

FEB 11 2010

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

APPROVED

Minutes of the Education Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Mrs. Sue Brand. Other Board members present were: Mrs. Catherine Albin, Mrs. Sue Dow, Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, Mr. John Mitola and Ms. Stacey Zahn. Also in attendance were Fairfield Ludlowe HS Student Representative Sarah Finlaw and members of the administrative staff. Superintendent Dr. Ann Clark was absent. Approximately 50 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

1. Mrs. Brand led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola to separate the approval of the Minutes.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

3. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of November 24, 2009 and the Business Meeting of November 24, 2009.

Motion carried: 9:0:0.

Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Education/Business Meeting of December 8, 2009.

Motion carried: 8:0:1. Mrs. Albin abstained.

Mrs. Dow moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting, Expulsion Hearing, of December 10, 2009.

Motion carried: 3:0:6. Mrs. Brand, Mrs. Dow, and Mrs. Iacono voted in favor.

4. Public Comments and Petitions-
Maureen Sawyer, speaking on behalf of the Riverfield School PTA Executive Board, commented on the addition and core facility upgrades for Riverfield School and asked the Board to please consider this as part of the 2011-12 budget. She also commented on the use of portables and stated that these temporary solutions must be addressed not only for Riverfield but for all schools currently utilizing portable classrooms.

Jeff Peterson, Board of Ed Rep for Stratfield, expressed gratitude for the Stratfield School renovation project. He also thanked the Board for coordinating a disaster plan.

Meredith McCormack, Budget Rep for Roger Sherman, asked for the Board's support in keeping the \$1.925 million slated for core renovations at Sherman in the Long Range Facilities Plan. She asked the Board to approve the Revised Page 20 of the Long Range Facilities Plan.

5. Extraordinary Business

- A. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that the Board of Education approve the revision of high school credits.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

- B. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Board of Education approved Policy #5225 – Requirements for Graduation.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

- C-1. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education approve an Educational Research Study on the Impact of Gender Differences in a Secondary English Classroom.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

- C-2. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve participation in the RYSASP GAMES Project Evaluation Plan at Fairfield Woods Middle School.

Motion carried: 9:0:0

- D. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that the Board of Education approve Revised Page 20 of the Long Range Facilities Plan.

Mr. Kery stated that a great deal of time was spent on this by the Facilities, Technology and Long Term Planning Committee. All of the requests made by Central Office Administration were recognized as necessary, however, the committee felt that the priority this year needs to focus on the middle school. Riverfield School's six classroom addition and renovations have been moved back one year; the Osborn Hill connector addition/core upgrades have been deferred, Riverfield School's new acoustic ceiling tiles and lights were folded into the capital budget and moved into the following year, and the boilers for Fairfield Woods Middle School are in the non-recurring budget with the caveat that if they are picked up by the Building Committee they would come out of our budget. There will be a letter of request sent to the First Selectmen regarding St. Emery's to get a better idea of the Diocese's willingness to extend the lease and/or potentially sell us that property. The Committee recommends that Sherman's project stay on page 20.

Mr. Mitola commented that the Committee realized major roof replacements is an expensive item but in the long run will save the District a substantial amount of money. This is a living document that will be looked at every year. Choices will need to be made again next year.

Mr. Kery stated that this was a matter of prioritization, and in this economy we just can't have everything.

A question was raised as to why the Fairfield Ludlowe High School windows were budgeted as \$250,000 in the operating budget and \$1,250,000 in the non-recurring capital budget. Mr. Kery stated that the First Selectman's desire was to pay for classroom windows on a non-recurring budget basis but non-classroom windows on an operating budget basis.

Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola to amend the motion and move \$250,000 for new windows at Fairfield Ludlowe High School from the operating budget to the non-recurring capital budget to make it \$1.5 million.

Board comments and questions followed on this amendment.

Vote on Amendment carried: 6:3:0. Mr. Mitola, Mr. Fattibene and Mrs. Albin voted in opposition.

Main Motion as Amended: "that the Board of Education approve the Revised Page 20 of the Long Range Facilities Plan"

Board comments and questions followed regarding the major roof replacements with photovoltaic systems; the Fairfield Warde High School roof replacement (Phase 1 of a 4 phase program), which is divided equally among the four phases; and the Fairfield Woods Middle School boilers.

Vote on Motion carried: 9:0:0.

6. Presentations-

A. Presentation of the High School Social Studies Curriculum

Mr. Jeff Burt, Social Studies Curriculum Leader-grades 7-12, brought forward three documents for the 11th grade social studies curriculum: US History 31, 32 and Advanced Placement. He stated that the teachers working with him developed a standardized process for all three levels: standardized course objectives, essential question and a common assessment for all three levels. He briefly reviewed the course objectives, essential questions and common assessments. US History is a requirement of the Social Studies Department for all eleventh graders. It is a year-long course that also fulfills the Connecticut State Department of Education requirement for US History.

Board questions and comments followed.

The Board will vote on this item at the January 26, 2010 meeting.

B. Discussion of Fairfield Warde High School Baseball Field Pressbox

Mr. Chris Manfredonia, Fairfield Warde High School Athletic Director, stated that the Baseball Booster Club has agreed to pay for the purchase of a pressbox to be built behind the backstop area at the baseball field at Fairfield Warde High School. One of the ideas to pay for the fundraising for the pressbox was to solicit advertising for various businesses in town and have temporary signage placed at the baseball field during high school games. This would be an excellent source of revenue to pay for the project.

Mr. Eric Blinderman, FWHS Baseball Booster Club, discussed building the pressbox at FWHS baseball field and fundraising for this project. Mr. Blinderman stated that the Booster Club would like to build a pressbox behind the backstop at Warde HS similar to what Fairfield Ludlowe High School has at Kiwanis field. The estimated price for a state ADA compliant pressbox is about \$75,000. This is a big ticket item that will need support from the community. The idea is to hang 4x8 foot signs/banners on the fence around first and third base. This is common in other municipalities in the FCIAC and around the state.

Board questions and comments followed on approval of the signage, having a pressbox on school property versus on Kiwanis field, who would approve the advertising and the price of maintaining the pressbox. The administration would approve the signage and duration that it is put up for.

The Board will vote on this item at the January 26, 2010 meeting.

7. Reports and Recommendations-

- ◆ Sarah Finlaw reported that Fairfield Ludlowe High School winter sports are underway, mid-term exams start next week, last Thursday Fairfield Ludlowe HS hosted an AP Night for both high schools and the curriculum leaders presented information on the various AP subjects. The Candlelight Concert was held in December and she distributed CDs of the concert to Board members.
- ◆ Mrs. Albin--No report.
- ◆ Mrs. Brand reported that absenteeism is getting back to normal for this time of the year. Regarding Osborn Hill, Nursing Supervisor, Mrs. Joanne Ryan, is evaluating what changes can

be made to accommodate the larger enrollment there. Mrs. Brand asked Mr. Cleary if there are written specifications for nursing stations and he said they are very basic. The medication policy has been changed to allow administrators, coaches and trainers to now administer epi-pens and inhalers. Currently a doctor's order, parent permission and approval from the school nurse are required. Under the new regulations, the approval of the school nurse would be eliminated. Flu clinics are still open for regular seasonal flu and H1N1. Mrs. Brand reported that she has touched base with Marilyn Feranec, FEA President, as she does each week and there is nothing to report.

- ◆ Mrs. Dow reported that SEPTA will meet tomorrow evening. There will be a presentation by a neuropsychologist on the topic of executive function. The Randi Tarczali award is presented yearly to members of the SEPTA community who go above and beyond, and tomorrow evening Beth Cerny and Peter Nikac will receive this award.
- ◆ Mr. Fattibene--No Report.
- ◆ Mrs. Iacono reported that the Board of Selectmen met to hear the Special Projects Standing Building Committee's request to move the funding on the bonds for Sherman and Osborn Hill. The Board of Selectmen voted to decrease the funds at Sherman by \$110,000 and reallocate those funds to Osborn Hill. This now goes to the Board of Finance and the RTM. Mrs. Iacono stated that she asked the Board of Selectmen to balance out these two accounts because by moving \$110,000 that leaves \$53,000 in the Sherman account and zero at Osborn Hill and there are still items in the ed spec that need to be fulfilled. Their recommendation was that this be brought up with the Board of Finance. The First Selectman was looking into amending the Charge for the Special Projects Standing Building Committee, and it was agreed that it would stand as is for now. There was also discussion on whether or not the Board of Education liaison needs to be a voting member on that Board. There will be a Special RTM Meeting on Thursday to hear and vote on the FSAA contract.
- ◆ Mr. Kery reported that the Facilities, Technology and Long Term Planning Committee had two meetings. On December 15 the Committee discussed and finalized Page 20 of the Facilities Plan that was voted on this evening. The Committee heard and supported the presentation on the pressbox at Fairfield Warde High School. Mrs. Nash led the Committee in a discussion of the District Technology Plan. The Committee also discussed the timing on the high school cafeteria expansions. Funds have been earmarked in the Long Term Plan for the expansion of Fairfield Ludlowe HS for next September and the following fall for Fairfield Warde HS. December 18 was a special meeting of the Committee to discuss the Stratfield School boiler problem. The Committee facilitated a meeting between the Building Committee and central office to discuss the possibility of moving up funding for the boiler. There are two boilers at Stratfield, one is functioning and one is not. At this point there is a temporary fix to hold over the boiler we have. They are looking to expedite the purchase of a new boiler to replace the one that is not functioning. The Building Committee offered to fund that equipment if we can get it in a timely manner. The Facilities, Technology and Long Term Planning Committee met tonight. The disaster recovery plan was discussed and the committee was advised of what would happen in the event we lost a school or multiple schools. A list was distributed of the actions to be taken. Opt in and opt out for McKinley was discussed. There was a request by the taskforce to look at the possibility of expanding opt in to allow all of the elementary schools to be able to go to McKinley. There were questions regarding the financial impact and class size guidelines. PTA Council met December 4th and finalized their High Five and discussed the Language Arts Program. Mrs. Iacono thanked Dr. Rosato for the Language Arts workshop, which clarified many questions.
- ◆ Mr. Liu reported that the Fairfield Woods Middle School Building Committee is working hard in trying to meet their goals and deadlines. They have seen several drawings from Tai Soo Kim, Turner Construction has come up with estimates, and every plan is about a \$20 million project. There will be a Special Meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Jennings School, and at that meeting the Building Committee will choose a plan to present to the First Selectman.
- ◆ Mr. Mitola stated that this is the time to mobilize on the Fairfield Woods MS project. This is the most important thing we need to get done this year besides our budget. Mr. Mitola reported on the Stratfield School Building Committee. The appeal time has ended, and there have been no appeals. The BSF has made some comments on Phase 4 and 5, the design teams are reviewing

those, and will reply. Phase 5, FF&E, has been distributed to Central Office administration. The construction trailer was delivered on December 28. The repair of the boiler is under way, and a bid is out for a new boiler.

- ◆ Ms. Zahn reported that Curriculum, Policy and Special Programs Committee met on January 6. Information came before the Committee to grant credit for World Language Courses that are not given through our schools, and the Committee did not recommend changing our policy to include that. The Middle School Family and Consumer Science curriculum will be presented to the Board at the February 9th meeting. The high school social studies curriculum, which the Board heard tonight, will be implemented in 2011. The Committee discussed the kindergarten curriculum and reviewed the State Standards. Fairfield is developmental friendly in our kindergarten curriculum. The Freshmen Forum will go ahead in some phase in March of this year. The middle school Language Arts program was discussed. The next meeting scheduled for January 20 meeting will be canceled.

8. Open Board Discussion-

Mrs. Brand stated that she asked Board members to bring their goals and objectives to the table for discussion this evening. Board members read the goals and objectives they had identified.

Mrs. Brand stated that in an attempt to foster communication, the Board is using subcommittees to roll out, gather and define proposed voting items, answer questions and then have the subcommittee make recommendations to the full Board. The community will have ample opportunity to hear the items in subcommittee as well as at Board meetings that are open to the public. Full presentations will be done in subcommittee and highlights at the Board meeting. Town bodies and PTA Council have been subcommittee meeting dates for the year and will have contact information for the subcommittee chairs. Meeting dates and agendas are posted. PTA Council President has and will continue to be sent subcommittee agendas. The Chair of subcommittees is encouraged to invite and notice any town official if they feel there is a particular point of interest.

Mrs. Brand stated that since the budget is such a huge document, she broke it into thirds according to what each subcommittee generally covers so the subcommittees can narrow their focus and attention on specific areas.

Mrs. Brand stated that several weeks ago she and Mrs. Iacono were invited by Mr. Flatto to meet with him to discuss transparent open operations and communication between the Board of Education, the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Brand read a letter from the First Selectman regarding an operational audit to be done by the Board of Education. Mrs. Iacono stated that the Finance subcommittee passed a motion to bring this forward and put forth an RFP in March or April. This will be on a future agenda.

9. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 9:41 p.m.
Motion carried: 9:0:0.

Stacey Zahn
Secretary

