

# DRAFT

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room.

1. Chairman Ms. Pamela Iacono called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:33 pm. Other Board Members present were: Mrs. Sue Brand, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mr. Phil Dwyer, Mrs. Jessica Gerber, Mr. Perry Liu, Mr. John Convertito, and Mrs. Jennifer Maxon Kennelly. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. David Title, members of the administrative staff, and approximately 15 members of the public.
2. Ms. Iacono led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in memory of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Ms. Iacono introduced and welcomed Meg Brown as the newly assigned recording secretary, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Dr. David Title, and Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.

3. Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Convertito, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 28, 2012.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

4. Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Sue Brand attended a meeting at the Board of Health. There was no quorum. New BOE health policies concerning staff and the administration of medication are under review. It is legislated that staff may medically intervene, but staff is not obligated to do so and perhaps in some cases it is not appropriate. For future reference, further discussion may be needed.

Mr. Dwyer stated that the Building Projects Review Committee has scheduled a meeting, and he will get the date out. Mr. Dwyer also attended the CES Board Meeting.

Mr. Convertito said the Special Projects Standing Building Committee for Sherman School is near its completion. There is a punch list of outstanding items that will be given to the general contractor. The first phase should be closed out by November 1, 2012, and there is a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5pm on 9/13/12. Mr. Convertito took a moment of privilege to present each Board member with a tie from a company started by 2 former Fairfield students who are now juniors in college.

Ms. Iacono stated that she and Dr. Title appeared before the Board of Finance to brief them on the Osborn Hill School PCB costs to date, and to put them on notice that a special appropriation will most likely be requested to cover the costs. Dr. Title stated that he and Ms. Iacono were

invited back to the October Board of Finance meeting to inform them of the costs as they escalate.

## 5. Superintendent's Report

### A. Opening of School Update:

Dr. Title stated that there were a number of successful projects that contributed to successful school openings. Mr. Cullen will review these in the Capital Projects Update. The current enrollment is not official until October 1, but early numbers show a drop in Kindergarten enrollment. There are 85 fewer Kindergarten students than projected. The buffer to that is that 1<sup>st</sup> grade increased. The net effect is fewer students. The official October 1 enrollment will be further discussed at the October meeting.

Dr. Title stated that it was an unusual year for school openings. Out of 16 schools, 8 opened with new principals or headmasters. Ann Leffert, Director of Human Resources, in her first few months on the job was able to get all classrooms staffed. Dr. Title stated that he is also very pleased with the quality of staff. Due to the new Special Education Staffing Model, new Special Education teachers needed were hired. Ann's background was perfect for that hiring process. Dr. Title introduced and welcomed Dr. Meg Boice, Director of Secondary Education.

Dr. Title said the convocation was a very nice event for opening day. It was energizing to have it in the Fairfield Warde Auditorium where the air conditioning was working – thanks to one of the successful projects. New curriculum approved by the Board is in process and underway. Lots of work was done to get this accomplished.

Dr. Title said he was very proud of how quickly staff mobilized to respond to the tragedy at Tunxis Park. It was a horrible event to witness for children and adults. Enhanced counseling services were offered to children and adults.

Dr. Title said that on a positive note he is very pleased that Dwight was named a Blue Ribbon School. The process to become a Blue Ribbon School has evolved over the years. Each state now has a cap of 2 public schools that are invited to apply for the award that Dwight won, "Exemplary High Performing". This honor is a reflection on the school system as a whole, and he is happy for Dwight and for Fairfield Public Schools.

Dr. Title said there isn't much news with regards to Osborn Hill School. He is currently waiting for test results and will post them as soon as they come in, and will also send out another memo update on Friday, 9/14. Additional cleaning is being done, which will be followed by more testing. Through the work of Sal Morabito, Tom Cullen and Twig Holland, a large portable gym has been secured that will be constructed on site within 5 weeks or so. The Town was very helpful in getting this rapidly through the procurement system by using a quotation process.

### B. Capital Projects Update:

Dr. Title stated the Roof Restoration Project is virtually complete. Schools came in under budget with 5 or 10 year warranties. There have been no leaks.

Mr. Cullen gave the following update on the Capital Projects:

1. Fairfield Warde High School Phase 1 of 4 roof repair is complete. The manufacturer is so happy with the material and the state of the existing roof he may extend the warranty from 20 to 25 yrs.
2. Roger Ludlowe Middle School building envelope repair leak. A 25 foot section wasn't flashed properly. Upon investigation, another leak was found. After quick specifications, it was bid out for repairs. No water has penetrated the building since the repair.
3. Fairfield Warde High School gym wall repair. During the walk-through, the gym wall was found to be bowing out. This has been corrected, and the wall is being monitored.
4. APR roof leaks – These are gabled roofs, at least 25 years old, that have been ripped off and replaced. There have been no leaks since the repair.
5. At McKinley, the parapet was capped over and new flashing was added. Sal Morabito has been monitoring this project and reports no water coming in.
6. Mill Hill repairs included the ceiling grid, carpet and millwork. The millwork is taking some extra time due to the ordering process that was delayed.
7. Fairfield Woods Middle School Jackson wing lockers. Dr. Rosato put a hold on replacing these lockers until he has more information on replacement options, and he will request input from teachers.
8. At Tomlinson Middle School, there has been lots of good feedback on the new traffic loop. Some modifications were made and new signage was added. There is more room for drop-off and pick-up. With redistricting, more students now take the bus to Tomlinson. Last year, 196 cars were counted at drop-off. This year the number dropped to the 60's. The number of cars picking up last year was 67, and this year that number is down to 42. Also at Tomlinson, the foundation pit was flashed, tarred, and sealed, and drainage pipes were replaced so that basement classrooms stay dry. Approval was received for façade, cornice work and door replacement. A report was previously sent to the Board with more information on this.
9. Jennings bathrooms are finished and they look great.
10. Dwight boilers have been replaced and will be fired up and tested before winter.
11. Fairfield Ludlowe High School carpet has been replaced. The library carpet had to be re-ordered due to a sizing issue, and installation will be scheduled over a holiday.
12. The new HVAC system at Fairfield Warde High School is much smaller. Staff is getting trained on its use.
13. Eight oil tanks were pulled and 7 had no contamination in the surrounding soil. Jennings was the one location with contamination in 300-500 cubic feet of soil and it was caused by the previous oil tank. The State said this is not a bad spill and can be cleaned up at any time.

Dr. Title mentioned that all projects submitted for separate funding are virtually all complete and under budget. He mentioned that the new paint and carpet at Riverfield make the school much brighter and nicer.

Ms. Iacono said some parents are saying Riverfield looks as though it has all new lighting, it's that much brighter. Ms. Iacono then questioned why the final estimated cost of the Fairfield Warde High School HVAC system for \$246,250 was so much higher than the estimate of \$60,000. Mr. Cullen responded that the contractors uncovered 2 different systems that could

not be reused and had to be replaced. It ended up being less work, but the equipment was more expensive.

Mr. Convertito requested clarification on which projects were bonded and which came out of the Board of Education budget. Dr. Title responded that he would be able to clarify that in a new spreadsheet.

Mrs. Brand asked if there were any other oil tanks that have to be removed. Mr. Cullen responded yes, that Stratfield has a newer tank and there are 4 or 5 others remaining. He will update the Board with locations of these tanks. Dr. Title mentioned that none of these existing oil tanks need to be removed for several years.

Mrs. Brand asked if the new Riverfield paint job would remain intact after the Riverfield renovation. Dr. Title responded yes.

Mr. Kery thanked Mr. Cullen for the vast majority of projects coming under budget. He then questioned the initial Fairfield Warde High School roof estimate of 11 million from the Town Facilities Commission, and why it was so high compared to the final estimated cost of 7 million. Mr. Cullen responded that the consultants thought they might have to go down to the roof deck, and that even with infrared studies there can be some unknowns regarding how much of the roof has eroded. Mr. Dwyer added that legislative waivers were obtained regarding the half inch pitch, which significantly reduced the cost. Mr. Cullen also noted that roof drains have doubled from 40 or 50 years ago. Dr. Title stated that perhaps a large contingency was in place due to the fact that it was a 4 year project that originally wasn't reimbursable. Ed specs may have to be re-done for the State since it has been such a long time since the last approval. Dr. Title confirmed that the reimbursement was from the 7 million. Mr. Kery's said that his recollection was that Mr. Cullen's team came out with an estimate of 6.5 million, which then became 11 million. The Town Bodies, which include members that are operations managers for large commercial operations, told the Board that 11 million was a high estimate. A better process for improved estimates is needed. Mr. Kery said he is uncomfortable asking for 11 million when in fact 7 million is needed. Part of the capital planning process is to find a better way to move forward.

Ms. Iacono stated she received an email from Representative Fawcett acknowledging State Representative Brenda Kupchick for a majority of the work in obtaining the waiver. Ms. Iacono thanked Ms. Kupchik and her team for the work involved in obtaining the waiver. Mr. Convertito stated that this is a 4 year project and we are 1 year into it. Lots could go wrong that could drive up the cost. Mr. Cullen stated that with bids from large well-known companies, he was confident with the pricing. Mr. Convertito stated that he has served on many building committees and doesn't want to be overly optimistic. This may seem like a big gap now but we need to wait and see what the actual numbers might be. Mr. Dwyer stated that he felt comfortable giving the Town Bodies a worst case number in case the legislation was not successful. Because legislation was successful, we under promised and over delivered.

6. Old Business

A. Approval of Policy #3431.1 - Business Monthly Updates

Mrs. Kenelly moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve Policy #3431.1 Business – Monthly Updates".

Board discussion followed. Ms. Kennelly clarified for the Board that this policy gives the Superintendent latitude in reporting monthly expenditures and does not eliminate the monthly report. A quarterly written report will still be received. Mrs. Brand stated that she will not support this change, as she feels the need for more reporting. Mr. Liu stated that he will also not be in support of this policy change.

Public comment – None.

Motion carried. 7:2:0. Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Ms. Iacono, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, and Mr. Kery voted in favor. Mr. Liu and Mrs. Brand voted against.

## 7. New Business

### A. Discussion of Board Goals

Ms. Iacono asked the Board to review her memo regarding Board goals, and to review Board member submitted goals. Ms. Iacono stated that Board goals may take 3 meetings to get through. Mr. Kery suggested that working with 3 or 4 goals is manageable. Mr. Liu suggested that the Board look at all goals first before narrowing them down. Ms. Iacono confirmed that the goals are Board goals and should not create work for the administration. Mrs. Brand stated that the Board mission is due to be reviewed and updated, and perhaps that should be done before creating new goals. Mrs. Gerber stated her goals for the Board are to increase communication via blog or online newsletter, and get better educated on Robert's Rules. Mr. Kery suggested that an entire meeting be devoted to Robert's Rules. Ms. Iacono stated that she will try to categorize the Board goals for the Friday packet. In the meantime, she suggested that Board members rank the goals.

### B. First Read of Policy #6417 Instruction – Student Internet Use

Ms. Kennelly explained that this policy re-write came from the CABE audit, seeking out redundancies. Much of the language was mandated for E-rate regulations. Mrs. Brand questioned whether this policy covers student owned devices. Mrs. Kennelly stated that a student owned device is considered district technology, as defined in the policy. Mr. Kery questioned what "other inappropriate material" was referring to. Mrs. Kennelly responded that the language was left unspecific in order to cover any new items that may crop up. Mr. Kery also questioned why "religious or political lobbying" was included. Mrs. Parks stated that much of the wording in the bullets comes from the "Children's Internet Protection Act" and had to be specifically spelled out in the policy to get E-Rate money. Mrs. Brand requested to see the regulations for specifics. Ms. Iacono stated this policy will be a voting item at the next Board meeting.

## 8. Public Comment and Petitions – None

## 9. Open Board Comment

Mrs. Brand had the opportunity to see Lindsey Reuter, Fairfield Warde High School senior, perform as a soloist at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, where she did an exceptional job.

Mr. Fattibene stated that he noticed there was no picture of Dr. Ann Clark, former Superintendent, on the board room wall. Ms. Iacono will look into this for the Board.

Mrs. Brand stated that she would appreciate a presentation on the health insurance and pension before the budget process begins.

10. Mrs. Kennelly moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber the recommended motion that " that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session to discuss strategy, negotiations relating to matters of collective bargaining and Superintendent Evaluation".

Motion carried. 9:0:0.

#### 11. Reconvene to Public Meeting

- A. Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Dwyer to add a motion to the agenda: "Amendment of Superintendent of Schools contract July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015"

Motion carried. 6:3:0. Ms. Iacono, Ms. Kennelly, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Kery, Mr. Dwyer voted in favor. Mrs. Brand, Mr. Fattibene, and Mr. Liu voted against. .

- B. Mrs. Gerber moved, seconded by Mr. Kery the recommended motion "That the Board amend the Superintendent of Schools contract July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 by adding \$500 to the 403b provision and \$9500 dollars to the 457 provision and deleting all provisions to the \$12,500 performance bonus payment"

Motion carried. 5:3:1. Ms. Iacono, Mrs. Kennelly, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, and Mr. Kery voted in favor. Mr. Liu, Mr. Fattibene, and Mrs. Brand voted against. Mr. Convertito abstained.

#### 12. Adjournment

Mrs. Kennelly moved, seconded by Mrs. Gerber that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 10:43pm.

Motion carried. 9:0:0.

Jessica Gerber, Secretary