to the Board. Ms. Iacono asked if Ms. Leffert could remind the state that the Boards need to be made aware of this plan due to the budget implications. Ms. Leffert stated that the number of evaluations will include all classroom teachers. Ms. Kennelly commented that in the future she would like to change the 'whole school' feedback to include students and parents.

Mr. Convertito asked if the plan gets reviewed by Board again next year. Ms. Leffert stated that it will first get reviewed by the standing committee, and any changes will be presented to the Board for input. Mr. Convertito stated that he is not comfortable with the lack of direct input from stakeholders.

Mr. Fattibene stated that he doesn't like the 10% whole school feedback being used for individual teacher evaluation. Mrs. Leffert stated it will be a collaborative effort, as each teacher may choose which collaborative goal they might improve upon.

Mrs. Leffert clarified for Mrs. Kennelly, that the state will receive the number of teachers at each level, and that internal records would not be FOI-able.

Public Comment on Teacher Evaluation Vote:

Cathy Coyle, FLHS PTA President, stated that there is no confidential way for students to provide feedback. Students should be asked for input on their lessons.

Julie Gottlieb, TMS PTA Council, stated that her concern with the using the climate survey is the low percentage of parent responses; the week of survey feedback was also the week of Hurricane Sandy. More accurate results and a better response rate may happen in the future.

Lisa Havey, PTAC President, stated that her concern is that students are not being heard and students have the biggest stake in teacher effectiveness.

Lyn Matis, Flintlock Road, served on the FLHS School Climate Survey Committee, and stated that the survey had many generalities; it was hard to discern if students were talking about one teacher or the school as a whole. It would be a shame not to include student comments.

Board Comments:

Mr. Convertito moved/Mr. Liu seconded to amend to the motion to read as follows: "that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Fairfield Teacher Evaluation Plan, the Fairfield Administrator Evaluation Plan, and the Alternative Implementation Plan, to the CT State Department of Education for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and that the plan be re-evaluated and approved by the Board for the 2014-2015 fiscal year." Motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Convertito moved/Mr. Liu seconded to call the question. Motion passed 8-0.

The amended motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment: None

9. New Business

A. Update on Riverfield Project

Mr. Tom Quinn presented the Riverfield School Building Committee (RSBC) Executive Summary for the Riverfield Elementary School Project and walked the Board through Enclosure #4. He stated that in order to fulfill the educational specifications, as the committee is charged to do, the cost of the project is \$15.5 million. Mr. Quinn stated that under the current financial climate, he would be presenting the Board with (4) alternatives to consider, each alternative eliminating items from the educational specifications in order to get the project cost down as follows:

Option A: Meets all educational specs, but is missing increased security spending and installation of soffits to cover exposed piping. (15.1 million)

Option B: Reflects all items in Option A plus incremental safety/soffit spending, with 165 sq ft increase for vestibule. (15.5 million)

Option C: Reduces square footage in service areas and reduces FF&E by \$325,400 by using existing furniture and equipment within the district, and also has 1,025 sq foot reduction. (14.8 million)

Option D: Using Option C as a base this option combines science classroom with larger music classroom – 1,120 sq foot reduction. (14.4 million)

Option E: Same as Option D but eliminates installation of full a/c. (13.6 million)

Board Questions:

Mr. Convertito asked if duct work could be added so that air conditioning could be added later. Mr. Quinn stated no; that the ductwork required in 4 years might be substantially different than today's; he stated that there is a forced air system.

Ms. Iacono stated that the most important thing for the Board to do is to tell the RSBC that it is OK to move forward.

Mr. Kery asked if there will be any changes to the number of students; Mr. Quinn said no. Mr. Kery asked about the impact of consolidating square feet. Ms. Iacono stated that combining the science and music rooms as shared space is a better use of money and still meets programmatic needs. Mr. Kery asked if the waterfall amount has been used up and Dr. Title answered that the waterfall is an estimate. Mr. Kery stated that he is comfortable with any of the alternatives as listed.

Mr. Fattibene stated that he has concerns about moving forward too quickly in a direction that might present a problem in the future. Mrs. Kennelly stated that she has concerns about the air conditioning.

Mr. Dwyer questioned the Board individually and stated that the sense of the Board is that it is OK to proceed with these options, and the RSBC may move forward. Ms. Iacono thanked the Board.

B. Presentation of Superintendent's Recommended Budget Adjustments for 2013-2014

Dr. Title reviewed the budget numbers and the budget reduction history. The RTM final appropriation left the budget increase at 1.51% for next year.

Mr. Convertito asked what would happen if the district has a bad experience rating going forward. Dr. Title stated he is comfortable with the number. Mr. Dwyer stated that these numbers still provide the 1xIBNR.

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Dr. Title stated that this is the second year of reductions, and he handed out the "Superintendent's Recommended Budget Adjustments 2013-2014". Dr. Title thanked the staff for looking for efficiencies and working hard to present this list; he stated that he tried to minimize the reductions and spread them out; he then walked the Board and audience through the list as follows:

Central Office Positions; 2 vacancies and certified staff turnover.

Health Insurance and Pension; numbers as presented on the sheet have not changed.

Programs:

ELL Resources- These improvements could be phased in.

Middle School Gifted back to 12-13 level- This option eliminates the middle school Gifted program enhancements.

Middle School Eliminate Gifted Program- This option eliminates the entire middle school Gifted program.

Music Assured Experience (Grade 4)-This is a beneficial but expensive program.

HS Athletics Rental Charges – Charge a fee that would apply to sports where we have to pay rent.

Swimming (Sped)-Eliminate .2 FTE PE Teacher and rental fee for special education swimming; meet student IEP's in a different way.

SPED Summer School (Ed Trainers) – One year savings due to the late year and shorter summer session.

Grade 3 Gifted Testing Only – This does not impact the elementary Gifted program at all, only the testing in Grade 3.

Grade 7 Gifted Testing – Eliminate the Gifted testing for 7th graders.

Remove Grade 5 (1) General Music Class -The curriculum would have to be revised.

Fairfield Arts for Youth - Currently co-sponsored by PTA.

Increase HS Parking Fee -Increase to \$75 per semester.

Maintenance

Maintenance of Grounds-Anticipate 1.0 FTE vacancy, supplies, equipment, and summer part-time help.

Capital Projects- Defer generator enhancement.

Charge OT to all User Groups- Ask all (non-school) groups/events to pay for additional costs, mostly occurs on weekends.

Technology

Tech Capital -Elementary Desktops - Defer on these.

Software - Lower pricing resulted in savings.

Transportation

Fuel Bid Savings- Savings based on bid prices per town.

Magnet Discovery Transportation - Bridgeport to pay this cost.

Motion to Extend

At 10:58 p.m. Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Kennelly seconded to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. Motion passed, 8-0.

Board Questions

Mr. Fattibene asked if the RTM's preference that \$250,000 be cut from the health insurance account surplus was included and Dr. Title stated that it was. Ms. Iacono stated that it is listed as 'improvement in March claims'.

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Mr. Convertito asked to see data on daycare programs that pay no fees; he would like to see if those programs incur any custodial overtime. Mr. Convertito stated that it is not fair to charge some athletes and not others.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a sense of the Board on whether they might support the options of 'Pay to Play', or the 'rental fee' to offset sports with rental charges:

Ms. Iacono stated that she will not support Pay to Play, but will support a rental fee for off-site sports.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she does not support either Pay to Play or the rental fee.

Mr. Kery stated that he will entertain both options as long as no students will be excluded due to inability to pay.

Mr. Dwyer stated that he is opposed to both options.

Mrs. Gerber stated that she does not support Pay to Play but would consider the rental fee.

Mr. Dwyer stated that while not unanimous, this item will remain on the list.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that if there will be pay to play or a rental fee, then it should be an overall activity fee.

Mrs. Kennelly asked if the Music Assured Experience would be cut, then would it be a Central Office decision or school decision to re-instate it? Dr. Title stated that it would be a district-wide decision, as long as it is an 'assured experience' for all students. In response to Ms. Iacono, Dr. Title stated that it is allowable to get a sponsor for this experience.

Mr. Cullen, in response to Mr. Convertito, stated that the custodial staff shift begins at 6:30 am., regardless of whether there is daycare in the building or not.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that she is completely opposed to eliminating the middle school Gifted program. Mrs. Kennelly asked about the math text; is there room to cut there. Dr. Title stated that the secondary math budgeting is always split between the 2 years in order to get the books to the teachers before the summer. Mrs. Kennelly asked about last year's surplus, and whether there might be a surplus this year. Dr. Title stated that last year's surplus was due to electrical savings. That surplus was partially used to solve the McKinley roof problem. Dr. Title stated that this year there are many security upgrades which are not budgeted for, and together with the high cost of the storms, makes a surplus unlikely.

Mrs. Kennelly asked, and if the majority of the Board approved, could school start times be altered to obtain savings? Dr. Title stated that he asked this question 2 years ago; the bus grid is complicated; the only way to do this it to stretch out the start times between the runs and parents may struggle with late elementary start times.

Mr. Fattibene stated that the recommended budget adjustments add up to the required number, so if there is disagreement, then other suggestions would have to be made. Dr. Title clarified that the cost of the current middle school Gifted program is \$83,000.

Mr. Kery asked about the number of participants in the middle school Gifted program. Mrs. Gerber stated that she would support either middle school Gifted budget adjustment. Ms. Iacono stated that she is comfortable with eliminating the middle school Gifted program, but feels it should be re-evaluated and improved upon. Mrs. Kennelly asked about the recent report that was done on the Gifted program. Dr. Title stated that he will re-issue this report.

Mr. Dwyer summarized that there doesn't seem to be a lot of support for the rental fees, more information is needed on the daycare, custodial fees for overtime, and the Gifted program. Mr. Dwyer stated that this will be a voting item at the next meeting.

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10. Public Comment:

Mr. Dwyer noted that due to the late hour and the requirement to not go beyond the 11:30 p.m. time, public comment is limited to one minute per person.

Susie Byrnes, Cross Highway, requested that the Board of Education develop a specific plan for pilots going forward and that we need to be more creative with the budgeting; she is against pay to play, but is for co-op for football.

Peter Jacobs, FLHS student, thanked Dr. Title for protecting the music program.

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive, urged the BOE to further define how we use pilot studies; we need to ensure our students are protected from arbitrary decisions.

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road, thanked everyone on the review committee, asked about the CPM statistical analysis results; she would like to know when results from the SBAC pilot will be posted on the BOE website. She stated that 20% of students tested into the Gifted program; if eliminated then bring back leveling.

Laura Bernaschina, Mill Plain Road, thanked Dr. Boice, Dr. Rosato and Ann Leffert for attending the PTA awards dinner for RLMS Principal Glenn Mackno.

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road, stated that the budget drivers are people and staffing and clerical; programs will never come back into the school system.

Mark Patten, RTM District 7, stated that he has spoken to hundreds of parents; that charging overtime to PTA's is not smart; that elementary computers are old; software is lacking; and parents say that the current foreign language program does not provide any benefit.

11. Open Board Comment:

Mr. Dwyer stated that at the next meeting, the *Odyssey of the Mind* students will be recognized, and the Board is looking for ways to recognize student achievements at as many meetings as possible. Mr. Dwyer stated that an Executive Session will happen on May 21 at 6:45.

Mr. Liu requested an explanation of the complicated PCB document, and could that perhaps be included as an agenda item.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that the Policy Committee is currently looking at curriculum and pilots.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Kery moved/Mr. Liu seconded the recommended motion "that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Adjourn." Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned 11:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jessica Gerber
Board of Education
Secretary

MAY 21 2013

Board of Education
Policy Guide**Students****Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy****ATTENDANCE****5112**

~~It is the legal responsibility of every parent or guardian of children of compulsory school age (five (5) to eighteen (18), twenty one (21) years of age as outlined in statute) to ensure that regular, uninterrupted attendance at school and classes is maintained. A lack of consistent attendance can have an adverse effect on a student's academic achievement. Therefore, it is the policy of the Fairfield Board of Education to take appropriate legal action against a parent or guardian who fail to abide by the Connecticut Compulsory Attendance Law.~~

~~Connecticut state law requires parents/guardians to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents/guardians or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until ages six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.~~

~~A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent. A student not meeting the definition of "in attendance" shall be considered absent.~~

~~Classroom learning experiences are the basis for public school education. Time lost from class is lost instructional opportunity. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child, and students should not be absent from school without parental knowledge and consent.~~

Excused Absence

~~For absences one through nine, an absence shall be considered "excused" when a child does not attend school and appropriate documentation is provided by the student's parent/guardian approving the absence, due to:~~

- ~~A. Illness or injury,~~
- ~~B. Death in the immediate family,~~
- ~~C. Religious obligation,~~
- ~~D. Court appearance,~~
- ~~E. School sponsored activity,~~
- ~~F. Lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the students attends, (This reason does not require documentation.)~~

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- G. An emergency, or
- H. Other exceptional circumstances and extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by a District administrator and in accordance with SDE guidelines. Written excuse for such absences should be submitted to school officials by the child's parent or guardian. All other absences with or without written explanation shall be considered unexcused.

A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless:

- A. The absence meets the definition of an excused absence and meets the documentation requirements; or
- B. The absence meets the definition of a disciplinary absence, which is the result of school or District disciplinary action and are excluded from these State Board of Education approved definitions.

When the school in which a child is enrolled receives no notification of the child's absence from a parent/guardian or other person having control of the child a reasonable effort shall be made by school personnel to notify by telephone, email, or mail such parent/guardian or other person having control of the child.

Unexcused Absence

Board policy with respect to unexcused absences stresses prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences. The schools will make all reasonable efforts to keep parents/guardians and students informed as to attendance problems and will make all reasonable efforts to help students improve their attendance when such improvement is warranted. Only when all local resources are exhausted is referral to legal authorities recommended.

A student's absence from school shall be considered "unexcused" unless the absence meets the definitions, listed above, for an "excused" absence, including the documentation requirements; or if the absence is the result of school or District disciplinary action.

Students

Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy (continued)

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Release of Student During School Day/Dismissal

The Board recognizes the need for students to be in school for the full instructional day. It is encouraged that early dismissal should be requested only in emergency or unusual situations.

Request for release of a student during the school day originating outside the schools must be handled by the administration to ensure maximum provisions for the safety and welfare of the student.

Students who become ill during the school day may be excused by the school nurse. School personnel will notify parent/guardian to arrange transportation.

No student may be permitted to leave school at any time other than at regular dismissal without the approval of the student's parent/guardian. If a court official with legal permission to take custody of a child, or if a police officer arrests a student, the parent/guardian should be notified of these situations by the administration.

Truancy

The Board of Education must provide each child with a continuing education which will prepare the student to assume adult roles and responsibilities. Therefore, regular attendance and punctuality are expected from all children enrolled in our schools. By statute, responsibility for assuring that students attend school rests with the parent(s)/guardian(s) or other person having control of the child. Every effort must be made to keep absences and tardiness to a minimum. To assist parent(s)/guardian(s) and others in meeting this responsibility, the Board of Education has developed the following procedures regarding students ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive.

1. Notify parents/guardians or other person having control of each child enrolled, ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive, in writing, of the obligations of the parents/guardians pursuant to student attendance (C.G.S. 10-184).
2. Obtain from each parent/guardian or other persons having control of an enrolled child a telephone number or other means of contacting such parent/guardian or other person during the school day.
3. Establish a system for monitoring student's individual absences/tardies.
4. Notify, by telephone, email, or mail the parent(s)/guardian(s) or other such person(s) whenever a child fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication has been received by school personnel that the child's parent/guardian or other person is aware of the student's absence.
5. Identify a student as "truant" when the student has four (4) unexcused absences in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences in any school year.

Students

Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy (continued)

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Truancy

6. Hold a meeting with appropriate staff and the parent/guardian or other person having control of the child identified as a “truant” within ten (10) days of such designation to review the reasons for the truant behavior and to evaluate the situation.
7. Referral will be made to the PPT to determine whether or not an educational evaluation is appropriate, prior to filing a written complaint with the Superior Court.
8. File a written complaint by the Superintendent with the Superior Court alleging that the acts or omissions of any child identified as a “truant” are such that the student’s family is a “family with service needs” if the parent or other person having control of the child identified as “truant” fails:
 - a. to attend the required meeting to evaluate why the child’s truant or
 - b. to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the truancy problem.

Provide for the coordination of services and refer enrolled students who are truants to community agencies providing child and family services.

A student who is identified as a “truant” may be subject to the following consequences:

- A. Promotion to the next grade may be contingent upon the student successfully completing a summer school program
- B. The student may be retained in the same grade in order to acquire the skills necessary for promotion to the next grade level

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Attendance, **Excused Absences and Truancy** (continued) 5112 Truancy

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents. (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)

10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157 and PA 11-136)

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised 1995 - PA 95-304)

10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules.

Campbell v New Milford, 193 Conn 93 (1984).

Action taken by State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define "attendance."

Action taken by the State Board of Education on June 27, 2012 to define "excused" and "unexcused" absences.

Approved 8/27/04

MAY 21 2013

** Proposed for Deletion**

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Attendance

DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

5115

No child shall be dismissed prior to the regular school dismissal time to anyone other than his parent or guardian except in the case of a specific request from the parent or guardian asking that the child be dismissed to such designated person.

Approved 8/27/04

MAY 21 2013

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**** Proposed for Deletion****

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Attendance

EXCUSED ABSENCES

5117

Principals and teachers shall continually emphasize that students should not be taken out of school unless absolutely necessary. The idea that a student should attend school must be a priority for the student and his parent or guardian.

Students are to be excused from school upon written notification from the parent or guardian for any religious holidays not already observed in the school calendar. Students will be allowed to make up tests, quizzes, or any other assigned class work / homework, and students will not be deprived of any awards.

Appointments for dental and medical services should be made outside of school time whenever possible. In cases where an appointment during school hours is unavoidable, the parent or guardian will provide advance notification whenever possible.

Approved 8/27/04

MAY 21 2013

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In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, it is the policy of the Fairfield Public Schools to define a truant in the following manner:

A **truant** is a child aged five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive who has four (4) unexcused absences in one (1) month or ten (10) unexcused absences in one (1) year.

Upon the determination that a child ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive is a truant, the building administrator or designee will hold a meeting within ten (10) days with the parent or guardian of the child who is truant. Reasons for the truancy will be reviewed and evaluated including referral to the building Planning and Placement Team to determine whether or not an educational evaluation is appropriate. School services will be coordinated with referrals of the child to community agencies providing child and family services, as appropriate. The Superintendent may file a complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes in the Superior Court, Juvenile Matters regarding the child's truancy alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that his family is a family with service needs, if the parent or guardian fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the truancy problem.

At the beginning of each school year and upon any enrollment during the year the building administrator or designee shall obtain from the parent or guardian of each child ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive a telephone number or other means of contacting such parent or guardian during the school day. Provision will be made that, whenever a child ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled day and no indication has been given by the child's parent or guardian of their awareness of the child's absence, school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or guardian by telephone.

Parents or guardians of children, ages five (5) to eighteen (18) inclusive, in the Fairfield Public Schools will be notified annually in writing of their obligation to cause their child to go to school.

Students

Attendance

TRUANCY (continued)

5118

- Legal Reference:
- Connecticut General Statutes
 - 10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)
 - 10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157)
 - 10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general (Revised, 1995, PA 95-304)
 - 10-202e through 10-202f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program
 - 10-221b Board of education to prescribe rules. *Campbell v. New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984)

Approved 8/27/04