

JUN 22 2010

APPROVED

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Board of Education held Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at 501 Kings Highway East, 2nd Floor Board Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 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 and Mr. John Mitola. Ms. Stacey Zahn was 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. Mrs. Brand led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. A Moment of Silence was held for Walter Fitzgerald, husband of Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, a dear friend of this community and the entire town.
3. Mr. Liu moved, seconded by Mrs. Dow that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Education Meeting of May 11, 2010.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

4. Old Business

- A. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mr. Mitola that the Board of Education approve a correction to language in the Superintendent's Contract – Page 3, #3 Fringe Benefits, Section e.

Mrs. Brand stated that this is a language change. The two plans vary slightly and this is the plan that should have been in the entire time. It was always the intent to match central office administrators.

New Language: "The Board shall provide medical and dental insurance for the Superintendent and the members of his immediate family during the term of the agreement, which shall be the same insurance as that provided for the **Fairfield Central Office Administrators** and on the same terms as are provided for the **Fairfield Central Office Administrators**."

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- B. Mr. Mitola moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that the Basic and Supplemental Textbooks which have been reviewed and selected in accordance with the administration's selection process and presented for the Board's consideration at the April 27, 2010 meeting be approved.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- C. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education approve Policy #5128 – Foreign Exchange Students.

Mr. Kery asked to table all of the policies that are on this agenda to the first Board meeting in September in order to give the new superintendent an opportunity to review how Fairfield presents policies and to also have an opportunity to review the policies and provide input before moving forward. One policy, Breathalyzers, needs to be on the June 8th agenda and should still be moved forward for discussion that evening.

Board comments and questions followed.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education table the recommended motion to approve Policy #5128 – Foreign Exchange Students to a date certain, the first Board meeting in September.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- D. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education table the recommended motion that the Board of Education approve Policy #5119/5120 – Suspension and Expulsion to a date certain, the first Board meeting in September.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- E. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education table the recommended motion that the Board of Education approve Policy #5313 – Substance Abuse to a date certain, the first Board meeting in September.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

- F. Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Albin that the Board of Education table the recommended motion that the Board of Education approve Policy #5320 – Weapons to a date certain, the first Board meeting in September.

Motion carried: 8:0:0.

5. New Business

- A. Mrs. Iacono moved, seconded by Mr. Liu that the Board of Education approve budget adjustments for 2010-2011.

Mrs. Iacono stated that Enclosure No. 9 is the budget modifications as recommended by the Finance, Budget and Community Relations Subcommittee. The committee received recommendations from central office as to where cuts could be made and some items were offered up from the table. It is the same format as last year: definite reductions, recommended cuts, and more Board discussion needed. There is one item that the subcommittee could not reach consensus on and needs more Board discussion; Music Option 3 - increase average group size of the strings lessons for grades 6-8. Should the Board decide to keep that as a cut, these recommendations could be voted on tonight. Should the Board decide to reinstate that, the Board will have to go back into the budget and look for another \$48,981 worth of savings. The last section of the spread sheet shows an area that is not recommended to pursue, and she asked the Board to only use it as a last resort.

Mrs. McWain briefly reviewed Enclosure No. 9. Under definite reductions, there are five items: special education excess cost reimbursement percent change of \$328,5000, medical insurance reduction of \$1,600,000, pension reduction of \$1,302, additional 7.1 fte savings of \$255,600 for retirements that were in excess of the 10.0 fte budgeted, and a secretarial position reduction of .6 fte for \$44,979. The total savings for those five items is \$2,230,381; leaving \$769,619 to come up with recommended reductions. There are three categories to come up with the funds: recommended, more Board discussion needed and not recommended. Mrs. McWain reviewed the recommended areas: reduce CogAT testing to one grade level, reduction (-.4) fte professional development coordinator, Music Option 1 - no new fte hired for music program (-.75), eliminate late bus on Tuesdays for middle and high school, reduce capital expenditures at all levels by 50%, maintenance reductions, and technology reductions. More Board discussion is needed on Music Option 3 - increase the average group size for stings grades 6-8.

Approximately 2 hours of Board questions, comments and discussion followed on the late bus, modification to the kindergarten bus for extended days, the \$1.6 million medical insurance

reduction, Music Option 3 to increase average group size for strings grades 6-8, and the medical insurance fund.

Mr. Kery made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Mr. Fattibene to refer \$600,000 back to subcommittee to look for a way to supplement the \$600,000.

Board discussion followed on the amendment. Dr. Clark asked that the Board accept the recommendations of the Finance subcommittee.

Mr. Kery withdrew his amendment and Mr. Fattibene withdrew his second.

Board comments followed on item Music Option 3 to increase the average group size for strings grades 6-8, and the reductions being made to the maintenance and technology accounts.

Mr. Kery moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to reduce the maintenance budget for the low voltage system preventative maintenance account by \$115,000 and put it in the account intended for wireless technology.

Board discussion followed on this amendment.

Public Comment on this Amendment-

Christine Sander, parent of a student going into middle school, asked if a program has been designed and developed to use this wireless network effectively so kids won't have unlimited access in school on the internet?

Vote on amendment failed: 1:6:0. Mr. Kery voted in favor. Mrs. Albin was not present during the vote.

Board comments continued on the main motion.

Public Comment – None

Vote on main motion carried: 8:0:0.

B. Discussion of Open Choice Program-

Dr. Clark stated that currently in this school year there are 70 students in the Open Choice program attending school in Fairfield. Traditionally, Fairfield has had 70 students per year from Bridgeport as part of this program. This year five students are graduating and there are two slots available in grade 1 at Jennings. Next year we would have 67 students instead of 70. Dr. Clark commented that because Board members expressed an interest in discussing the Open Choice program, this would be an opportune time to get Board input rather than just letting CES know there are two slots available.

Board questions and comments followed. It was the sense of the Board to add the two new students at Jennings and the Board will review this again next year.

C. Presentation of Healthy School Lunch Alternatives by Fuel for Learning Partnership-

Michelle McCabe, Chairperson of Fuel for Learning Partnership which is a PTA Council standing committee that was formed last year to encourage parents, students, teachers, food service staff, administrators, and Board of Education members to work together to improve the food served in our schools, gave a brief Power Point presentation highlighting new information that has become available regarding the negative impact of added ingredients on learning, academic performance, behavior and health. She commented on the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, various menu items, meal comparisons, ingredient list comparisons, the impact of various menu items, and the disconnect between the classroom and the cafeteria. She highlighted the "good news" and what

we can do better. She commented on the opportunities for phasing out food with unhealthy ingredients and slowly phasing in freshly prepared foods on site. She spoke in favor of participating in the Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification. She asked to work together to phase out these questionable ingredients and to phase in healthy ones, to sign up for the Healthy Food Certification and other programs that will generate revenue and to form an advisory committee to pinpoint areas of our menus where small changes could be made that will create tremendous benefits for our children.

Board comments and questions followed. It was the sense of the Board to pursue forming an advisory committee.

D. Discussion of Student Survey Concerning Breathalyzers-

Board comments, questions and discussion followed on conducting a student survey. Dr. Clark stated that in order to create an appropriate survey that will provide information that will be helpful in decision-making, she thinks it would be best to wait until the fall. High school administrators agreed. It was the sense of the body to pursue a survey. The survey will be referred to the policy committee for review at their next meeting.

6. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono to extend the meeting until 11:10 p.m.
Motion carried: 7:1:0. Mr. Mitola voted in opposition.

7. Public Comments and Petitions-

Mary Hogue, PTA Council President, thanked the Board for allowing FFLP to be on tonight's agenda and to give a presentation.

Nancy Church, Fleming Lane, commented on the school lunch program and the vending machines at the high school and reported that the items previously in the machines have been replaced with raisins, orange slices, wraps, Cesar salads, etc.

Charlotte Leslie, Hunter Road, thanked Michelle McCabe for her presentation on the connection between what children eat and how they act and learn in school. She commented on breathalyzers and the RYASAP Report. Children are telling us they are drinking and drinking excessively. She commented that breathalyzers send a clear message to students, and she is in favor of them..

Analiase Paik, Sky Top Terrace, commented in favor of the FFLP presentation. The healthy food standard was addressed years ago in a different form than this new program. She encouraged the Board to look at the Food Services budget; is there a surplus and does it need to be spent? If so, there is no better place than in improving school lunches.

Linda Murphy, Redding Road, commented on serving healthy foods that would mean her daughter would be awake for the afternoon and participate fully. She is grateful the ingredients are now on line. Her child is looking for freshly prepared food. She commented on the issue of student drinking and stated that she had a conversation with 10th grader who told her that kids are drinking and adults don't give them any consequences.

8. Reports and Recommendations-

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Clark stated that Board members will receive a written report in July in terms of the accomplishments of this year's strategic plan and the goals to look forward to. The Cultural Diversity Task Force would like to be on June 22 Board agenda to address the Plan to Reduce Racial Imbalance.

9. Mrs. Albin moved, seconded by Mrs. Iacono that this regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 11:05 p.m.
Motion carried: 8:0:0.