

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Standing Committee Meeting
Facilities, Technology, and Long-Term Planning**

Thursday, December 3, 2009
Fairfield Public Schools
Superintendent's Conference Room
501 Kings Highway East
5:15 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:26 p.m.
- II. Committee Members Present: Board of Education Members—Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. John Mitola, Mr. Perry Liu; Director of Operations, Tom Cullen, and Director of Elementary Education, Anna Cutaia-Leonard.
- III. Election of the Chairperson was held. Mr. Mitola nominated Mr. Kery. Mr. Liu seconded the nomination. The vote carried 3 in favor and none in opposition. Mr. Kery was named Chairperson of the BOE Standing Committee on Facilities, Technology and Long-Term Planning.

Mr. Cullen reviewed page 20 in the Long Range Facilities Plan approved by the Board of Education on October 27, 2009. This page contains the facility plans for 2010-2011. Mr. Cullen explained all projects under each of the three columns: Operating Budget, Non-Recurring Capital Budget, and Capital Building Project Request. If the BOE were to move forward with these projects, Mr. Cullen noted that we would need to move letters forward to the First Selectman for the following: Riverfield six classroom addition and renovations, Osborn Hill connector addition and core upgrades, Sherman core upgrades, Fairfield Warde High School roof replacement, and St. Emery's Alternative High School Lease.

Mr. Cullen reviewed the St. Emery's lease, the maintenance department lease and described the possibility of housing the maintenance department facility on the St. Emery's property if the town were to acquire the property. Mr. Cullen indicated that the St. Emery's Alternative High School lease will expires in 2011 and the district will need to begin making other arrangements for the Alternate High School program if the landlord is unwilling to renew the lease.

The BOE sub-committee members asked Mr. Cullen to break down the costs of the Riverfield expansion and renovation project into work inside and work outside the envelope of the building. The sense of the body, (Mr. Mitola dissenting/undecided), was to hold off on the external replacement of the portables for one year and to instead give the subcommittee an opportunity to first further evaluate future enrollment and the overall seat requirements at the elementary level. The BOE sub-committee members

expressed interest in looking at items that need to be addressed inside the envelope of the building.

The BOE sub-committee members were in agreement that the recommendation for the new connector addition at Osborn Hill School should be delayed for one year. There was expressed interest in prioritizing the upgrades at Sherman.

- V. Mrs. Cutaia-Leonard presented recommendations for Osborn Hill overcrowding. The recommendations took into consideration supervisory, personnel and instructional factors.
- VI. Mrs. Cutaia-Leonard presented recommendations for Racial Imbalance. The chart of options included staying the course, providing a supplemental program at McKinley, opening a magnet school and redistricting.
- VII. Mr. Cullen presented information on the new High School schedule design. The information included a brief history of the plan, a description of the “8 Drop 2” schedule, and related costs for implementation.
- VIII. Public comment was heard.
- IX. The Committee had open discussion. The Chairman indicated that moving forward the committee will have a “short-term” and “long-term” focus.

Mr. Kery indicated that short-term goals will include reviewing the Middle School feeder pattern in anticipation of the FWMS expansion. Impact on High School enrollment levels will also be a key consideration when considering Middle School feeder pattern options. Additionally, a list of inappropriate uses of space for all schools was requested.

Mr. Kery indicated that long-term goals would include improving long-term enrollment projection methodology, reviewing building specifications, and developing long-term planning criteria for the district.

Finally, Mr. Kery recommended getting a Planning and Zoning member to join this Committee for a meeting in the future.

- X. The next meeting will be held on December 15 at 5:15 p.m.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.