

**Regular Meeting
Fairfield Board of Education
September 24, 2013**

Minutes

Voting Summary:

Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:34PM. Present were members Perry Liu, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Pamela Iacono (arrived 7:40PM), Paul Fattibene and Sue Brand. Jennifer Kennelly, John Convertito and Tim Kery were not in attendance. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 20 members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2013.

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2013” Motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Liu abstained.)

Old Business

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve Policy #6200-Instruction-Curriculum” Motion passed 6-0

Adjournment

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that this regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn” Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned 8:45PM.

Detailed Minutes:

Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:34PM. Present were members Perry Liu, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Pamela Iacono (arrived 7:40PM), Paul Fattibene and Sue Brand. Jennifer Kennelly, John Convertito and Tim Kery were not in attendance. Others present were Dr. Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 20 members of the public.

Presentations

Dr. Title introduced Mr. Jeff Hamel and Ms. Lisa Campe from Woodard and Curran, Inc. to discuss the *Follow-Up Building Surveys and Assessment of PCBs Report*. Mr. Jeff Hamel stated that the purpose of the survey was to develop a management program for addressing PCBs. Mr. Hamel stated that the first step was to determine the potential presence of PCBs by having a series of funnel steps; the first step was to eliminate buildings or additions built post 1980, which then narrowed the field from 16 to 13 buildings; the second funnel was to use existing data from recent renovations or construction; the third funnel was to use the initial building surveys done in January and February of this year to get multiple data points using a chlorine threshold as an indicator; PCBs cannot be present without chlorine. Mr.

Hamel stated that using the collected data, 20 areas were recommended for encapsulation and these areas are visible in the report maps; the report recommendations are to follow best practices, conduct periodic inspections and remove suspect material through abatement when renovations are taking place. Ms. Campe stated that this practical and technical approach is about exposure potential, and the report illustrates the few areas that need to be managed.

Mrs. Gerber asked if the Dwight spray-on fire-proofing in the gym, which is similar to Osborn Hill's, should be checked each year. Mr. Hamel stated that the Dwight gym ceiling is intact and inaccessible, which falls in the 'low' category, but this should be checked every year. Mrs. Gerber asked if there is a concern about air quality, even without the material falling apart. Mr. Hamel stated that PCBs are heavy, non-volatile molecules that tend to stay on the material; that particulates are the main driver for indoor air concentration of PCBs; and Ms. Campe stated that Osborn Hill had 2 filtration systems that were accumulating dust on the air return.

In response to Mrs. Brand, Mr. Hamel stated that PCB monitoring, such as a ceiling inspections, should be added to the periodic maintenance schedule. In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated that the Alternative High School was not tested, as it is not Town-owned property, but this can be looked into further. Mrs. Brand asked that this report be given to the Tools for Schools program. Dr. Title stated that this report will be given to vendors to get pricing to take care of the action recommendations; the price will determine whether it is capital or maintenance; the general sense is that it will fall under maintenance.

Ms. Iacono asked whether this will have an effect on the Long-Range Facilities Plan; Dr. Title stated that this will be looked at together with the police report on security and the new enrollment projections. Ms. Iacono stated that the Riverfield gym is an area in the "medium" range and with Riverfield undergoing renovations; the building committee should take this into consideration.

In response to Mr. Liu, Dr. Title stated that staff training will be provided so that the best management practices are followed.

Mr. Fattibene asked if any direct testing was done for PCBs; Mr. Hamel responded no.

In response to Mr. Liu, Mr. Hamel stated that the district has been proactive in coming up with a management process and that there is no regulation that requires testing; building material is treated differently than released contaminants. In response to Mr. Liu, Dr. Title stated that this project began as a window replacement project at Osborn Hill.

Mrs. Brand asked for the differential of doing PCB testing vs. chlorine testing; and asked what the gap in accuracy is. Mr. Hamel stated that the use of screening techniques is common. Ms. Campe stated if an area was observed to be accessible and in bad condition with a high chlorine indicator, an analytical sample would have been recommended, but all areas were in the low-medium range. Mr. Hamel stated that regulatory thresholds are obtained by using screenings from large data samples; testing is done during material removal.

Mr. Dwyer asked whether the 20 areas designated as 'medium range' should be taken care of within the year. Mr. Hamel answered that near-term does not necessarily mean within the year.

Mr. Dwyer thanked the presenters.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2013” Motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Liu abstained.)

Superintendent’s Report

Update on Naming the Alternative High School in Honor of Mr. Walter Fitzgerald

Dr. Title stated that the Alternative High School students will be selecting the name and have asked for more time to present to the student council and vet several options.

Update on Statewide Testing and Evaluation Systems

Dr. Title stated that the CT State Dept. of Education is requesting a waiver from the US Dept. of Education to exclude SBAC test results in the Teacher and Administrator evaluations for the pilot year if districts opt to use SBAC testing this year; more information will be provided as it is released.

Update on RFP for Food Services

Dr. Title stated that the Food Services RFP has to be approved by the Town Procurement Officer and must also be approved at the state level; this will ensure that all Healthy Food guidelines will be included. Dr. Title stated that this will be a comprehensive RFP and will take some time to review and process; this will accelerate efforts to improve food quality.

In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated that the district is currently working on back-up plans for performance assessments; the biggest challenges with teacher evaluations are non-tested grades and subjects. In response to Mrs. Brand, Dr. Title stated that the Food Services RFP has not yet been written, but the intent is to include employee retention.

Old Business

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve Policy #6200-Instruction-Curriculum” Motion passed 6-0

Public Comments and Petitions

Elizabeth Moyse, South Pine Creek Road, stated that there was very little transparency with the PCB testing at Mill Hill School, there was no contact with the PTA; she stated she is glad that someone asked about air testing.

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive, requested an update on Infinite Campus.

Nancy Haberly, Duck Farm Road, stated that elementary school dismissal times are not consistent; some students are dismissed earlier than others; she also thanked her son’s 6th grade team at Roger Ludlowe Middle School.

Betty Ann O’Shaughnessy, Queens Grant Road, asked the Board to put student achievement and development first during budget season; and asked the BOE to include parents and the public in a transparent process.

Christina Marsan, North Cedar Road, stated she is interested in who and when it was decided that her children's pictures appear on Infinite Campus; that student safety should be number 1; and she would like more information on high school security.

Open Board Comment

Mr. Dwyer stated that Public Comment is limited to 2 minutes, and it is to be used to alert the Board of concerns, and it is not the Board's practice to respond to Public Comment.

Mr. Liu stated that public comment suggestions and questions should be answered at some point; that it is important to be pragmatic regarding security; that parents should be aware of security protocols.

Mrs. Brand stated that she and Dr. Title attended the Beth El luncheon; that it was important to look at the strategic school profile to look for trends; that perhaps regs are needed for dismissal times; and she suggested that bus routes and times should not be posted in the newspaper for security purposes.

Adjournment

Ms. Iacono moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that this regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn" Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned 8:45PM.