

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

1. Chairman Ms. Pamela Iacono called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:32 p.m. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Sue Brand, Mr. Philip Dwyer, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Jessica Gerber, Mr. Perry Liu, Mrs. Jennifer Maxon Kennelly and Mr. John Convertito (arrived 8:10 p.m.). Mr. Tim Kery was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 10 people comprised the remainder of the audience.
2. Ms. Iacono led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Brand moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2012.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

4. Committee/Liaison Reports – No reports.
5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Title reported that the high school graduations were held very successfully last Thursday. Precautions were taken due to the extreme heat.

Dr. Title announced that this is the last official Board meeting for Margaret Mary Fitzgerald who is officially retiring on Friday. While Gary Rosato will still be in the District, this is his last official meeting as Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction. Dr. Rosato will become the Principal at Fairfield Woods MS.

Dr. Title reported that as the Education Reform package unfolds over the summer, he will keep the Board updated and will update his blog as well.

6. Old Business
 - A. Mrs. Kennelly moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer that the Board of Education approve the Fairfield Board of Education Handbook.

Mrs. Kennelly stated that in going over the Handbook one more time she found a few typos, not substantive or content, strictly capitalization and grammar. If anyone would like to see it before the Board votes, she has copies.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

7. New Business
 - A. Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in the amount of \$255,000 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year as detailed in the Financial Statement-Enclosure No. 3.

Mrs. Munsell stated that there would not be a need for any transfers if it weren't for some emergency maintenance projects, all of which had been discussed previously. There is a savings in utilities due to a mild winter and savings in the electrical rates from the Town bid, but not quite

enough to cover that category so some savings in the salary area need to be transferred. Mrs. Munsell stated that she changed the format of the report this year and hopes it is easier for everyone to understand.

Mr. Fattibene questioned the substantial deficit in Personnel Services-Substitutes. Mrs. Munsell replied that with certified salaries when there is turnover/vacancies/leave of absences, those positions need to be covered. Also, with the additional retirees, there are areas of long-term absences and a great deal of that amount is to cover those salaries. Dr. Title gave an example; someone retires mid-year from a certified position, saving half a year's salary which makes the certified salary line have a surplus, but someone will be hired to fill that position for the rest of the year, and that hits the substitute line. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that it is not unusual to have a shortfall in the substitute account offset by certified salaries where there is a balance from turnover, teachers who are out on unpaid childrearing leave or an unpaid family medical leave. This has been done in the past but the end of year budget transfer sheet was compacted, and this year Mrs. Munsell has given a line by line account.

Mrs. Kennelly asked if the non-certified salaries of \$106,849 was all for the custodial overtime for the unreimbursable or Town use of facilities that we don't charge for. Mr. Cullen replied that he does not believe it is; it is probably a percentage of it.

Mrs. Kennelly questioned the transportation number that she had thought all year was costing more than expected. Mrs. Munsell stated that regular transportation came in around what was projected, a \$160,000 deficit, changes in special education transportation had a savings and there was also some savings in regional transportation.

Dr. Title pointed out that the most important number on the spreadsheet is the number at the bottom of the Total Balances column, \$345,000, which is the amount we estimate turning back to the Town at the close of the fiscal year because of the huge savings in electricity, additional retirees and a mild winter.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

8. Public Comments and Petitions-None

9. Open Board Comment

Mrs. Brand commented on the update the Board received on the Gifted Program. She stated that she knows that adjustments are being made and asked if it would be possible to have an update in August so the Board has a sense of what is going to happen moving forward. Dr. Title replied that August may be a little soon, but certainly sometime in the fall.

Mr. Liu commented on the Math Pilot Program document and stated that based on the research he has done, this does not seem like a pilot program. It seems to be test results. He thinks this Board needs to be more actively involved and updated along the way on how the curriculums are being put together, what is being done and how the pilot programs are being handled so when the Board signs off on a curriculum we know that we have done our due diligence.

Mrs. Brand asked if Dr. Title could let the Board know when there is going to be a pilot study so there can be a follow up to see how it went because then it validates our decision with any curriculum changes or any curriculum.

10. Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

11. Reconvene to Public Session at 9:38 p.m.

12. Mr. Dwyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber to add an item to the agenda.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

13. Mr. Convertito moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber to pay a performance bonus as outlined in Number 2B of the Superintendent's contract dated July 1, 2011 in the amount of \$12,500.

Motion carried: 6:2:0. Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Kennelly, Mrs. Gerber, Ms. Iacono, Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Fattibene voted in favor. Mr. Liu and Mrs. Brand voted in opposition.

14. Mr. Dwyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Kennelly that the Board of Education approve an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer to amend the motion to add the following wording "with a 2% salary increase and a performance bonus up to \$12,500 pursuant to Number 2B of the Superintendent's contract."

Mrs. Brand stated that she will not be supporting this amendment. She fully supports the extension of the contract without the amendment.

Motion carried: 6:2:0. Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Ms. Iacono, Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Fattibene voted in favor. Mr. Liu and Mrs. Brand voted in opposition.

Main Motion as amended: "that the Board of Education approve an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 with a 2% salary increase and a performance bonus up to \$12,500 pursuant to Number 2B of the Superintendent's contract."

Motion carried: 6:2:0. Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Ms. Iacono, Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Fattibene voted in favor. Mr. Liu and Mrs. Brand voted in opposition.

15. Mrs. Brand moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

Jessica Gerber
Secretary