

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 DEVICES FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

Board of Education, Fairfield Public Schools
Timothy Dwight Elementary School, 1600 Redding Road, Fairfield CT, ROOM 003

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Special** Meeting of January 14, 2014"

(Enclosure No. 1)

B. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of January 14, 2014"

(Enclosure No. 2)

C. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2014

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Special** Meeting of January 23, 2014"

(Enclosure No. 3)

D. Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2014

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Special** Meeting of January 28, 2014"

(Enclosure No. 4)

E. Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2014

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of January 30, 2014"

(Enclosure No. 5)

3. Update on 2013-2014 Operating Budget

4. Update on Curriculum Schedule

5. Board Discussion regarding the grievance filed by Fairfield Custodians-Maintenance Local 1779 of Council #4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL- CIO*

**The Board of Education intends to convene an Executive Session to discuss the above grievance. The Board may further deliberate on this grievance in Executive Session. The Board may issue a decision on this grievance in Public Session.*

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education hereby moves to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment, performance and/or termination of an employee of the Fairfield Public Schools in accordance with Connecticut

General Statutes 1-200(6). The Board of Education further invites into Executive Session the following individuals:

- Attorney Stephen Sedor
- Lisa Bennett
- Ann Leffert
- Robert Larocque
- The Employee who is the subject of this proceeding; and
- The Representative of the Employee who is the subject of this proceeding.

6. Convene to Public Session

Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education convene to Public Session and act on the grievance filed by Fairfield Custodians-Maintenance Local 1779 of Council #4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO”

7. Scheduling of By-Laws Special Meeting

8. Discussion on Board Goals Process

(Enclosure No. 6)

9. Discussion on Board Self-Evaluation Meeting Topics

10. Adjournment

Recommended Motion: “that this Special Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”

RELOCATION POLICY NOTICE

The Fairfield Public Schools System provides services to ensure students, parents and other persons have access to meetings, programs and activities. The School System will relocate programs in order to ensure accessibility of programs and activities to disabled persons. To make arrangements please contact Pupil & Special Education Services, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825, Telephone: (203) 255-8379

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ENCLOSURE NO. 1

MAR 04 2014

**Executive Session Notes
Fairfield BoE; January 14, 2014**

Call to order and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Convertito, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, John Llewellyn, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, and Marc Patten. Others present were Ann Leffert and attorney Don Houston.

Convene to Executive Session

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session to discuss the tentative agreements in resolution of the Collective Bargaining Negotiations for the Information Technology Bargaining Unit and for the Special Education Trainers Bargaining Unit, and to invite Ms. Ann Leffert and Mr. Don Houston as appropriate." Motion passed 9-0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:29PM.

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Board of Education
Secretary*

Regular Meeting Minutes
Fairfield BoE; January 14, 2014

MAR 04 2014

VOTING SUMMARY

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

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, 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 50 members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2013.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2013." Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013." Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded a motion to add the following wording to page 5 of the minutes at the end of the Aon Presentation: "When Mrs. Liu-McCormack inquired of Aon, based on their broader client experience, what has proven to be the most effective way he has seen other districts reduce health plan costs, Mr. Lindgren responded the conversion to an HSA plan is a solution, reducing the value of the plan itself to reduce benefits."

Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the amendment by substituting language in Mrs. Liu-McCormack's written amendment – following the statement, "Mr. Lindgren responded" -- with language stated by Mr. Lindgren in the meeting transcript provided by Mrs. Gerber as follows: "I think you have to kind of shift the cost away from the employee contribution and reduce the plan value if you will. So through HSAs is one of the ways you could get there. But really anything that reduces the value of the plan itself." Motion failed 4-5 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack's original amendment 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).

The original motion to approve the minutes passed 6-3 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn against).

Old Business

Approval of the Secondary Business Curriculum and Textbook

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Business Curriculum as recommended." Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to amend the motion to divide the question into a) approving the revamped curriculum, and b) approving the two new courses. Mr. Convertito then made a friendly amendment to his motion's wording to instead amend the main motion to approve the current business curriculum not including the Financial Literacy course and the Intro to Investing and Finance course, which the Board accepted by unanimous consent. After discussion, Mr. Convertito withdrew his motion. Original motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Business Curriculum Textbook, "Becoming Money Smart: A Simulation for Financial Decision Making by Judi Deatherage, as recommended"

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Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mr. Patten seconded to amend the motion and add “with the use of Perkins Grant money” at the end of the recommended motion. Motion failed 3-6 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten in favor; Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly against). The original motion passed 9-0.

Approval of the BoE Capital Non-Recurring Projects 2014-2015.

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the BoE Capital Non-Recurring Projects 2014-2015 as recommended.” Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Minutes of November 26, 2013

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular/Organizational Meeting of November 26, 2013.” Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the minutes and add the language “John Llewellyn requested a copy of the most recent set of financials, as well as the 2013/2014 budget related to the Food Services Fund” to page 8 of the minutes, under the Update on Food Services RFP. Motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Mr. Convertito abstained). The original motion to approve the minutes passed 5-4 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn against).

At 10:50PM Ms. Karnal moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to extend the meeting to 11:15PM. Motion passed 9-0.

Amendment of Minutes of October 22, 2013

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded to amend the previously adopted action by amending the minutes of 10/22/13 (adopted 11/26/13) to say (insert language under “Quarterly Financial Update” after last sentence): “When asked about who paid for health insurance for food service employees Ms. Mussel responded, ‘They haven’t paid us for last year. They owe the Health Insurance account from last year.’” And then Sue Brand comments: ‘I was concerned about the status of the food service budget because we went out to RFP because we were running out of money. How are we managing to operate? We don’t have the food service budget in front of us. I would feel more confident if it was before us. This leaves me with more questions than answers and questioning management given the fact that we had some serious problems.’” Motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Mr. Convertito abstained). Mr. Dwyer stated that the October 22 minutes then stood as they were approved on November 26.

New Business

Approval of Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Information Technology Technicians and the Fairfield BoE for 2011-2016

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Information Technology Technicians and the Fairfield Board of Education for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.” Motion passed 9-0

Approval of Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Special Education Trainers and the Fairfield BoE for 2011-2015

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Special Education Trainers and the Fairfield Board of Education for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015.” Motion passed 9-0

Adjournment

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 11:15PM.

Detailed Minutes:

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

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, 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 50 members of the public.

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2013.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2013.” Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013.” Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded a motion to add the following wording to page 5 of the minutes at the end of the Aon Presentation: “When Mrs. Liu-McCormack inquired of Aon, based on their broader client experience, what has proven to be the most effective way he has seen other districts reduce health plan costs, Mr. Lindgren responded the conversion to an HSA plan is a solution, reducing the value of the plan itself to reduce benefits.”

Mrs. Gerber handed out a transcript regarding this portion of the AON presentation at the December 10, 2013 meeting to all Board members.

Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the amendment by substituting language in Mrs. Liu-McCormack’s written amendment – following the statement, “Mr. Lindgren responded” -- with language stated by Mr. Lindgren in the meeting transcript provided by Mrs. Gerber as follows: “I think you have to kind of shift the cost away from the employee contribution and reduce the plan value if you will. So through HSAs is one of the ways you could get there. But really anything that reduces the value of the plan itself.” Motion failed 4-5 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack’s original amendment 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).

The original motion to approve the minutes passed 6-3 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn against).

Student Reports

Mr. Moeder and Mr. King reported for Fairfield Ludlowe High School and stated that students are preparing for mid-terms, the Candlelight Concert was well attended, the Key Club’s Operation Hope Drive was a success, early action/decision letters are being received, winter sports season has begun, and course selection night is coming up.

Ms. Clarke and Ms. Longley reported for Fairfield Warde High School and stated that winter sports season has begun, the Carillon Concert was a great success, mid-terms are coming up, the county assemblies dances are coming up, the school

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store will be opening, the Key Club is collecting cans, yearbook orders are due soon, and 8th grade orientation will take place soon.

Superintendent's Report

Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Dwyer asked that Board discussion focus on the issue of the increased Special Education costs as related to outplacements and reported that the meeting with the Board of Finance went well.

Ms. Munsell presented the Quarterly Financial Report, discussed the enclosure, and stated there is a projected \$1.4 million shortfall, largely due to increases in Special Education costs; this has resulted in a budget freeze for non-essential spending which does not affect the health, safety, or instructional needs to maintain programs; a hiring freeze for non-essential employees is currently in effect; overtime is limited to critical maintenance; subs are limited to coverage of essential employees for unavoidable situations; and administrators have been asked to estimate potential savings.

Dr. Title stated that capital purchases such as technology replacements may be deferred; professional development and curriculum writing may be put on hold; employees wishing to go to conferences must cover the full cost of the conference and substitute unless there is a contractual obligation; schools have been asked to limit inventory; maintenance has been asked to limit overtime; health, safety and maintenance issues will be addressed.

Dr. Title stated that help may be needed from the Town to cover the projected deficit and the Board of Finance has indicated a willingness to work together on this issue.

Board Discussion followed and Ms. Leonardi summarized key points in response to Board questions:

- a number of students rose to a level of need via the PPT process and mediated settlements
- there is a higher rate of students with mental illness and high level of emotional distress requiring a level of care not offered in our public schools
- work is being done to address these issues through consultations, evaluations, and school-based teams
- many districts are experiencing similar spikes in these types of needs and issues
- services required for these complex issues have never been offered in the district
- the district has discussed developing an in-district solution, however, there will always be a need to outplace some students
- Fairfield's overall prevalence rate is about 10%, well within national standards

Mr. Dwyer recommended a separate meeting on this topic should more information be required.

In response to Mr. Patten, Dr. Title stated the electric rates are based on Town estimates.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn, Ms. Leonardi stated that the special education budget is based on October of the prior year, on the total number of tuitions with estimated tuition rates; that the prior year's transfer of \$280,000 into Pupil Personnel Services could have been due to parts of evaluations, consultations, and tuition. Dr. Title stated that the complex excess cost calculation is unknown until the filing is complete, and this year many placements did not qualify for reimbursement.

In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Leonardi stated that approximately 1100-1200 students are in Special Education with 89 students in outplacements; the predominant outplacement cost is tuition and transportation and is estimated at \$8.5 million.

Dr. Title stated that there are 2 streams of funding to off-set special education costs: the excess cost grant which is capped by the state, and federal funding that was affected by the sequester, costing the district \$150,000.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn's question regarding Food Services, Mr. Dwyer ruled that, in the interest of time, the Food Services portion of the Quarterly Report would be discussed at the January 21 meeting.

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In response to Mr. Fattibene, Dr. Title stated that the district must end the year without a deficit, and there are still unknowns such as the weather.

Presentation of the Superintendent's 2014-2015 Operating Budget

Dr. Title presented a Powerpoint Report on the recommended operating budget for \$156,909,651 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, which included slides showing 'Return on Investment for Program and Student Achievement'; 'Historical Data on Budget, Staffing and Enrollment'; and 'Budget Priorities'.

Mr. Dwyer asked that all budget questions be forwarded to Dr. Title well in advance of the next meeting so the staff has time to prepare; the first budget meeting will cover the income summary and food services, and the second budget meeting will cover the line item levels; the third meeting requires a vote and due to Town charter there can be no motions to postpone. Dr. Title stated that the budget book preparation is a huge undertaking by staff, and the budget book has won CABE's "Excellence in Educational Communication" Honorable Mention Award for the last three years.

Dr. Title explained the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the BOE regarding health insurance; that the agreement is if the Board of Education follows AON's recommendations and still has a shortfall, the Town will cover those expenses for that year and the deficit will get rolled over to the following year's operating budget.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested a copy of this agreement.

Mr. Llewellyn stated that he would like to make a motion to get the budget in Excel format. Mr. Dwyer ruled the motion out of order, and stated the Board has agreed to the current format. After Ms. Munsell stated that only the budget executive summary and support is in Excel and all else is in an Access Database, Mr. Llewellyn stated he would accept that format; both Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Fattibene challenged the Chair's ruling.

Mr. Dwyer restated that the motion is out of order and that Mr. Llewellyn currently has a Freedom of Information Request pending before the Freedom of Information Commission regarding the format of how Fairfield Public Schools presents information; a Hearing for this was held on Monday where briefs have been requested from Mr. Llewellyn and Fairfield Public Schools, and that a ruling by the Board prior to the ongoing process would be a mistake.

Mr. Fattibene stated that he is unaware of the FOI details and that a format request, if it exists, is a reasonable request from a Board member, and that he doesn't recollect any Board action stating that the budget will be presented in a PDF format only.

Old Business

Approval of the Secondary Business Curriculum and Textbook

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Business Curriculum as recommended."

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to amend the motion to divide the question into a) approving the revamped curriculum, and b) approving the two new courses. Mr. Convertito then made a friendly amendment to his motion's wording to instead amend the main motion to approve the current business curriculum not including the Financial Literacy course and the Intro to Investing and Finance course, which the Board accepted by unanimous consent.

Mr. Convertito stated that he does not want to add more programming until a program audit has been completed. Mr. Dwyer stated that the Board has not adopted a program audit. Dr. Title expressed concern that new courses would not be approved without a program audit. After discussion, Mr. Convertito withdrew his motion.

Public Comment: Curriculum

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road, thanked school district for the refreshing curriculum presentation.

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Christine Vitale, Verna Hill Road, stated that she echoes Suzanne Miska's sentiments and that her daughter takes business classes.

Eric Newman, Eastfield Drive, stated that he took business courses when he was a student and to eliminate these classes is shortsighted.

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive, asked that the Board to make the Personal Finance/Literacy class mandatory.

Original motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion, "that the Board of Education approve the Secondary Business Curriculum Textbook, "Becoming Money Smart: A Simulation for Financial Decision Making by Judi Deatherage, as recommended"

Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mr. Patten seconded to amend the motion and add "with the use of Perkins Grant money" at the end of the recommended motion.

Public Comment: Textbook

Neal Fink, Crest Terrace, stated the amendment doesn't make sense, this is not a discussion on how to pay for things, if something happened to the grant, the class may be prohibited from being offered.

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

The original motion passed 9-0.

Approval of the BOE Capital Non-Recurring Projects 2014-2015

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the BoE Capital Non-Recurring Projects 2014-2015 as recommended." Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of Minutes of November 26, 2013

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Mr. Llewellyn moved/Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the minutes and add the language "John Llewellyn requested a copy of the most recent set of financials, as well as the 2013/2014 budget related to the Food Services Fund" to page 8 of the minutes, under the Update on Food Services RFP.

Mrs. Gerber handed out a transcript of this portion of the November 26, 2013 Meeting. Board discussion followed on remaining consistent, capturing the essence, and focusing on actions rather than comments.

Motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Mr. Convertito abstained). The original motion to approve the minutes passed 5-4 (Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn against).

At 10:50PM Ms. Karnal moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to extend the meeting to 11:15PM. Motion passed 9-0.

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before us. This leaves me with more questions than answers and questioning management given the fact that we had some serious problems.”

A transcript of this portion of the meeting was provided to all Board members. Board discussion followed on paraphrasing and whether meeting minutes resemble a full transcript.

Motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Mr. Convertito abstained). Mr. Dwyer stated that the October 22 minutes then stood as they were approved on November 26.

New Business

Approval of Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Information Technology Technicians and the Fairfield BoE for 2011-2016

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Information Technology Technicians and the Fairfield Board of Education for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.” Motion passed 9-0

Approval of Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Special Education Trainers and the Fairfield BoE for 2011-2015

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between Bargaining Unit AFSCME Council 4, Special Education Trainers and the Fairfield Board of Education for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015.” Motion passed 9-0

First Reading of Policies 0100, 0110, 0200, Board of Education Mission, Goals, Objectives

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly introduced Sue Brand, as Chair of the Mission Goals Review Advisory Committee. Mrs. Brand stated that the enclosure document is the basis for the work of the district; a varied number of people within the district and community were invited to be part of the committee process; the committee met 6 times; the committee also worked with Central Office.

Public Comments and Petitions

Brian Haberly, Duck Farm Road, stated that there is a continuing suppression of public comments by the Board when comments are limited to 2 minutes and occur so late at night; 17 outplacements don't happen overnight.

Adjournment

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 11:15PM.

Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Board of Education
Secretary

MAR 04 2014

Voting Summary:

**Special Meeting Notes
Fairfield BoE; January 23, 2014**

Call to order and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:55), Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, John Llewellyn, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, and Marc Patten. John Convertito and Donna Karnal were absent. Also present was Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 40 members of the public.

Adjournment

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded to adjourn. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

Detailed Minutes:

Chairman Dwyer called the Special Meeting to Order at 7:40 p.m. Members present were: Mrs. Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:55 pm), Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, and Mr. Patten.

Chairman Dwyer led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the Budget Review Process.

Historical:

Dr. Title stated that educational goals referred to in the opening letter include student mastery of curriculum as well as the implementation of instructional improvement initiatives; directing resources moves these forward. Mr. Dwyer explained the process of the strategic plan adoption; once goals are adopted, district goals can follow.

Board discussion followed on the achievement gap. Dr. Title stated that many steps have been taken to put resources to work for struggling learnings at the elementary level; intense intervention, such as an extended day or year could be implemented; some students thrive and do well without additional support, and teachers can provide within-class differentiation.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked if the past year cost-containment measures had negatively impacted education. Dr. Title responded that the preference was not to implement any of those measures; the high school library coverage was partially restored.

Mr. Fattibene asked whether enrollment is declining, page 7. Dr. Title explained that a new enrollment projection is currently being worked on and should be ready within the next few months; the big question is kindergarten; Dr. Title stated that the Board will be given copies of the enrollment projection when received, possibly in February or March.

Income:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested the cost to make the World Language (WL) program whole again.

The impact of the sequester can found on page 22, under 'Federal', and the biggest impact is the IDEA Part B funding. IDEA part B and IDEA Part B preschool are for special education, Title 1 is restricted to McKinley and Holland Hill based on Free/Reduced lunch, Title 2 is a class size reduction grant and can also be used for professional development; Title 3

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is restricted to English Language Learners; all of these cannot supplant spending, they must only supplement to enhance existing programs.

Mr. Llewellyn requested information on the public transportation grant.

Reimbursement formulas for special education outplacement costs require that a student outplacement cost must exceed the per pupil expenditure by 4.5, with the reimbursement occurring only after the threshold has been met; a limiting factor may be that students might not attend outplacements for a full year or tuition may not be reimbursable; the approximate reimbursement rate is 75% of the excess.

Mr. Llewellyn requested the total cost of Pre-K transportation.

Board discussion on the Pre-K program centered on tuition; Dr. Title stated that the Pre-K program at Dwight was put in place to comply with the state law to address Fairfield's racial imbalance; the Burr program has worked for that purpose; this year's state report is expected by April. Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested the following: (1) the percentage of Pre-K students taking the bus that are also on Free/Reduced Lunch, (2) the total cost of the Pre-K programs, and (3) the number of Pre-K students that remain at Burr - to determine the program's success.

High School Parking fees were increased this year to \$150 and remain the same in 2014-2015.

Dr. Title reviewed the 'other sources' fees with increased rates; going forward, the PTA will not incur a charge if weekday events end by 11 p.m., and the weekend overtime fees still stand.

Mr. Patten requested the difference in outside group and PTA fees and money collected from 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested a list of direct student programs cut over the last three years with cost savings and costs to re-implement. Mr. Dwyer stated that lists of cuts could be provided and Dr. Title stated that costs to reinstate specific items could be provided.

Food Service Reimbursement is reduced due to the RFP process; any recoupment of that money may be in the bid and will be up to the vendors.

Executive Summary:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested an estimate on fuel costs for the district, to include Pre-K and special education busing. Dr. Title stated that the Town purchases the fuel, buses may be used for 3 runs a day and there are different contract prices for tiered busing. Mr. Llewellyn requested a breakdown of these factors.

Job descriptions are posted on the HR portion of the website.

Board discussion on paraprofessionals followed, the 9.2 increase in paras includes 5.2 new special education paras and 4 special education paras that had previously been funded with a grant. Ms. Leonardi stated that a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will identify the nature of necessary support.

Until contracts are settled, money is held in in the wage/benefit reserve; contract details are discussed in Executive Session. Retirements are budgeted based on historical data, salary accounts are then reduced. Certified staff replacement is based on a historical average; this is turnover not retirement. The non-certified staff turnover has not been budgeted for in the past and is a bit of a risk.

Information on new hires will be provided to the Board, as Dr. Title mentioned that many new teachers are hired with extensive experience.

DRAFT

The pension number is determined by the Town's working with Hooker and Holcombe actuaries; Mr. Mayer could provide specifics on this; only non-certified BOE employees (approximately 400) are on the Town pension plan.

Food Services Health Insurance is not included in line 201.

Line 409 includes the cost of officials and uniforms.

Page 39, Technical Services increase is being driven by unsettled contracts, and increase in legal expenses.

Mr. Llewellyn requested a legal fees breakdown of special-ed, non-special-ed and contracts, over a 2 or 3 year period.

The First Selectman has announced that he would like to create a Town and BOE comprehensive plan for security; the Police Chief would like to create a school security department with personnel; at this time the \$160,000 security line is a placeholder.

In addition to special education tuition, there are other tuitions paid to the RCA and Aqua programs.

Ms. Leonardi stated that the outplacement process is different for each student, the process can be lengthy or crisis driven; some students move into the district, and others are parent placed.

Dr. Title stated that if the Food Service Program has a debt at year-end; this may be a transfer request but it is too soon to tell. Mrs. Munsell stated that the Food Services Program is audited each year.

Mr. Llewellyn requested the auditor's contact information.

Adjournment

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded to adjourn. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Public Schools
Board of Education
Secretary*

Board of Education
Fairfield Public Schools
Special Meeting Minutes
1/28/2014

MAR 04 2014

Chairman Dwyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with all members present: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, and Mr. Patten. Also in attendance: Dr. David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and several members of the public.

Chairman Dwyer asked that members follow the agenda to facilitate discussion.

Board discussion and questions followed, continuing the discussion from the January 23 Special Meeting regarding the 2014-2015 Budget:

In response to Mr. Patten's question on the increase on page 43, line 321, Dr. Title stated this is to provide assistance to principals with the new teacher evaluation process; that the new teacher evaluations are time consuming for principals and teachers; the real impact is on the administrators.

Mr. Fattibene commented that he is contemplating adding \$3000 back into Board of Education Services, page 86, so that new members may attend the CABE conference.

Ms. Leonardi stated that the \$20,000 increase in Pupil Personnel Services, page 86, will be used to fund specific training for school psychologists.

In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Dr. Title stated that current year professional development is ongoing.

Mr. Convertito asked about the increase of \$30,000 in line 54170, page 86. Dr. Title responded that this is to fund Professional Development for Teacher Evaluation.

Mr. Patten asked about Line 400. Dr. Title responded that paper costs were re-categorized; 402 and 404 went down; 404 was mostly moved to school accounts; principals use allocations as they see fit. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reviewed various increases in line items, related to 56158, 56169, and Mill River tuition.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn, Dr. Title stated that text and materials for LA can be found on page 148. Dr. Boice stated that textbooks for LA are under review; paperbacks and novels are used; new curriculum allows for tightening of grammar instruction. In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Dr. Boice stated that funds exist for new textbooks if they choose to go in that direction.

In response to Mr. Convertito, Dr. Title stated that the lease on 418 Meadow was recently renewed after a fairly exhaustive search. Mr. Cullen stated that pages 80-82 show the increase; playground maintenance; fire protection, and paving are the big projects.

In response to Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, regarding page 82 and \$85,000 increase in Business Services, Mr. Cullen stated that this is for playground maintenance. Dr. Title stated that playground safety is best dealt with by a licensed professional. Mr. Cullen stated that internal inspections are done on a yearly basis, but a professional firm was hired this year; the recommendation was to dig up and replace the wood chips.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn, Dr. Title stated the electrical rates are comprised of generation and transmission rates, and confirmed that those have gone up for this year and next year.

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In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Cullen stated that the Burr intercom system is no longer supported by the manufacturer; parts can no longer be replaced; he later confirmed that an All-Call is not possible from this system.

In response to Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Munsell stated that Town guidance is followed for utilities; water and electrical included.

In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Byrnes stated that the multi-media projectors on page 154 are for 68 elementary classrooms; they are smartboard compatible; connectivity for existing equipment at Sherman School is also included in this number.

In response to Mr. Fattibene's question regarding tablets, as mentioned on page 154, Ms. Byrnes stated that the district was approved for an SBAC grant to prep students for online testing; the tablets would stay within district and be shared; the number is net of grant.

Budget Detail by Object

Mr. Dwyer stated that the proposed budget is based on existing teachers; variations may occur for the actual budget.

Mr. Llewellyn requested a clarification on page 64, line 113. Dr. Title stated that some positions are grant based. Ms. Leonardi explained that this is based on currently existing students; future placement determines the focus of these positions.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested clarification on paraprofessionals. Ms. Leonardi stated that special education students vary in the amount of paraprofessional services that are needed; for example one student may need a 1.0 FTE, and another student may need help only during class transitions. Dr. Title explained that the staffing model allows principals the flexibility to determine the placement of some paraprofessionals. Dr. Cutaita-Leonard stated that principals meet specific needs with instructional-based paraprofessional support.

In response to Mr. Convertito, Dr. Title stated that additional high school computer lab support could be used.

Ms. Munsell responded to Mr. Patten; any excess money from unsettled contracts goes into an accrued salary account at the end of the year.

In response to Mr. Llewellyn, Dr. Title stated that fewer teachers notified the district that they will be earning advanced degrees.

Dr. Title stated that school allocations vary for supplies; principals use school allocations differently based on inventory.

Budget by School and Department

Dt. Title stated dues and fees increase as seen on page 107, line 69; this is an estimate of the increase.

Dr. Title answered Mr. Llewellyn; that Professional Books are books for the staff that the district or principals choose, based on professional development.

Dr. Title stated that Maintenance Services varies by school depending on school specific projects; staff shifted among middle schools due to FMWS being fully populated; and page 76 includes extra-curricular salaries.

Ms. Byrnes stated that laser printers are used and the cost of laser toner has remained flat. Mr. Patten stated that he would like to see if laser printers are cost effective vs. ink jet printers. Ms. Byrnes stated that ink jets are budgeted via

DRAFT

school allocations and are not networked printers; page 155, the Evault Discovery Server is a hardware appliance that facilitates the ability to archive and retrieve documents; this is helpful for legal and FOI requirements.

Ms. Byrnes stated that students, staff and visitors have multiple devices that access the district's wireless network; there is a need to increase the wireless density.

In response to Mrs. Gerber, Dr. Title stated that demographers project the enrollment, and use the October 1 enrollment number to do so.

Board Members discussed possible amendments:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that she would like to have a discussion on World Language (WL) restoration; she would like to restore the Grade 5 music program; she would like to eliminate the Pre-K bussing for full tuition students; and she would like to reconsider an additional 6th grade gifted assessment.

Mr. Convertito requested the cost difference of rolling back the parking fees to the 12-13 level; the sports fee roll-out across the board for all sports for pay-to-play, much like the Trumbull format - to make up for the WL and music programs that were cut; and the numbers for adding back paras to the 2 high school computer labs.

Ms. Karnal stated that she will propose a reduction in Guidance Counselors so that each counselor have 250 students per state statute; she would like to discuss the list of maintenance projects; and she would like to understand more about outsourcing the Food Services Program. Mr. Dwyer stated that the Food Services program is not within the operating budget.

Mr. Fattibene stated that he would like to eliminate the sports rental fees.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly clarified that Mrs. Liu-McCormack's proposals are an addition to the budget, without any proposed cuts to off-set the increase; Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly supports the elimination of pay-to-play; and recommends discussing maintenance projects at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Llewellyn stated that he will propose modifying Curriculum Leader positions by making them .4 department heads and .6 teachers. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked for more specifics on this plan; Dr. Title also requested more specifics, and stated that this may actually cost the district money. Dr. Title stated that the Curriculum Leaders provide much needed support to the schools, and there is no duplication among any of the Curriculum Leader positions.

Mr. Patten stated that he will propose eliminating 4th and 5th grade WL and fully restore 6th grade WL; he would also like to add in the PTA facilities rental fees.

Mr. Convertito asked whether there may be any savings through custodial fees by adding custodians rather than paying overtime. Dr. Title stated that this matter is addressed through contract negotiations.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a sense of the Board regarding the expansion of pay-to-play; after some discussion, Mr. Convertito withdrew his request for this proposal.

Mr. Cullen responded to questions regarding the maintenance projects:

Mr. Cullen stated that all listed maintenance projects are health or safety related. Mr. Hatzis, the former FWMS principal, stated that the FWMS lockers are a safety issue; there are many injuries due to jammed lockers; and one set of lockers became completely loose from the wall and is no longer in use.

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Mr. Cullen stated that the HVAC system on the roof of FWMS is very loud to the neighbors; many complaints have been received; the floor of the McKinley gym has to be repaired; the Mill Hill administrative office area is extremely damp, a newer roof-top unit could provide a dehumidifier as well as a cooling unit. In response to Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Cullen stated the list of projects needed in the district is usually 5-6 pages long and over 2 million dollars. Mr. Dwyer stated only the most critical projects are brought forward.

Mr. Morabito spoke to the partial roof replacement at FWMS, one section that was particularly wet was a systemic failure and covered by warranty; other disbursed repairs are not covered by warranty.

Mr. Cullen stated that the FWHS small gym backboards are manual; a ladder is required to crank them up to get them out of the way; today's standards are all electric.

Mr. Cullen stated that the library carpet is 10-11 years old, is in a heavily used area, and in need of replacement.

In response to Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Cullen stated there is over 2 million square feet, with over 600 acres of to maintain.

In response to Mr. Patten, Mr. Cullen stated that if a roof can support it, the cost to install an HVAC school system is approximately \$500,000.

Dr. Title requested clarification on Ms. Karnal's figures for Guidance Counselors, and Mr. Llewellyn's specifics on his proposal.

Motion to adjourn (10:52 pm) moved by Mr. Convertito, seconded by Mr. Patten. Motion passed 9-0

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Public Schools
Board of Education
Secretary*

MAR 04 2014

Voting Summary:**Regular Meeting Notes
Fairfield BoE; January 30, 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 7:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:45), 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, Ethan King and Bill Moeder and approximately 100 members of the public.

Chairman Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent to move agenda items 3 and 7 to follow after agenda item 8. The Board agreed.

New Business***Approval of Plan and Specifications for Riverfield Project 051-0125EA.***

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Patten seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the plans and specifications for the Riverfield Project Number 051-0125EA." Motion passed 7-0-2 (Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn abstained).

Adoption of a Recommended Budget for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve an operating budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$----- as presented, to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield.

Amendments

Mr. Patten moved/Mr. Convertito seconded "to eliminate World Language in grades 4 & 5 and to increase the instruction from 2 x 25 minutes to 4 x 25 minutes in grade 6. The net savings to the proposed budget for this change is \$75,029 (\$66,109 salary, \$8920 benefits)". Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded to postpone this amendment to a date certain. Motion passed 6-3 (Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Fattibene against).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$353,553 for the purpose of restoring the World Language program in grades 4, 5, 6 to the instructional levels in 2010-11". Mr. Patten moved/Ms. Karnal seconded to postpone this amendment to a May discussion; motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn against; Mr. Convertito abstained). The original amendment 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).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$34,000 for

the purpose of reinstating the second 5th grade general music class by adding a .5 teaching position". Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Convertito seconded to amend this amendment to read, "I move to increase the proposed budget by adding \$34,000 for the purpose of enhancing 5th grade general music." This amendment failed 2-7 (Mr. Fattibene, Ms. Karnal in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten against). The original amendment passed 6-2-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly against; Mr. Patten abstained).

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded "to eliminate the sports facility rental fees collected from participants resulting in a loss of \$56,000 in revenue in the operating budget". Motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded "to reduce the high school parking fees to their 2012-2013 levels at a net loss of \$20,000 of income to the operating budget". Motion failed 4-5 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against).

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded "to increase the budgeted cost for custodial services by approximately \$20,000 to permit PTAs to be exempt from reimbursement of overtime fees effective July 1, 2014". Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to amend this amendment to read, "to increase the budgeted cost for custodial services by \$10,000 to permit PTAs to be 50% exempt from reimbursement of overtime fees effective July 1, 2014." Motion failed 2-6 (Mr. Convertito, Mr. Dwyer in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten against; Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly was not in the room for this vote). The original amendment passed 7-2 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mr. Dwyer against).

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Dwyer seconded "to increase account or object code 319 – Conference & Travel, sub-account 69 Board of Education Services, line item 54490 Workshops & Conferences in the proposed budget from \$0 to \$2400 for the purpose of paying the cost for Board of Education members to attend the annual CABE/CAPSS conference, with the priority of payment being given to the Board of Education members last elected and with any remaining balance being apportioned among the remaining attending Board of Education members, if requested". Motion passed 8-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten; Mr. Convertito against).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$9500 for the purpose of increasing testing for gifted and talented students in middle school". After discussion and public comment Mrs. Liu-McCormack withdrew her motion.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Patten seconded to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to 1:00AM. Motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$10,000 to enhance the MS Gifted & Talented Program". Motion failed 3-5-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Ms. Karnal abstained).

Original motion, as amended:

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve an operating budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$157,022,051 as presented, to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield”. Motion passed 7-1-1 (Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mr. Llewellyn against, Mrs. Liu-McCormack abstained).

Adjournment

Mr. Convertito moved/Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 12:05AM.

Detailed Minutes:

Board of Education, Fairfield Public Schools
501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room, Fairfield, CT
Thursday, January 30, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:45), 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, Ethan King and Bill Moeder and approximately 100 members of the public.

Chairman Dwyer led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked the Board for unanimous consent to move agenda items 3 (Approval of Minutes) and 7 (Old Business) to follow after agenda item 8. The Board agreed.

Student Reports

Student Representatives Ethan King and Bill Moeder reported for Fairfield Ludlowe High School; juniors in Ludlowe are adjusting to the SBAC, seniors have been accepted to Penn State, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, University of Connecticut, and Cornell, among others; the cafeteria expansion plans are in the works; mid-terms have ended; girls basketball is a contender for the FCIAC title, boys wrestling improved their record last night, and boys basketball, ice hockey and swimming are on track for the state tournament.

Student Representative Danielle Clarke reported for Fairfield Warde High School; mid-terms are over; the MEH class is going to Paris, Milan, Florence and Rome in April; a gap program presentation will be held on February 4; Military Career Day will be March 19; a school club is giving a presentation on healthy relationships; the school store will open Monday; the basketball, hockey, and wrestling teams are doing well, and girls indoor track placed 4th in FCIACs.

Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Mr. Fattibene reported that decisions were rendered on six separate referrals that were sent to the Transportation Safety Advisory Board.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Title reported that \$500,000-\$700,000 in savings is expected from the cost containment measures put in place to offset the \$1.4 million shortfall; there will be another update at the February 25 meeting, and most likely at each meeting thereafter, until the end of the fiscal year.

New Business

Approval of Plans and Specifications for Riverfield Project 051-0125EA

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Patten seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the plans and specifications for the Riverfield Project Number 051-0125EA"

Mr. Dwyer explained the project and the lag times in the approval process. Mr. Quinn, the Riverfield Building Committee Chairman, stated that neighborhoods on Hunter Road and Lakeside were mostly concerned about traffic and parking; a traffic plan and study were undertaken which improved traffic flow with trucks and deliveries.

Motion passed 7-0-2 (Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn abstained)

Adoption of a Recommended Budget for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Convertito seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve an operating budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$----- as presented, to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield"

Ms. Karnal read a prepared statement regarding her previously discussed Guidance Counselor amendment; she stated that she will not be moving forward with this suggestion and that her top priority is the student body and she thanked the Central Office Staff for being responsive to her questions.

Board Members discussed proposed amendments and referred to a handout with numbered amendments.

Mr. Convertito stated he is withdrawing his proposed amendment #6:

I move to increase the proposed budget by adding \$52,000 (\$34,000 salary, \$18,000 benefits) for the purpose of adding 1.0 FTE to provide support to the media centers at the high schools.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that she is postponing her proposed amendment #1:

I move to not offer busing to those families who pay full tuition for the pre-K programs at Burr and Dwight schools at a net projected savings of approximately \$42,000.

She requested it be brought back to the Board for more discussion at a future date.

Mr. Llewellyn stated that he is postponing his proposed amendment #2:

I move to restructure the Curriculum Leader positions at a net change to the budget of \$_____.

Mr. Llewellyn requested it be postponed and brought back to the Board for discussion at a future date; that this amendment could bring a \$500,000 savings by year 3; that Curriculum Leaders should become part time department heads and part time teachers; and their positions should be located within the schools.

Mr. Patten proposed amendment #3:

Mr. Patten moved/Mr. Convertito seconded "to eliminate World Language in grades 4 & 5 and to increase the instruction from 2 x 25 minutes to 4 x 25 minutes in grade 6. The net savings to the proposed budget for this change is \$75,029 (\$66,109 salary, \$8920 benefits)"

Mr. Patten stated that this amendment is not intended to take away from the World Language (WL) requirement. Mr. Convertito stated that once eliminated, it is difficult to bring back; that his preference is to restore 6th grade and bring back the 4th and 5th grade to its previous levels; and that he does not support this amendment. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that she would like to postpone this to allow the staff to review scheduling and curriculum issues.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded to postpone this amendment to a date certain.

Ms. Karnal agreed with Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly and if this item could be brought back for discussion prior to September. Dr. Title voiced his concern regarding instructional time for Language Arts and the need to review the 6th grade schedule, and that he is not in favor of removing 4th and 5th grade WL. Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that postponing it decreases the chances to reinstate. Mr. Fattibene stated he would not support postponing the amendment, or this motion, and would prefer the administration decide on how best to improve the program. Mr. Dwyer stated the Board has an interest in adding WL back in the schedule, and the motion to postpone gives the staff a chance for review.

Public Comment on Motion to Postpone:

Trish Donovan, Taintor Drive, stated that she is against postponing the motion; that learning a language early is preferable.

Carolyn Trabuco, Sherwood Farm Road, stated that she reached out to experts on this; more time is needed to research.

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

Mrs. Liu-McCormack proposed Amendment #4:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$353,553 for the purpose of restoring the World Language program in grades 4, 5, 6 to the instructional levels in 2010-11"

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that WL should start as early as possible; Mr. Llewellyn agreed. Mr. Patten stated a full restoration of WL is preferable. Ms. Karnal asked whether the WL is a financial issue or Language Arts time constraint issue. Dr. Title responded that it was both.

Mr. Patten moved/Ms. Karnal seconded to postpone this amendment to a May discussion;

Public Comment on Motion to Postpone:

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road, stated she is against the motion to postpone, and asked for data regarding the analysis on WL.

Sue Miska, Ryegate Road, stated that the system of postponement is flawed, and asked for a budget cut cost analysis.

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive, asked that the money be put in the budget now; that May is too late.

Motion failed 4-4-1 (Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Patten in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn against; Mr. Convertito abstained)

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that she would like the WL program re-examined; a real plan is needed with input

from the administrators. Board members generally agreed that the WL program should be enhanced. Dr. Title stated that many different delivery models exist for WL. Mr. Convertito stated that while he fully supports reinstating the WL program, he cannot support this motion without a clear plan.

Public Comment on Motion:

Neal Fink, Crest Terrace, stated that while he would like to see programs fully restored, he is concerned that it will be a false hope, given that other Town bodies have yet to decide on the budget.

Matt Wagner, Grasmere Ave. and Registrar of Voters, stated that the Board should be advocating for what it wants the curriculum to be, and not discuss a program cut due to a budgetary concern.

The original amendment 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).

Mrs. Liu-McCormack proposed Amendment #5:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$34,000 for the purpose of reinstating the second 5th grade general music class by adding a .5 teaching position"

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that this amendment is a 'need', not a 'want'. In response to Mr. Patten's request to hear from a principal, Mill Hill Principal, Kevin Chase, stated that the recent Mill Hill music performance was excellent; the current music structure is successful; core instruction would be impacted if more time had to be carved out for music.

Dr. Title stated that this has been in effect for less than a year and is still a work in progress; less costly options may exist.

Public Comment on Motion:

Ellen Jacobs, RTM District 9, stated that emails she has received request the restoration of instructional programs.

Jennifer Hoffman, Whitewood Drive, shared her child's letter regarding a request for more music instruction.

Jon Noyes, Holland Hill Music Teacher, stated that a devastating cut to the program was music composition; he asked the Board to consider the 5th graders.

Martha Vosburgh, Stratfield Music Teacher, stated that the teachers offer a fantastic music program, but the creative aspect has been cut the most.

Shardon Cardillo, Sherman Music Teacher, stated that she is also a product of Sherman School, and that 5th grade is the culmination of 6 years of music learning; one song may be a vehicle to learn several elements.

Sheila Doherty, Dwight Music Teacher, reaffirmed that the higher level thinking and creativity is what is now missing.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked for input from Mrs. Schmardel. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard stated that she and Mrs. Schmardel have been reviewing the program; the music department would prefer the full music curriculum to be reinstated; discussions on adding to the program without full reinstatement are ongoing; that 5th graders have additional opportunities for music with band and orchestra; and more time is required to meet with the elementary team and discuss ways to more fully implement the music program.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Convertito seconded to amend this amendment to read, "I move to increase the proposed budget by adding \$34,000 for the purpose of enhancing 5th grade general music."

Mr. Fattibene stated that this allows administrators to determine the best way to enhance the program which may not include a .5 position. Mr. Convertito stated that this is something that was just recently cut; having heard from principals that more instructional time is needed for core subjects, and adding it back in without specifics creates a target to cut it again. Mrs. Liu-McCormack appreciates the amendment, but stated that this program has previously run successfully, and the teachers can do so again.

Mr. Dwyer stated that this is a question of balance. Mr. Fattibene stated that Dr. Title may add this to the budget where he sees fit.

This amendment failed 2-7 (Mr. Fattibene, Ms. Karnal in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten against)

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

Mr. Fattibene proposed Amendment #7:

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded "to eliminate the sports facility rental fees collected from participants resulting in a loss of \$56,000 in revenue in the operating budget"

Mr. Fattibene stated that students should not have any fees for sports participation; Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly agreed that singling out certain sports for fees is unjust.

Public Comment:

Sue Miska, Ryegate Road, thanked the Board for listening to parents and students.

Motion passed 9-0

Mr. Convertito proposed Amendment #8:

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded "to reduce the high school parking fees to their 2012-2013 levels at a net loss of \$20,000 of income to the operating budget"

Mr. Convertito stated that this should be a revenue neutral fee to cover the cost; it should not be a revenue source. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that parking is a privilege.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road, stated that the original intention for the fee was to cover the security officer at both schools and she supports the motion.

Motion failed 4-5 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against).

Mr. Patten proposed Amendment #9:

Mr. Patten moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded "to increase the budgeted cost for custodial services by approximately \$20,000 to permit PTAs to be exempt from reimbursement of overtime fees effective July 1, 2014"

Mr. Patten stated that PTA groups shouldn't be penalized for supporting the schools. Mrs. Gerber stated she is in support of this motion; she approved the fees last year but misunderstood the burden this placed on PTAs. Dr. Title stated that the \$20,000 figure was an approximation of the overtime fees that would be charged to PTA's; an agreement with the First Selectman allowed the collected fees to be kept by Fairfield Public Schools, rather than the Town. In response to Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Dr. Title stated that a school PTA overtime allowance fund, if created, would have to be managed by staff. Mr. Convertito stated he is not in favor of anything that must be tracked, but is in favor of a fee that would at least cover custodial fees.

Mr. Convertito moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded to amend this amendment to read, "to increase the budgeted cost for custodial services by \$10,000 to permit PTAs to be 50% exempt from reimbursement of overtime fees effective July 1, 2014."

DRAFT

Board discussion followed on whether PTAs should be charged any fees, containing overtime custodial costs, and weekend events.

Public Comment:

Melissa Rosenbluh, Greenbriar Rd, requested clarification on fees.

Lisa Havey, Longview Ave, stated that the Board should support PTAs.

Neal Fink, Crest Terrace, asked for a full exemption of PTA fees.

Ann Harvey, Hemlock Road, stated she is opposed to this amendment.

Kristen Tharrington, Walbin Court, stated that if significant fees are incurred, parents will see it as another non-profit where profits are dwindled.

In response to Ms. Karnal, Dr. Title stated that the PTAs, going forward, will be charged for custodial fees after 11pm on a weekday, and for weekend events.

Motion failed 2-6 (Mr. Convertito, Mr. Dwyer in favor; Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten against; Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly was not in the room for this vote).

Public Comment:

Ann Harvey, Hemlock Road, suggested that there should be no fees if out by 11pm.

Lisa Havey, Longview Ave., stated that PTA fees are not equitable, some PTAs can afford more.

Neal Fink, Crest Terrace, stated that the PTA is not an ordinary non-profit; it serves the school district.

Dr. Title confirmed that this motion would completely exempt the PTA from any fees. Mr. Dwyer confirmed that outstanding PTA bills must still be paid.

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

Mr. Fattibene proposed Amendment #10:

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Dwyer seconded "to increase account or object code 319 – Conference & Travel, sub-account 69 Board of Education Services, line item 54490 Workshops & Conferences in the proposed budget from \$0 to \$2400 for the purpose of paying the cost for Board of Education members to attend the annual CABE/CAPSS conference, with the priority of payment being given to the Board of Education members last elected and with any remaining balance being apportioned among the remaining attending Board of Education members, if requested"

Mr. Fattibene stated that this is a beneficial conference, especially for new members, to understand state issues, and make meetings more productive. Mr. Dwyer encouraged Board members to attend at their own expense, but he is supportive of this motion for those members who request it.

Mr. Patten failed to obtain unanimous consent to change the amount from \$2400 to \$3000.

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

Mr. Dwyer asked for an updated budget number from Mrs. Munsell; she stated that the budget has an additional \$112,400, which now brings the overall budget to a 3.86% increase.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack proposed Amendment #11:

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$9500 for the purpose of increasing testing for gifted and talented students in middle school"

DRAFT

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that this population is often overlooked, special education and gifted students are equally as far away from the center on average; this population deserves to be identified and receive services; these are the best and the brightest; Fairfield should be focusing on this population as well.

In response to Mrs. Gerber, Dr. Boice stated that approximately 20% of students are identified as Gifted. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard stated that students are identified by Naglieri and Cogat testing in the 3rd grade, and may also be identified via student portfolio review thereafter.

In response to Mrs. Liu-McCormack's question regarding the over identification of Gifted students in the middle school, Dr. Cutaia-Leonard responded that a 2009 Gifted Program review refined the program with a new testing schedule and an increased cutoff score.

Public Comment:

Julie Gottlieb, Applegate Road, stated that a child can be both Gifted and Special Ed; they are not mutually exclusive.

Marcy Spolyar, Brookridge Ave., stated the program should be strengthened, not the testing.

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road, agreed that the program should be extended.

Ellen Jacobs, Cedar Road, stated that boys mature later and she is in favor of a later test.

Maureen Sawyer, Thor Place, recommended adding to the program itself; not testing.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly clarified that there was no cut last year to the middle school gifted program; the cut was to Dr. Title's proposed enhancement to the program; and she agrees that the program needs improvement, not the testing, and she will not be supporting this amendment.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack received Board approval to withdraw this motion.

Mr. Dwyer stated that due to the late hour, the meeting will adjourn after public comment, and original agenda items 3 and 7 will be tabled to the next meeting.

Mr. Fattibene moved/Mr. Patten seconded to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to 1:00 AM. The Board unanimously approved, 9-0.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved/Mr. Llewellyn seconded "to increase the proposed budget by adding \$10,000 to enhance the MS Gifted & Talented Program"

Motion failed 3-5-1 (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn in favor; Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten against; Ms. Karnal abstained).

Mr. Dwyer read the main motion as amended "that the Board of Education approve an operating budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$157,022,051 as presented, to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield"

Public Comment:

Kevin Chase, Mill Hill Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders and the budget.

Nancy Haberly, Duck Farm Road, asked when consistency will be seen in schools; all students should be treated equally.

Lisa Davy, Wilton Road, stated she is a parent of a special education child and is shocked by the amount of outplacements.

Elizabeth McGoey, Stratfield School Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Katherine McManus, Stratfield School, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

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Matt Hutzemann, Pansy Rd., spoke in support of the budget as is.

Richard Curesky, Fairfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Kristen Tharrington, Walbin Court, spoke in support of the budget and the Curriculum Leaders.

Gina Luczaj, Sherwood Farm Road, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Ann Harvey, Hemlock Road, asked the Board to support teachers and Central Office Staff, including Curriculum Leaders.

Franklyn MacLean, NSS LA Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Elise Archibald, NSS Math/Science Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Bethany Winchester, Riverfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Martha Murphy, Riverfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Brenda Anziano, Riverfield Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Annalisa Sherman, Burr School Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Amy Lacey, Stratfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Pam Williams, Riverfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Laura Deangelis, Riverfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Jessica Ottavio, Riverfield Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Maureen Sawyer, Thor Place, spoke in support of the budget and the Curriculum Leaders.

Christine Vitale, Verna Hill Road, spoke in support of budget.

Lauren Moreno, Sherman Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Lisa Henkel, Burr LA, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Eric Therriault, Jennings IIT, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Meagan Bolton, Jennings Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Kathleen Ruppert, Jennings Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Sara Bocchiere, Jennings Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Kathleen Kane, NSS Teacher, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Debbie Jackson, NSS Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Andrea Leonardi, Director of Special Education, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Monica Schapper, Jennings LA, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Tara Hyder, Jennings LA, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Mary Ellen McKee, Mill Hill LA, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Tony Vuolo, Jennings Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders and the budget.

Leslie Pearson, McKinley Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Kristen Bruno, ECC Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Frank Arnone, OHS Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road, stated that more consistency is needed among schools.

Sue Miska, Ryegate Road, would have liked to have seen more principals support Music and World Language.

Jason Bluestein, Burr Principal, spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive, stated that she is disappointed in the discussion tonight; priorities are not clear.

Mary Hogue, Stonewall Lane, spoke in support of the budget and appreciated the staff commentary.

Neal Fink, Crest Terrace, spoke in support of the budget and asked the Board to unanimously approve the budget.

Ken Lee, Rhoda Avenue, asked the Board to be unified and advocate for the budget.

Bob Esposito, FLHS Director of Pupil & Guidance Services, thanked the Board for not cutting counselors and spoke in support of Curriculum Leaders.

Mr. Llewellyn stated that he is a strong advocate to improve the district and there may be different ways to do things better; conflicting information was received on food services and special education, and more transparency is needed.

DRAFT

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stated that more time is needed to analyze the budget book, it is hasty to accept everything fully; priorities should be discussed before voting on the budget.

Mr. Patten stated that he fully supports the budget.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that new members are at a disadvantage with the timing of the budget; Dr. Title is always open to suggestions on the budget; the January 31 deadline is hard and fast; Board members should submit questions and present ideas much earlier in the process than two days before the vote.

Mrs. Gerber stated that the Board is here to support the students; she thanked Dr. Title; and asked the Board to support the budget.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Convertito moved/Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned 12:05AM.

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Public Schools
BOE Secretary*

MAR 04 2014

Fairfield Board of Education**Summary of Possible Goals by Major Topics****November 26, 2013****2012-13 BOE Goals**

1. To review and revise, if necessary, the Mission statement and Board of Education Educational Goals in the Board Education Policy Manual.

Status: Ad hoc Committee recommended a revised mission statement, long range goal and educational goals. BOE Policy Committee currently reviewing prior to issuing a recommended policy change.

2. Conduct Board training that clearly defines Board roles and responsibilities as a governing body.

Status: This training was conducted in April, 2013 with CES providing outside facilitation resource.

3. Conduct Board training on Robert's Rules.

Status: This training was conducted in April, 2013 with a Parliamentarian from Housatonic Community College providing outside facilitation resource.

4. Board shall work with the Superintendent as to Board input into the Annual Budget. We should also examine and update the roll out and schedule of review time of our annual budget.

Status: The BoE, acting as a committee of the whole, discussed their ideas at three meetings and accepted on consent a series of budget development ideas in September, 2013.

5. The BOE shall establish an ad hoc committee to develop a communications plan (social media, blog, news media, etc.) to be reported to the Board. The goal of such plan is to enhance communications with parents, staff, community leaders and the general public, engage in two-way dialogue, and build support for district goals

Status: The Ad Hoc Communications Committee provided a report in August, 2013 and the BoE took no action on a 4-4 vote.

Summary of Goals suggested in 2012, but not adopted

Program Quality Improvements Goals

1. To set the framework for a Program Audit – John Convertito
 - a. A Program Audit will provide the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and the general public of Fairfield with an objective assessment of:
 1. the priorities set by the Board of Education
 2. the programmatic responses of the Superintendent and Administration to those priorities;
 3. the implementation and evolution of these programmatic responses and their integration into the educational program by school district staff; and
 4. the status of the overall educational program compared to other public school districts.
 - b. The Educational Program Audit should examine a large number of individual program-focused activities. As an evaluation tool of educational programs, it should review common themes, outcomes, and problems.
 - c. Additionally the Audit will assist the Board and Superintendent with
 - i. Control of resources, programs, and personnel
 - ii. Establishment of clear and valid objectives for students
 - iii. Internal consistency and rational equity in program development and implementation
 - iv. Use of the results from district-designed or adopted assessments to adjust, improve, or terminate ineffective practices of programs
 - v. Improved productivity and efficiencies
2. Program Review:
 - a. Review the program for the elementary, middle school, and high school levels;
 - b. Identify cost and benefits for each major subject area – e.g. Language Arts, Math, Science, Music, Art, etc.;
 - c. Are we investing enough time for “core” activities? Do we need a longer school day to be able to offer the breadth of opportunities we offer? Are there new things we should be doing? Are there things that are no longer relevant that we should eliminate?;
 - d. This may require separate years to achieve for each level. If so, I would like to look at the High School program first. – Tim Kery

3. Study the CT curriculum reform proposals, that were delayed by state budget concerns, and determine if any components can be implemented in Fairfield by reallocating existing resources. – Phil Dwyer

Policy Review Goals

4. Revise all BOE policies impacted by the 2012 Legislative Session by June 20, 2013. – Chair memo of 9/7/12
5. Review and update Policies as necessary with a general goal over reducing overall policy total by 25%. – Tim Kery
6. The BOE shall monitor the implementation of the recently adopted Safe Schools Climate and Bullying Policy. – Phil Dwyer
7. To review and replace, revamp District policies as they relate to: - John Convertito
 - a. Use of School facilities. More specifically, who can use the facilities for what purpose and at what cost to the individuals or the District.
 - b. Advertisement in Schools – With the growing pressures on the District’s Budget a policy review of Advertisement on School Property policies may yield another avenue of income to our programs, such as music, athletics, clubs and organizations.
8. Give final review of any outstanding operational audit recommendations, not with an eye to absolute cost savings, but if those funds can be reallocated to achieving other priority goals. – Phil Dwyer

Community Engagement Goals

9. The Board shall engage the community in a dialog to build support for district goals.
10. Board shall work with Superintendent to establish and define new procedures on the creation of creating and/or updating curriculum so that the full Board has a voice at the beginning of the development process. Board shall also be given regular curriculum progress update reports and finding and pilot testing results, etc. at Board meetings. – Perry Liu

11. Board shall continue to develop a process of community input so that the community can have actual input into such process (i.e. Curriculum) at the beginning of development. Having input at the end of the process does not allow for input to be heard and/or acted upon. – Perry Liu
12. The Board shall develop a process for community input, possibly including surveys, focus groups, or community conversations. – Chair memo of 9/7/12
13. Review, and revise as needed, the process for public comment at BOE meetings. – Communications Committee of 2012-13

Budget Development and Advocacy Goals

14. The Board shall advocate to acquire the means necessary to meet the district goals while allocating available resources to the highest priority items. – Chair memo of 9/7/12
15. Give additional consideration to the following ideas generated in the budget development discussion of 2012-13:
 - a. Aligning budget presentation to district goals and priorities, with metrics and benchmarks against which to measure progress.
 - b. Creating a target for annual budget growth related to the rise in inflation.
 - c. Understanding the impact of the State mandated new accounting format for 2015-16 budget presentation.
 - d. Process to be used to implement public act 13-60 related to consolidation of non-educational services.