

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, November 23, 2010, at 501 Killes Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Mr. John Mitola, Chairman. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Brand, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, and Ms. Stacey Zahn. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title, Fairfield Ludlowe HS Student Representative Allison Reich, Fairfield Warde HS Student Representative Dan Callahan and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 25 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – waived.
2. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Minutes of the Education Meeting of November 9, 2010 be approved.

Mr. Kery asked to have a typo corrected on page 7, paragraph 8, sentence 6, the word should be “are” not hare.

This was a friendly amendment and the correction will be made.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

3. Old Business-

A. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand that the Board of Education approve Policy # 0521 – Non-discrimination as presented at the November 9, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.  
Motion carried: 9:0:0.

4. Report of the Superintendent-

Dr. Title stated that a copy of the proposal that is going before the State Board of Education for approval next Wednesday was put at Board members’ places this evening. Currently in Connecticut children are eligible to enroll in kindergarten if they turn five by January 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year. This is out of step with the rest of the country, and the Commissioner and the State Board of Education have made proposals to change that law, which are summarized in the handout. The proposal is to phase-in the admission date to kindergarten over four years and eventually back it up for one month at a time for four years until October 1<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff date. There would be no change for next year, but each year thereafter it would back up by a month. This is for informational purposes only to make the Board aware. Dr. Title stated that normally at the November Board meeting there is a Strategic School Profile report, but this year the state is having issues with its data system and the reports have not been released yet. They are expected for the December 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Planning & Zoning is meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be voting on the Fairfield Woods application. Dr. Title stated that he went to the Fairfield Ludlowe Volleyball Game last Saturday night, and it was a fantastic match. It was sportsmanship, kids, coaches and fans at their best. Dr. Title reminded Board members that there is a Board Evaluation next Tuesday with Nick Caruso.

Mrs. Brand asked if a rough draft had been received from Prismatic. She also asked if there could be a financial status update because at the CABA Convention it was stated that the Board has to be notified at the next meeting if there is any transfer of funds, and she stated that it is her understanding that Special Ed has a \$1 million deficit and funds are frozen. She asked if Dr. Title could address these items.

Dr. Title stated that Prismatic will share documents for factual accuracy only; their recommendations will not be given in advance. There is a Finance Committee meeting on December 6, and financial updates will be shared with the committee. The Board did its transfers in September/October for the last fiscal year, so that has been taken care of. There are some concerns about special ed but he stated that he is reluctant to get into that without Bonnie, and he also wants to bring that to the Finance Committee if there are any recommendations.

Mr. Mitola introduced Dan Callahan, Student Representative from Fairfield Warde High School who will be sharing the duties with Stephanie Teixeira.

5. Public Comments and Petitions-

J. Alfred Dunn commented that at the last meeting there was some concern about the potential construction and how it will affect McKinley. Fear not; the footprint of that construction will be as large as a moderate size postage stamp. He further commented that he was blessed and so were his daughter and son for they went to McKinley School and McKinley School was the only school in Fairfield that prepared them, not for life in Fairfield but for life outside of Fairfield. All others wants is the same thing everyone on this Board and the audience wants; an education for their child. He also noted that a thousand years ago or so it seems, the Board only had one meeting per month and people almost spent the night. He left one meeting at one o'clock in the morning. That is the reason there are two meetings per month.

Anne Pasco, FEA President, commented that she has heard the potential agenda for December 14 and if there is going to be only one meeting, one o'clock is not out of the ordinary. She asked that when the agenda is built if there is an item that will cause a lot of discussion that the agenda be constructed in such a way that we are not here until one o'clock.

6. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand that this regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 8:19 p.m.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

Stacey Zahn  
Secretary