

FEB 11 2010

APPROVED

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010**

The Town Board of Education held a Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 in the Board of Education Offices on 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT.

Members Present: Sue Brand, Chairman; Pamela Iacono, Vice Chairman; Stacey Zahn, Secretary; Catherine Albin, Sue Dow, Paul Fattibene, Tim Kery, Perry Liu, John Mitola

Central Administration's Contributing Members Present: Dr. Ann Clark, Superintendent; John Boyle, Deputy Superintendent; Tom Cullen, Director of Operations; Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Leadership Development; Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Director of Elementary Education; Andrea Leonardi, Director of Special Education & Special Programs, Dr. Gary Rosato, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Bonnie McWain, Director of Finance

Call To Order: Mrs. Brand called this meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Executive Session: Dr. Clark presented the Proposed Budget Request of The Fairfield Public Schools for 2010 – 2011 through a PowerPoint. This budget reflects our priorities as a district and it does so in a fiscally responsible manner.

District Priorities:

- To help students acquire the skills necessary to be successful
- To reduce the achievement gap
- To promote teacher collaboration to improve student learning
- To implement year three of the five year strategic plan

Budget Objectives:

- To support the district's priorities
- To respond to current fiscal conditions
- To provide high quality educational programs and services for all students
- To respond to increased enrollment
- To ensure quality learning environments through comprehensive facilities management

Overview:

Enrollment has increased by 21 students since October, (Elementary - 14, MS - 4, & HS -3) with an expectation of an additional 140 students (ES - (-14), MS - 64, & HS - 76) increase by 1.29% next year. Our scores continue to be above average on the CAPT. However, they did go down in three areas; math, writing and science. The number of students taking the AP test and scoring 3 or higher has increased significantly.

Staffing needs are currently in the budget but are funded by SFSF. The Board still has to apply SFSF funding to specific line items. An increase of 19.60 FTE Certified Staff and 12.00 FTE

Non Certified (11 paraprofessionals & 1 custodian) for a total increase in staffing of 31.60 is requested. Dr. Clark explained that total allocation from the State must first be spent not just allocated. Certified employees have agreed to a 0% increase for 2010 – 2011. No transportation funds will be coming forth from the State. Projected Revenue to the Town for Education Expenses and Revenue Designated for Specific Programs were explained such as; Title 5 where the Town of Easton pays us for the GED Program and USF Funding is used for technology. Class size is lower for Grant Funding at McKinley School. Children who have specific needs require paraprofessionals.

Ms. Leonardi spoke of the Funding Stimulus Allocation of a one lump sum grant for ARRA 2009 – 2010 allows for a one-time allotment carryover to 2011. There is no new money. The Children with Disabilities State reimbursement rate is 70%. Some programs will not be going forward as planned because of a \$725,000 deficit. An increase cost of \$225,000 is for occupational and physical therapy, not new programs.

Questions from the Board centered on the following topics: Osborn Hill School's instructional improvement, in school suspension, SFSF funds for paraprofessionals, team concepts for middle schools, enrollment and teachers for elementary schools. Smart boards, funding for the gifted program, curriculum of gifted students, technology resources, CT Mastery Test – District-Wide, funding specific grants to supplement programs and offset educational expenses, extra cost provisions for students out of district and excess cost for special education. Summer School transportation costs for special needs children and district support funding to individual schools, percentage of grants Title 1 to SFSF funding. Improvement projects that are expenditures from the Town Capital Improvement Budget and require bonding were addressed along with revenues designated from specific programs. Staff answered all questions by referencing the budget line items and gave examples of each for clarification purposes.

Dr. Rosato will inform the Board as to how many teachers have been instructed in the Smart Board and how many teachers want them.

When asked, What are we missing in this budget? Dr. Clark responded: Implementation of a high school schedule, elementary literacy staffing, both cafeterias at the high schools need renovation, window projects at both high schools to save on energy costs, Spanish at kindergarten through high school level for curriculum. The current budget request is what we have to do.

Budget Total (Less SFSF Funding For 2010 – 2011) = \$144,796,425
Non-Recurring Capital Funding Request 2010-2011 – Major Maintenance = \$2,300,000

Adjournment: Motion was made by Ms. Zahn, seconded by Mr. Mitola and the members present unanimously **VOTED TO ADJOURN** this meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Sansonetti
Recording Secretary