

DRAFT

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thursday, January 20, 2011

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mr. John Mitola, Chairman. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Sue Brand, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu and Mrs. Catherine Albin (arrived 8:30 p.m.). Mrs. Sue Dow and Ms. Stacey Zahn were absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 60 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

1. Mr. Mitola led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Discussion of the Superintendent's Recommended 2011-2012 Budget Request

Chairman Mitola stated that at the last meeting on January 18, 2011 the Superintendent presented his recommended 2011-12 budget request, and the Board began their analysis of the budget with questions and comments. Board questions and discussion will continue tonight; and at the next meeting on Tuesday, January 25, the Board will vote on the budget. Before the Board votes on January 25, the public will have an opportunity to comment.

Approximately two hours of Board questions and discussion followed regarding increasing the number of slots in the preschool program and expanding the program to include 3 year olds, which would have no impact on the budget; the Early Childhood Center currently located at Fairfield Warde HS and the possibility of relocating it due to future increased enrollment at the high school and the need for that space; upgrading and resurfacing the existing ECC playground which really needs a rubberized surface to make it truly handicap accessible and expanding the playground; the impact of combining the Early Childhood Program and the McKinley preschool program; putting the ECC playground project in the capital improvement list versus the operating budget; the number of classes at the high school that have under 15 students enrolled and reasons why these classes would run with low enrollment; a suggestion was made to include an explanation of the number of classes that fall below 15 and the number of student requests for those classes which will provide an understanding behind running 1 section or 2 sections and the nuances of scheduling courses, i.e., sequence of courses, an extra support course, culminating course, and how a course comes to fruition, remains in existence and how courses are eliminated; if medical expenses are increasing why isn't the IBNR going up to match those increases; non-certified support staff at the high school; total staffing; grant funding, the stop loss and increasing it from \$150,000 to \$300,000; medical reserve fund; tech support staff at the elementary schools and the technology budget; ELL staffing and realigning them to meet the needs of the students. There was a suggestion to list items that did not make it into the budget, items that the administration would have liked to include but chose not to, and educational program enhancements that were not included.

Mr. Mitola stated that if any Board member has a specific item they want to cut, reduce, or increase, they should be prepared to do so at the next meeting on January 25. Board discussion followed on whether the Board needs to vote on the proposed capital improvement projects. Last year's minutes will be reviewed and the Board will get clarification on this.

3. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 9:32 p.m.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.