

**DRAFT**

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

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Minutes of the Executive Session/Education Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference.

1. Chairman Mrs. Sue Brand called the Executive Session to order at 7:26 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Mr. John Mitola. Ms. Stacey Zahn was absent. Also in attendance was Mrs. Margaret Mary Fitzgerald.
2. Mrs. Dow moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session to discuss Special Education Trainer negotiations.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

3. Mrs. Dow moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

4. Chairman Mrs. Sue Brand called the Education Meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Mr. John Mitola. Ms. Stacey Zahn was absent. Also in attendance was Dr. David Title and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 45 people comprised the remainder of the audience.
5. Mrs. Brand led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Introduction of PTA Board of Education Representatives-  
Representatives from PTA Council, Burr, Jennings, Mill Hill, Osborn Hill, Riverfield, Stratfield, Tomlinson MS and Fairfield Ludlowe HS introduced themselves to the Board.
7. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 28, 2010 and the Business Meeting of September 28, 2010.

Public Comment-

Greg Convertito, Oyster Road, read a prepared statement protesting the Minutes of the September 28, 2010 Business Meeting of the Board of Education as written. He stated that Item 4 D, Motion to Approve Policy #5145 – Use of Breathalyzers, is incorrectly stated as motion carried: 5:3:1. The minutes should read motion fails on procedural grounds. He continued to state his reasons and quoted various sections from Roberts Rules of Order. For all of the reasons stated, he requested the Minutes of the September 28, 2010 Board of Education Business Meeting be corrected to state that item 4 D Policy #5145 failed to pass on procedural grounds.

Motion carried: 6:0:2. Mr. Kery and Mrs. Iacono abstained.

8. Public Comments and Petitions-None

9. Presentations-

- A. Presentation of the Plans and Specifications for the Fairfield Woods Middle School Project #051-0122EA-

Dr. Title introduced Randall Luther, Tai Soo Kim architect for the Fairfield Woods Middle School Building Project, who will review the plans and specifications for the project. Dr. Title

recommended that the Board approve these plans tonight because there is a TPZ meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> and the project is on that agenda. Should the Board not approve this tonight, then he recommended that the Board hold a Special Meeting prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> so when this goes to TPZ the Board has taken action on this project.

Mr. Luther stated that the schedule is very aggressive, and the goal is to have the classroom addition completed by September 2011. The State Department of Education will review these documents on November 1<sup>st</sup> and one of the conditions of the review is an affirmative vote from the Board of Education and from the Building Committee. Mr. Luther stated that the drawings indicate the location and quantity of materials that will be used on the job, and the specifications tell what those materials are and how they are to be installed. He briefly reviewed the project. There will be four additions: a two story classroom addition with 17 new classrooms (2 new art rooms, 6 new science labs and 9 general purpose classrooms), an auxiliary gym and OT/PT addition, a new 600-seat auditorium, and expansion of the existing cafeteria and kitchen to add 80 more spots and reconfigure the lunch lines so kids can move through quicker. Some of the minor renovations that are occurring are in the library media center which is being renovated to all one level with a separate teaching area or overflow for large groups. With the creation of two new art rooms, the existing art rooms will be converted to 7<sup>th</sup> grade science rooms. In terms of the site, there are currently 122 parking spaces that will be increased to 150, the bus loop in front will be expanded to accommodate 2 more buses and the parent pick up and drop off area will be expanded. Mr. Luther stated that they were able to deliver the entire ed spec with one exception. The original ed spec called for three special ed classrooms per grade, and when looking at ways to manage the scope of the project, the possibility of two special ed classrooms per grade was discussed with the administration, and it was decided that would work so we moved forward with two special ed classrooms per grade.

Board questions and comments followed.

Mr. Mitola moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that the Board of Education approve the Plans and Specifications for the Fairfield Woods Middle School Project #051-0122EA.

Public Comment-

Anne Pasco, representing the Fairfield Education Association and the children who attend Fairfield Woods and Jennings, commented that the traffic is a real concern and safety needs to be considered. What is going to be in place to take care of the additional vehicles during the construction?

Board comments continued regarding traffic.

Mr. Bill Sapone, Fairfield Woods Building Committee Chairman, commented that the police department is meeting tomorrow evening on the existing traffic situation. A traffic study has been done on what the additional traffic load will be, a safety person will be on site during the construction phase, and off-site parking for the construction workers or remote enough so that won't add to the problems is being looked into. We will do whatever we can to minimize any problems and maintain a safe place for students, faculty and the workers.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

B. Presentation of the 2011-2012 Student Calendar-

Dr. Title stated that this is the first review of the 2011-12 student calendar, and it will be on for a vote at the next Board meeting. This calendar mirrors the current school year calendar and is in keeping with the same vacation, holiday, start date, and end date schedule that we currently have.

Mrs. Albin asked to be assured that on September 28 and October 7 as noted on the calendar that no after school or evening activities or athletic games will be held either on premises or off grounds will be held.

## 10. Extraordinary Business-

- A. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve a 2% wage increase for the Special Education Trainers for the 2010-2011 school year pursuant to wage reopener.

Motion carried: 7:0:0. Mr. Kery was out of the room during the vote.

- B. Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that the Board of Education approve Policy #3534.2 – Green Cleaning Program as presented at the September 28, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

Board questions followed.

### Public Comment-

Anne Pasco, FEA President, stated that at the school she works at cleaning supplies were not issued to the teachers as a substitute for the ones they bring in on their own. Secondly, the cleaning supplies issued for the whiteboards left a film that made them non-cleanable. The manufacturer is supposed to get back to us, and she recommended a follow up because whiteboards are used extensively and if not cleaned properly eventually become non-usable and have to be replaced at a great cost. She also asked for a follow up on providing cleaning products to all teachers in all classrooms.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- C. Mr. Mitola moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education Approve Policy #5119 – Student Discipline - Suspension/Expulsion as presented at the September 28, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

Board questions and comments followed.

Mrs. Iacono asked for a modification of the policy so that the Board maintains the right to hear expulsions.

Dr. Title commented that having a hearing officer gives consistency in both the decision to expel and the terms of the expulsion. There is no difference in the cost. He also stated that three Board members need to vote in the affirmative to expel, therefore, five Board members would really be needed at the hearing, which can be difficult given the time constraints. The Board is given the authority by State Statute to delegate this to a hearing officer. It is not a requirement that the Board hear expulsions; it is an option.

Board questions and comments continued. There was discussion about having administrative regulations accompany this policy with specific measures regarding disciplinary actions so that the implementation is consistent.

Dr. Title stated that he received a list of questions and comments from a member of the community. Some were already addressed this evening and he reviewed several of the others that were related to clarification of items, conduct not included in the policy and clarification relating to students eligible under IDEA.

Board questions and comments continued. The numbering on Page 5 will be corrected.

Board discussion followed on hiring a hearing officer or having the Board hear expulsions, and a number of possible amendments to the wording were offered.

Discussion followed on sending this back to the Policy Subcommittee to draft language regarding the Board hearing expulsions and when a hearing officer would be hired.

Dr. Title spoke in favor of hiring a hearing officer for expulsions.

Mr. Mitola withdrew his motion. This was agreeable by Mr. Liu the seconder.

Mr. Fattibene moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to refer this item back to subcommittee for the purpose of revising language to be consistent with the Board's comments on when to hire a hearing officer for expulsions.

Public Comment-

Anne Pasco, speaking as a teacher who is a history major, asked that the Board seek legal counsel because she is hearing that one student will have an expulsion hearing with the Board determining his fate and another student will have an expulsion hearing with a hearing officer. You need legal counsel to determine whether both of those students got the same due process.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

11. Reports and Recommendations-

- ◆ Mrs. Albin--No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Brand reported that at the Board of Health meeting the issue came up that there is a misunderstanding that bus drivers are aware of students' medical problems and they are not. This is being clarified within the district. The Commissioner of Education went to CES and discussed a number of topics. He spoke about the age to enter kindergarten and noted that New Jersey and Connecticut are the only states that allow students to enter school if they turn five by December as opposed to September. There is still an effort to review and reform curricula to help improve test scores. Secondary reform and senior projects will be maintained, however, the foreign language element is less likely to take place, primarily because they can't find enough people that are qualified. It was noted that it has now become necessary for community colleges to teach remedial courses. The dropout rate from college is also increasing. The State Department of Education is still working on the evaluations for teachers in conjunction with the federal mandate.
- ◆ Mrs. Dow reported that SEPTA will meet tomorrow evening and Dr. Title will be the guest speaker.
- ◆ Mr. Fattibene--No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono referred the Finance, Budget and Community Relations committee report on the Operational Audit to Dr. Title.
- ◆ Dr. Title reported that the Operational Audit is in full mode. Five members of the audit team from Prismatic are in the district this week meeting with people and observing the school system in operation. The central office staff, in particular Mrs. McWain, has done an incredible job of providing over 100 documents that were requested. The site visit will finish on Thursday, and the team will then go back and put all of their data together in a final report to be presented at the December 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono reported that the RTM voted to approve \$50,000 to get the Sherman project started. The Special Projects Standing Building Committee hired Wiles & Associates as the architect. They are the same architects that are working on the Penfield project.
- ◆ Mr. Kery reported that PTA Council met last Wednesday. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the budget. The next meeting will be November 3. The next Facilities, Technology and Long Term Planning Subcommittee meeting will be October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Riverfield School. Yesterday Mr. Cullen presented the committee members with the update and the administration's recommendations to the facilities plan which the committee will begin reviewing. Mr. Kery stated that he thought it would be prudent to tour each of the next three schools that are on the list so members can get a better feel for those facilities and what is being requested. The meetings will take a road show for the next several weeks.
- ◆ Mr. Liu reported that the Fairfield Woods Building Committee will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Fairfield Woods Branch Library.
- ◆ Mr. Mitola reported that the Stratfield Building Committee met last Tuesday. The Stratfield community is very happy with how everything is proceeding. He recommended that the Board make an effort to tour the building. Dr. Title will set this up.

12. Open Board Discussion-

Mr. Liu asked if when the audit is presented on December 14<sup>th</sup> if that will be the first time anyone will see it? Dr. Title stated that will be the public unveiling of it. At this point our hands are off it; central office is just the conduit to get the information to the auditors. We don't have any authority to tell them what to write or not write. Mrs. Iacono stated that she thinks it would be cleaner to bring it out at the Board meeting instead of at the subcommittee meeting.

13. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that this regular meeting of the Board of Education go into executive session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation at 9:15 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

14. Mrs. Sue Brand called the Executive Session to order at 9:26 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Mr. John Mitola. Ms. Stacey Zahn was absent. Also in attendance was Dr. David Title.

15 Return to Public Session at 10:00 p.m.

16. Mrs. Dow moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.