

FEB 23 2010

APPROVED

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Thursday, January 28, 2010

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Mrs. Sue Brand. Other Board members present were: Mr. Paul Fattibene, Mrs. Pamela Iacono, Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. Perry Liu, Ms. Stacey Zahn and Mrs. Sue Dow (arrived 7:38 p.m.). Mrs. Catherine Albin and Mr. John Mitola were absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Ann Clark and members of the administrative staff. Approximately 60 people comprised the remainder of the audience.

1. A Moment of Silence was held for Ray Agostino, who served in our district for many years.
2. Mrs. Brand led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Discussion of the 2010-2011 Budget Request

Capital Non-Recurring-

Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono under Request for Funding Town Capital Improvement Projects to cut the Stratfield Elementary School Security and Safety Work in the amount of \$100,000.

Board questions and comments followed.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Fairfield Woods Middle School boiler replacement be cut in the amount of \$250,000.

Board comments followed.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

Mrs. Iacono stated that she and Mr. Kery attended the Board of Finance meeting last night and asked for clarification on what constitutes a capital project versus non-recurring. Through that discussion, it was realized that the Fairfield Ludlowe High School window replacement does not technically fall into the non-recurring capital expense rules because these expenditures must total at least \$50,000 and not exceed \$1 million. The windows at FLHS are \$1.5 million. This is really a \$3 million project being spread over two years. This is classified as a town capital improvement project, not non-recurring. The sense of the Board of Finance was that we should ask for what we need and the Board of Finance will decide how those items are funded. Mrs. Iacono stated that it is her hope that the Board will support putting this window project together this way and presenting it to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

Board comments and questions followed on the request for funding of the Fairfield Ludlowe High School window replacement project. The need is to replace the windows at Fairfield Ludlowe HS and the Board of Finance will look at the best way to fund that.

Mike Tetreau, Board of Finance, commented that the Board of Finance is trying to do what is best for the Town. We don't want to bond something in non-recurring for 5 years that only has a 3 year life,

and it does not make sense to bond something that has a 20 year life and pay for it over 5 years. The windows have a much longer life than the 5 years that we typically bond this over, and in an environment where there are historically low interest rates on bonds, we are trying to make this a little more interactive and see if we can come up with a way to do all \$3 million.

Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Kery to approve the Request for Funding Town Capital Improvement Projects in the amount of \$3,450,000.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

Board comments followed on what items Central Office had cut from the budget before it got to the Board table: the high school schedule which would have increased instructional hours, increased staffing for literacy at the elementary level, expanding Spanish K-5, expanding the World Language program, and expanding the cafeterias at the high schools.

Board comments and questions followed on the Operating Budget regarding maintenance priorities, staffing, curriculum leaders, curriculum and instructional improvement accounts, universal service funds, maintenance plan to repair Roger Ludlowe Middle School window leaks, and Roger Ludlowe Middle School siding and capital outlay.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to reduce on page 187, object 311, line item 4625, telecomm infrastructure by \$144,034.

Board comments and questions followed.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to amend the motion to reduce on page 187, object 311, line item 4625 by \$100,000 to bring the total to \$295,713.

Board comments and questions followed.

Public Comment--None

Board questions and comments continued.

Motion carried: 5:2:0. Mrs. Dow and Ms. Zahn voted in opposition.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Liu to reduce on page 111, object 313, line item 5000 by \$125,000 for Roger Ludlowe MS siding, leaving the line item at \$140,000.

Board questions and comments followed.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

Mrs. Iacono commented on the Capital Outlay page 261 and the request for interactive whiteboards. Her thought is that technology funding should be in one place, and if the principals need whiteboards in their schools, the appropriate place to fund that is in the Information Technology Capital Request. Her recommendation is to take \$31,760 for the whiteboards out of the capital request, move the whiteboards into technology, and then reduce the capital outlay by 50%.

Board discussion followed. No motion was made.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to add \$15,000 for enrollment projections to page 172, object 305, line item 4060-census and verification.

Board comments and questions followed.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 6:1:0. Ms. Zahn voted in opposition.

Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu to add \$50,000 for an operational audit to page 172, object 305, line item 4120-technical consulting.

Board comments followed.

Public Comment--None

Motion carried: 6:1:0. Ms. Zahn voted in opposition.

Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for budget reductions in the amount of \$65,000 as outlined in the document "Request by the Board of Education to identify \$65,000 in the proposed 2010-2011 budget to be cut in order to fund an increase in the Census Enumeration Account of \$15,000 and an amount for an Operational Audit of \$50,000, dated 1/28/2010".

Board questions and comments followed.

Public Comment-

Richard Joslin, Carriage Drive, asked if the PTA budget reps could have a copy of the document.

John Convertito, Oyster Road, commented on the \$65,000 in cuts but that he has not seen the \$65,000 transferred to other funds. Mrs. Brand stated that a motion was just made to transfer those funds.

Motion carried: 6:0:1. Ms. Zahn abstained.

4. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Kery that a budget recommendation in the amount of \$144,571,425 be approved and forwarded to the Board of Finance for its consideration in the preparation of the town budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year; further that the Superintendent be authorized to distribute said amount in a manner agreed to by the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

5. Ms. Zahn moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that this meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Motion carried: 7:0:0.

Stacey Zahn
Secretary