

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

1. Chairman Mr. John Mitola called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Sue Brand, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Ms. Stacey Zahn, Mr. Perry Liu (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Ms. Pamela Iacono (arrived 7:32 p.m.), and Mrs. Catherine Albin (arrived 8:20 p.m.). Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title and Mrs. Margaret Mary Fitzgerald.
2. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand that the Board of Education go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Fairfield Education Association (FEA) and the Fairfield School Administrators Association (FSAA).

Motion carried: 6:0:0.

3. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

4. Chairman Mr. John Mitola called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:36 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Sue Brand, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Ms. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, Ms. Stacey Zahn and Mrs. Catherine Albin (arrived 8:20 p.m.). Also in attendance was Superintendent Dr. David Title. Approximately 7 people comprised the remainder of the audience.
5. Mr. Mitola led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Ms. Iacono that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of May 10, 2011.

Ms. Zahn stated that she takes her minutes, Mrs. Dyer takes her minutes; the meetings are videotaped and audio recorded, and she and Mrs. Dyer compare the minutes before they go into the Board's packet. When there was a discrepancy in the May 10th minutes, Mrs. Dyer went back to the audio and the video and sent Ms. Zahn an email stating that she had listened to the audio and watched the video of the May 10th meeting where Mr. Liu wanted the minutes changed. Both the audio and video have it the way it was recorded in the minutes. The video actually shows Mr. Liu's hand up voting in favor; and Mr. Mitola calling it out: "voting in favor Mr. Liu, Ms. Zahn, Mr. Mitola, Ms. Iacono, Mrs. Albin, Mr. Fattibene. Mrs. Brand voting in opposition and Mr. Kery abstaining, 6:1:1." Mrs. Dow was not at the meeting. Based on this, Ms. Zahn recommended that the Board accept the Minutes as stated in the record.

Mr. Liu asked to say on the record that he was confused because that was not the way he wanted to be voting.

Motion carried: 6:1:1. Mr. Liu voted in opposition and Mrs. Dow abstained.

7. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Ms. Iacono that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2011.

Motion carried: 7:0:1. Mrs. Brand abstained.

8. Student/Committee/Liaison Reports-

- ◆ Mrs. Brand wished all of the retirees and Deputy Superintendent Mr. Boyle who is also retiring the very best and thanked them for all of the time that they have served. She reported that Board members received the notification from CES that there will not be a summer program this year due to the uncertainty of funding. These are state inter-district programs that are in jeopardy because of the uncertain budget situation.
- ◆ Mrs. Dow – No report.
- ◆ Mr. Fattibene reported that a transportation issue arose but to his knowledge has not been brought forth to the Transportation Safety Advisors.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono reported that the Special Projects Standing Building Committee is before Town Planning & Zoning this evening, and hopefully the Sherman project will receive all of its appropriate approvals. The RTM met last night and postponed the vote on the Tomlinson façade work until the July meeting due to the projected cost overages at the train station. RTM members felt that they first needed to get a handle on what that financial impact will be on the Town. The Board of Finance will hold a Special Meeting tomorrow night relevant to the train station and the \$12 million cost to taxpayers.
- ◆ Mr. Kery – No report.
- ◆ Mr. Liu – No report.
- ◆ Mr. Mitola – No report.
- ◆ Ms. Zahn – No report.

9. Superintendent's Report-

Dr. Title reported that he was accepted to do a presentation at the CABE/CAPSS Conference in November on Operational Audits. He also reported that there is a possibility that on July 26 the Board of Finance may be discussing the way purchasing is done. That is their quarterly review night. It is tentatively on the agenda and they are trying to work it out.

10. Old Business-

- A. Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the High School Science Curriculum – Environmental Earth Science 11, 12 and Biology 21, 22.

Mrs. Brand commented that the curriculum is fine but in the past sections were collapsed and there was a larger group of level 2. There are struggles when you are doing this kind of sequential instruction, and she asked if the Board could have an update on how that is working.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- B. Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Brand that the Board of Education approve Policy #5511 – Immunizations as presented at the June 14, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

Board questions and comments followed regarding the immunizations that are being added to the list in the policy, if they are mandated by State Statute or elective, clarification of the wording in the administrative regulations that says the influenza vaccine should be administered annually which implies for all age groups, clarification of what will happen after students enter kindergarten since this vaccine is for preschool only.

Mr. Kery voiced opposition to this policy and the requirement that students enrolled in preschool on or after August 1, 2011 receive the influenza vaccine. He stated that he objects to the State asking this Board to tell parents who want their three and four year olds to attend preschool that we are going to make a decision for them; they are not going to make that decision with their doctor. He stated that he does not know why we are making this decision for parents and not letting the parents and their doctors make that decision on the flu vaccine.

Mrs. Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor, stated that this is a new regulation that becomes effective August 1 2011; it is a State law and not an option. As with all immunizations, there is always a right for parents to have a medical exemption or to declare a religious exemption. In addition, if a child has had the disease and can prove by virtue of a blood titer that they don't need the immunization; that is another option. She explained that the influenza is new this year and is only being recommended for entry into preschool. The first dose needs to be given between August 1 and December 31st. The reason the immunization program gives for this is because of the increase in hospitalizations in that age group for complications from influenza. As of now, the regulation speaks specifically to individuals enrolled in preschool on or after August 1, 2011.

Motion carried: 7:1:0. Mr. Kery voted in opposition.

11. New Business-

- A. Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the First Selectman requesting a Building Committee for the Riverfield Elementary School Project.

Mrs. Brand stated that this is just to review the potential of a school project, not the scope of one.

Ms. Iacono stated that she certainly hopes that we are not going to be losing out on school projects because somebody didn't report a big loss at the train station. That is a really bad place for this town to be going. She wanted to get that on the record.

Board comments and discussion followed.

Mrs. Brand stated that this needs to move forward and asked the Chairman to contact the Board of Finance to get a better sense when they know what our total available bond funds will be and that will help dictate whether or not we need to revisit our Long Range Plan based on what the available funding is going to be.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

12. Public Comments and Petitions –

Anne Pasco, FEA President, commented that the figure now stands at 20 retirees and she would like to be on record as thanking them for their dedication to educating the children of Fairfield. She stated that she would like the Board to consider having discussions with the association about possibly coming up with an early retirement incentive. The association has some ideas and would like to work with the Board to have the number of retirees be 30 or 40 next year.

13. Open Board Comment – None

14. Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Ms. Zahn that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

15. Reconvene to Public Session

16. Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin to add a motion to the agenda.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

17. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mr. Kery to pay a performance bonus as outlined in Number 2B of the Superintendent's contract dated May 25, 2010 in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion carried: 7:2:0. Mrs. Brand and Mr. Liu voted in opposition.

18. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Ms. Iacono that the Board of Education approve an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

Ms. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Kery to amend the motion and add the following wording at the end: “with a zero percent salary increase and a performance bonus up to \$12,500 pursuant to Number 2B of the Superintendent’s contract.”

Vote on amendment carried: 7:2:0. Mrs. Albin and Ms. Zahn voted in opposition.

Main Motion as amended: “that the Board of Education approve an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014 with a zero percent salary increase and a performance bonus up to \$12,500 pursuant to Number 2B of the Superintendent’s contract.”

Motion carried: 7:2:0. Mrs. Albin and Ms. Zahn voted in opposition.

19. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Ms. Iacono that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 10:51 p.m.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

Stacey Zahn
Secretary