

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Standing Committee Meeting  
Finance, Budget, Community Relations**

Wednesday, May 5, 2010  
Education Center  
501 Kings Highway East  
Board of Education Conference Room  
9:30 a.m.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 9:44 AM. In attendance: BOE Members, Pam Iacono, Sue Dow, Katherine Albin (by phone), Sue Brand, Perry Liu. Central Office Administrators, Bonnie McWain, Jack Boyle, Gary Rosato, Andrea Leonardi, Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Tom Cullen.
- II. 2010-2011 Budget: Review of central office and staff proposed budget modifications detailed list with Board of Education subcommittee. Discussion by BOE members. Pam Iacono and Sue Dow felt that the custodial position elimination required further Board discussion. Pam Iacono would like to see more secretarial positions reduced from the budget. Katherine Albin asked for clarification regarding the .4 Professional Development Coordinator. Dr. Rosato reviewed position and how PD will be handled. Katherine Albin asked about all positions and how the work would be done. With economic stress curriculum department may need to be reviewed. Pam Iacono asked Tom Cullen to review the proposed maintenance reductions. Tom Cullen reviewed all potential reductions and their potential ramifications. Pam Iacono requested written backup be sent to the BOE regarding potential ramifications. Katherine Albin asked for information regarding how long we can wait before these projects become must do projects. Sue Brand asked for information re roof warranty. Tom Cullen indicated that the repairs were not under warranty and he would provide info for the BOE. Pam Iacono moved to technology. Jeff Burt reviewed the potential cuts to the technology budget and the potential ramifications. BOE members expressed concern over the size of the proposed cuts. Webmaster, multimedia projectors, and replacement plan were areas of specific concern. Review of proposed reduction in CogAT testing. Gary Rosato reviewed current and proposed practice. Discussion of reduction of 10.5 month staff based on position. Bonnie McWain discussed proposal and potential ramifications. BOE members were uncomfortable asking staff members who have already agreed to a 0% increase to take a decrease. Pam Iacono asked for written info regarding proposal. Review of music proposals 1-4. BOE not comfortable with either option 2 or 4. Discussion of late bus Tuesday reduction. BOE members are comfortable with this. Discussion of reduction of Capital Expenditures by 50%. BOE members were generally comfortable supporting this option. This may, however begin to allow the creation of inequities, particularly at the elementary level. Jack Boyle explained potential changes in the Kindergarten program. This would NOT result in a change to the option for parents. Pam Iacono was not in support of this because it does not allow for a pure extended option. Jack Boyle suggested this item be put on hold until further information and numbers can be found. Catherine discussed that this might be a viable option ...last year we could have saved \$150,000 in transportation if we had moved to full day Kindergarten. Discussion of reduction of Math Curriculum Leader. Gary

Rosato addressed this issue stating that the administration did not come to this decision lightly and a plan to address the impact of this decision will need to be developed. The BOE supports this. Options 15, 17, 20 were moved to the category of "Not recommended by finance, budget, Community relation board committee". With that there is \$292,403 to add back funding to previously discussed items. Sue Dow requested information on the number of slots that would be made available for open choice. Gary Rosato indicated that annually approximately 4 slots were available. Members reviewed areas of consensus and areas requiring more discussion. Subcommittee will reconvene on Monday, May 10, 2010 @ 10:00 AM for a special meeting, with the only agenda item to be the proposed budget modifications for the 2010-2011 budget.

- III. Communications Subcommittee Draft Survey – Tabled until next regular meeting
- IV. Discussion of Operational Audit – Tabled to next regular meeting.
- V. Open Board Discussion – None
- VI. Public Comment – Richard Joslin spoke about SFSF funding, healthcare funding, the MOA concerning healthcare funding, concerns re special Ed funding, and the reinstatement of days for the 10.5 employees. Doreen Haren spoke about giving info regarding costs of maintenance, cutting capital outlay and the creation of inequity. Perry Liu questioned the reduction of the CogAT testing, the gifted ID process, and possibly requesting additional information on the proposed budget totals.
- VII. Motion to adjourn moved by Dow, Seconded by Albin. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM
- VIII. Next meeting May 10, 2010 at 10:00 AM.