

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Policy Committee Meeting, 3/19/19

Policy Committee Minutes, 3/5/19

Finance Committee Minutes, 3/5/19

Solar Project Proposal, March 2019



Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Dates **2019**

March 19	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Meeting 501 Kings Hwy East Instructional Conference Room
March 26	6:30 PM	Non-Meeting/HYA 501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent's Conference Room
April 2	9:00 AM	Finance & Budget Committee 501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent's Conference Room
April 2	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Meeting 501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent's Conference Room
April 9	6:30 PM	Special Meeting/Negotiations 501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent's Conference Room
April 9	7:30 PM	Regular Meeting 501 Kings Hwy East 2 nd Floor Board Conference Room
April 24	7:30 PM	Special Meeting/Board Self-Evaluation 501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent's Conference Room
April 30	7:30 PM	Special Meeting/Town Hall 501 Kings Hwy East 2 nd Floor Board Conference Room

Town Budget Meetings:

BOF March 18, 7:30pm BoF Budget Review of BoE///BoF Vote: April 3, 7:30

RTM: (Review date/time TBD) Budget Vote: May 6, 8:00pm

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Instructional Conference Room

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of March 5, 2019 minutes
- III. Policy
 - a. Board of Education Handbook
 - b. Discussion of Homework Policy
- IV. Future Items
 - a. Homework
 - b. Students with Special Health Care Needs
 - c. Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs
- V. Open Discussion/Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

Future Meetings: April 2, April 30, May 14, June 4, June 18, August 26, September 3,
September 17, October 1, October 15, November 26, December 3

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, Superintendent's Conference Room unless otherwise noted.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Minutes

- Meeting called to order 5:00 PM
 - Present were Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and Jeff Peterson
- February 5, 2019 minutes approved 2-0
- Policy
 - Board of Education Handbook
 - The committee reviewed the background and content of the Handbook.
- Meeting adjourned 5:50 PM

Draft

**BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FAIRFIELD, CT
March 5, 2019
501 Kings Highway east
Superintendent's Conference Room**

Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:06am by Jennifer Leeper

Present: Members: Jennifer Leeper, Nick Aysseh, Christine Vitale
District staff: Dr. Toni Jones, Doreen Munsell
Public: No members of the public attended

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Aysseh made a motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2019 seconded by Mrs. Vitale. Motion passed 3-0.

Discussion: Budget implications from governor's proposed budget

Dr. Jones and Doreen Munsell commented that they were working on interpreting information as it came in and that there were still many unknowns. No information to present to the full board until something passes at the state level but staff will be continually monitoring it.

Discussion: First Selectman's proposed budget and staff analysis of next steps:

Dr. Jones and the committee discussed that staff will present the board with a list of areas to consider for finding the savings depending on what the final budget number is after all town bodies have voted on the budget.

Adjournment: Mr. Aysseh made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Leeper. The motion passed 3-0 and the meeting ended at 10:37am.

Respectfully submitted by
Nick Aysseh
Committee Member

*Pictures from this presentation have been removed



**Proposed Solar Sites
for
Fairfield Schools
for
Installation in 2019**

March 14, 2019

Roger Ludlowe Middle School

- Large Carport in front of school

Burr Street Elementary School

- We are limited in size by the Small ZREC
- We can install the carport on either end of the parking lot – designs for both ends presented here

Stratfield Elementary School

- We are limited in size by the small ZREC
- Current design is the single array in the back row of back lot

Holland Hill Elementary School

- Rooftop solar on new addition and sloped roof

Fairfield School Solar Projects	Capacity (kW)	Proposed PPA Rates / kWh	Estimated 1st year Generation	Savings	
				1st year	20 year
Roger Ludlowe MS	300.0	0.117	387,000	\$31,734	\$605,418
Burr Street ES	120.0	0.127	156,000	\$11,232	\$214,283
Stratfield ES	107.0	0.128	139,100	\$9,876	\$188,415
Holland Hill	83.9	0.077	104,648	\$12,767	\$243,569
Total	610.9	0.107	786,748	\$65,609	\$1,251,686

- 1st year savings are based on the current rate (\$0.199/kWh) less the PPA rate multiplied by estimated generation.
- 20-year savings are the sum of the annual savings. Neither PPA nor the utility rate escalates over these calculations.
- Annual solar generation decreases by 0.5% due to degradation of PV modules.

- Location / Visibility
 - Neighbors / General Public
 - School
 - Colors of Columns / Pads
- Parking Spots
 - Covered
 - Impacted by columns
- Paving and Snow Removal Access
- Lighting & Security Cameras
- Schedule

- Location / Visibility
 - Neighbors
 - School
 - Colors of Columns / Pads
- Parking Spots
 - Covered
 - Impacted by columns

All Carport Sites

- Paving and Snow Removal Access
 - Lighting & Security Cameras
 - Schedule
- Confirmed 12 ft heights satisfactory
 - Maintaining or improving existing levels
 - Parking lot interference over the summer

Location / Visibility

- **Neighbors:** Back of carport facing road, which is not preferable, but we will plant new trees along Unquowa Road to screen the carport. There are 4-5 neighbors we need to engage
- **School:** Front of carport facing school entrance. Lighting and security cameras will maintain parking lot security.
- **Colors of Columns / Pads:** Any color the school wants – we are showing blue pads around concrete base and no adjustment to steel color

Parking Spots

- **Covered:** 52 parking spots
- **Columns:** 7 columns impacting parking spaces
- **Impact:** 48 parking spots will be impacted and hence could be designated “compact”, which represent 21% of parking spots in the lot (for reference Fairfield Ludlowe HS’s carport impacts about 18% of spaces)

Location / Visibility

- **Neighbors:** Only one neighbor can see the back lot
- **School:** Back of carport facing school entrance, but in the back row of the lot. Lighting and security cameras will maintain parking lot security.
- **Colors of Columns / Pads:** We can make the steel color match the dark brown color of the school to keep the same character, and any color pads along the base.

Parking Spots

- **Covered:** 26 parking spots
- **Columns:** 5 columns impacting parking spaces
- **Impact:** 11 parking spots will be impacted and hence could be designated “compact”, which represent 14% of parking spots in the lot

Location / Visibility

- **Neighbors:** None
- **School:** Back of carport facing school entrance, and avoiding play areas of parking lot. Lighting and security cameras will maintain parking lot security.
- **Colors of Columns / Pads:** We can paint the columns white to match the school building or any color the school wishes.

Parking Spots

- **Covered:** 19 parking spots and the walkway to school
- **Columns:** 0 columns impacting parking spaces
- **Impact:** 0 parking spots will be impacted

Fairfield School Solar Carport Proposals

About the Project:

- 527 kilowatts of photovoltaic solar energy systems will be mounted on carport structures in the parking lots at Fairfield's Burr Elementary, Stratfield Elementary, and Roger Ludlowe Middle schools.
- Once completed, the solar carports will produce about 680,000 kWh, accounting for about 20% of the schools' electricity from solar power. Over the next 20 years, the electricity savings from the carports will exceed \$0.5 Million and could be over \$1.2 Million, depending on how much electricity prices increase over that time.
- If approved by BOE and BOS by May, the project can be completed during the summer of 2019.
- The carports will be designed, developed, and owned by the same company that installed the solar carports at Fairfield Warde and Ludlowe High Schools. Those systems generated over 1 million kWh of clean, solar energy, similar to amount of electricity used by 140 homes.

A Major Step Toward a Clean Energy Future:

The Town of Fairfield is known for many wonderful things, including beautiful neighborhoods, outstanding schools, terrific beaches and open spaces, and an amazing sense of community and shared history. Increasingly, Fairfield is also known in Connecticut as a leader in the implementation and use of clean energy – in particular, solar. In recent years, Fairfield has completed dozens of clean energy projects that have improved our air quality, reduced dependence on unstable fuel supplies, enhanced the security of our energy sources, and provided long term savings.

The high school solar carport projects that were completed in 2018 were a huge step forward in realizing a clean energy future for Fairfield – and provides tremendous tangible benefits for our community **today**. Serving as a real educational opportunity for our entire student population to learn first-hand about clean energy -- the systems are a striking symbol of Fairfield's clean energy leadership and our commitment to helping secure a better, more sustainable future for our families, our Town, and the world at large.



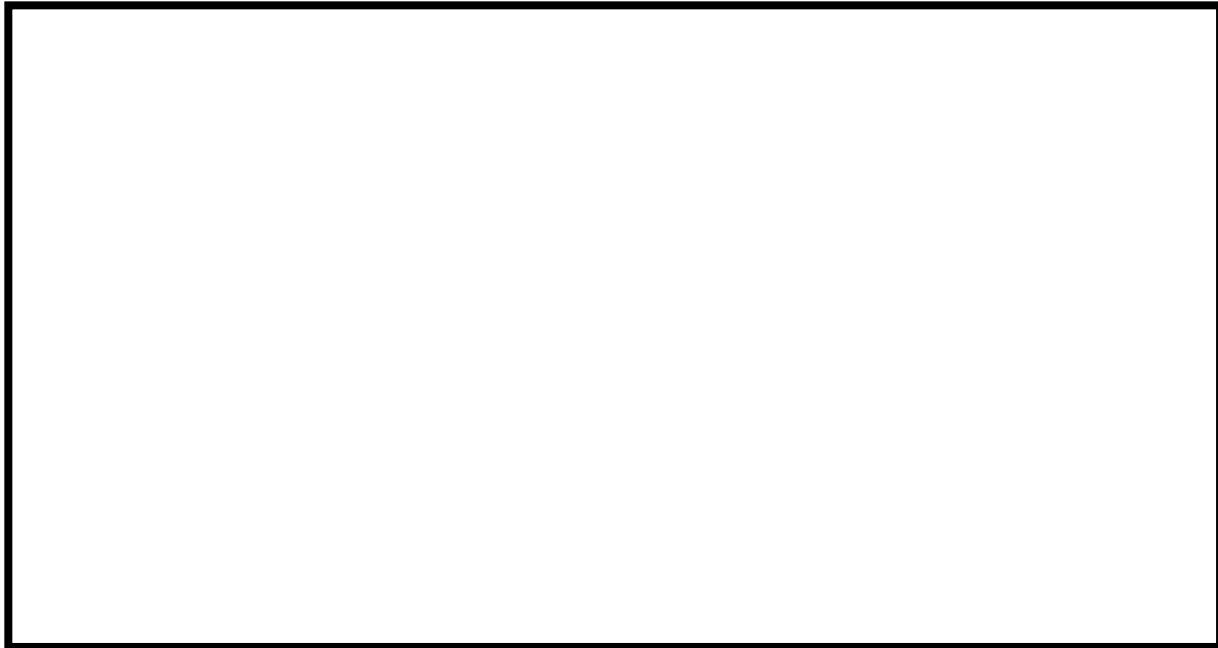
*Aerial View of the Carports at Fairfield Ludlowe High School.
Solar power provides 2/3 of the energy for Ludlowe and Warde High Schools.*

Powerful Benefits, Both Today and Tomorrow:

- **Energy Cost Savings:** The Town will save an average of \$27,000 per year on electricity costs. Over the 20-year life of the contracts, there is an estimated minimum **\$0.5 Million in economic benefit to the Town**, assuming no future increase in utility rates. If a conservative 3% utility increase is assumed, **the estimated savings is over \$1.2 Million.**
- **Amenities for Communities:** The installation will provide covered parking for students and visitors providing shelter from the elements.
- **A Positive Impact on Air and Health:** Under a power purchase agreement (PPA) with solar vendor Skyview Ventures, the Town's cost for installation or maintenance of the system is **zero.**

How a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Works:

Under the PPA, the solar power facility will be designed, financed, constructed, operated, insured, and maintained by Skyview, **with zero cost for Fairfield.** The Town simply agrees to purchase the solar-generated power at a lower rate than **today's** electricity rates, fixed for the next 20 years. After 20 years, the Town can own the solar system or can opt to have it removed. Solar systems have a typical lifespan of at least 30 years, so the remaining 10 years or more would be **incredibly inexpensive power** for the Town providing an additional \$500,000 plus in savings. The economic benefits of solar PPAs are greatly enhanced by federal and state incentives for such projects. Fairfield has successfully used PPA agreements on over two dozen solar projects in Town.



Artistic rendering of the proposed solar carports at Burr Elementary

For more information, please contact Scott Thompson, Sustainable Fairfield Task Force at fairfieldcleanenergy@gmail.com or 203-912-0211.

8. How will carports affect general traffic?

Columns should serve as traffic “calming” features. Busses, fire trucks, and plows can all fit under low point of canopy (12’). Large tractor trailers may not fit under low end (signage can be placed) but will have adequate pathways to make deliveries. We are consulting with the school Transportation Manager, John Ficke, to confirm that he has no concerns.

9. What happens if the solar vendor goes bankrupt?

The project will be fully bonded, so the bonding entity would identify a replacement vendor and use the bond money to complete the project.

10. Will neighbor views be affected?

There is very little visual impacts to neighbors. At Burr Street and Stratfield the carports are in back lots and if they can be seen, only impact the view of asphalt. At Roger Ludlowe Middle School, the carport is in the front lot, but we are working with the Fairfield Tree Warden and will plant new evergreen trees along Unquowa Road to screen the carport. In fact, once those trees are mature, that section of Unquowa Road will be more forested.

11. What neighborhood and community outreach will be conducted?

We will host public meetings in March/April 2019 to receive input from neighbors of each school. We will mail letters to all abutting and nearby neighbors and will post notices through PeachJar and on the Town website. We will go door-to-door to make contact with neighbors to discuss these projects, and will meet with each schools’ PTA.

12. Who is potentially liable if snow or ice or any other cause stemming from the carports and/or solar panels causes injury or property damages to cars or people?

Skyview, as the owner of the solar system, is responsible for damage caused by the carports. Snow guards will be erected to prevent snow from sliding off in sheets. The Town will handle plowing, salting, and sanding.

13. Do the solar panels generate any electricity if there is snow on them?

While generation will be reduced, the panels do have potential to generate some electricity while covered in snow. The estimated production of the system, and associated cost savings to the Town, takes into account loss of power due to snow cover.

14. Water discharged to the ground could result in freezing and cause safety hazards. How is melting snow runoff dealt with?

The existing stormwater drainage system will remain unchanged. Salt and sand will be applied by the school maintenance staff to prevent or address potential ice formation.

15. What “smart” features will be included in the carports?

The carports will be equipped with LED lighting, 120V exterior electrical outlets, and security cameras. The lighting and outlets will be timer-controlled. The security cameras will be tied to the school/FFPD system. The solar production will be recorded on a website for educational use by students.

16. Is electric vehicle (EV) charging provided? What is the cost?

The solar carports will be wired so that EV charging infrastructure may be easily added in the future.

17. What other towns have installed solar carports?

Towns throughout Connecticut have installed solar systems. Carport mounted systems have been installed in parking lots in Fairfield (Rec Center, both High Schools), Woodbridge, Westport, Plainville, and Hamden among others.

18. What happens at the end of the 20 year PPA agreement?

The Town may opt to buy the system thereby getting free electricity, have the vendor remove the system, enter into an extended O&M agreement, or enter into a new solar agreement.

19. Is there a danger that, at the end of 20 years, the Town will be “stuck” with outmoded technology?

Solar technology, like most electronics, changes periodically. One could always wait for better technology, but while waiting would not experience the benefits of existing technology, financial or other. Solar panels have a life-span of 30 years, and will save the Town money and reduce emissions throughout that lifespan.

20. Was the selection of Skyview a competitive process?

Yes, Skyview was selected as one of the Town’s system solar vendor through a competitive process administered by the Town. Skyview also had to compete for the renewable energy credit incentives awarded by United Illuminating for this project during the ZREC bidding process, before the PPA is finalized. Lastly, Skyview’s proposal offers competitive solar power at a fixed 20-year rate that is lower than today’s current utility prices.

21. What happens in case of a collision with a column?

Cushioning pads can be placed on the columns if requested so that minor impacts to vehicles can be mitigated. In the case of significant damage, that would be expected to be resolved between the insurance companies of the owner of the system, Skyview, and the vehicle operator, not the Town.

22. Will pick or drop off areas be affected?

Once the projects are completed, there will be no effect on pick up or drop off areas or their associated traffic patterns in the lots.

23. What are the environmental benefits of the project?

The environmental benefits are numerous, and include reduced air pollution and carbon emissions. Also, the parking lot, which is a highly degraded ecosystem, is turned into productive use, thereby reducing the need for solar development in other more sensitive areas.

24. What is the anticipated project schedule?

We will make an initial presentation to the BOE in March 2019 and are seeking approval of the project's conceptual design and PPA rates from BOE by April 2019. Upon subsequent approval of the PPA by BOS in May 2019, the detailed design will be finalized, final permits will be obtained, and materials will be ordered. Construction will be completed during summer months when school is out, and is expected to take about 10 weeks.

25. Will work impact other summertime construction activities?

Work will be coordinated with other simultaneous construction activities. Pre-construction phase planning has been initiated through the Fairfield School Construction and Safety office, and will continue to be coordinated with them in greater detail during construction.

26. Will school security be impacted?

The Fairfield Police Department will review the proposals to ensure they are in agreement with the projects as they pertain to schools security. The Fairfield Fire Department will also review and approve the proposals. The carport structures may affect existing sight-lines. Security cameras will be mounted under the carports and connected to each buildings' security systems, providing a net security benefit.

27. How much will this project cost?

The project costs the Town nothing and the net savings, stated above, is significant. There is no capital investment required from the Town. The system is designed, built, operated, maintained, insured, owned, etc. by a 3rd party. The Town will agree to purchase power made by the system at a rate that is lower than current conventional electricity, and is fixed for 20 years. A Power Purchase Agreement will be developed and executed based on standard template that has been used for over 20 other Town solar projects.

28. What are the educational benefits of the project?

The solar carports will serve as a very tangible learning tool for the schools. Classes may benefit from the study of solar power production and low emissions vehicles. All grade levels can use these real structures as touchpoints or field trip destinations to study renewable, clean energy. The Clean Energy Task Force can support the integration of these learning tools into the school's curriculum and will continue its mission of raising awareness of these technologies and their benefits within the entire Fairfield community.