



Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda  
501 Kings Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room  
April 9, 2019  
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Student Reports
  - Fairfield Ludlowe High School: Ms. Coolidge, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Holtz
  - Fairfield Warde High School: Mr. Rivera, Ms. Solari
4. Public Comment\*
5. Presentation
  - A. Presentation of [Music Curriculum](#), Grades 6-12
  - B. Fairfield Cares – Presentation of RYASAP Survey Results
6. Old Business
  - A. Facilities Update  
(Enclosure Nos. 1, 2)
7. New Business
  - A. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fairfield Board of Education and the Fairfield Educational Paraprofessionals Union  
**Recommended Motion:** “that the Board of Education approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fairfield Board of Education and the Fairfield Educational Paraprofessionals Union, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021”
  - B. Establish Date and Time of Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Fairfield Warde High School Graduation  
**Recommended Motion:** “that the Board of Education establish **Friday, June 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM** as the date and time of graduation for Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Fairfield Warde High School”  
(Enclosure No. 3)
  - C. First Read of Fairfield School Solar Proposal at School Sites
  - D. Budget Update
8. Approval of Minutes  
**Recommended Motion:** “that the Board of Education approve the following minutes:
  - 2-27-2019 6:30 BOE Special Meeting
  - 2-27-2019 7:30 BOE Special Meeting/Town Hall
  - 3-12-2019 BOE Regular Meeting”  
(Enclosure Nos. 4, 5, 6)
9. Superintendent’s Report
10. Committee/Liaison Reports

- 11. Open Board Comment
- 12. Public Comment\*
- 13. Adjournment

**Recommended Motion:** “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”

*\*During this period the Board will accept public comment on items pertaining to this meeting’s agenda from any citizen present at the meeting (per BOE By-Law, Article V, Section 6). Those wishing to videotape or take photographs must abide by CGS §1-226.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 23, 2019 Special Meeting/Executive Session	7:30 PM	501 Kings Hwy East Superintendent’s Conference Room
April 30, 2019 Special Meeting/Town Hall	7:30 PM	501 Kings Hwy East 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room
May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting	7:30 PM	501 Kings Hwy East 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room

RELOCATION POLICY NOTICE

*The Fairfield Public Schools System provides services to ensure students, parents and other persons have access to meetings, programs and activities. The School System will relocate programs in order to ensure accessibility of programs and activities to disabled persons. To make arrangements, please contact the office of Special Education, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825, Telephone: (203) 255-8379.*

# FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**DRAFT**

March 2019

## **Redistricting: Guiding Principles**

1. Consider the impact on Busing and Walkers

**BoE Policy and Regulation**

*School bus transportation shall be provided for students living in excess of the following walking distances from their neighborhood schools:*

- *Elementary  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile;*
- *Middle 1 mile; and*
- *High 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.*

(State Guidelines grades K-2, 1 mile; grades 4-8, 1.5 miles; grades 9-12, 2.0 miles)

2. Bus rides should not exceed one hour for special needs students unless parents have provided permission.
3. Target 30-40 minute bus rides as the average.
4. Phase out all temporary solutions (portables) when possible and/or do not increase use.
5. Headroom capacities - 90% shall be targeted by rooms available after subtracting unique programs
  - a. Consider deficiencies of existing facilities
  - b. Consider utilization of program space needs PK-12
6. Maintain District Guidelines for class size



## **Redistricting: Guiding Principles**

*Approved by BOE, November 17, 2015*

1. Established neighborhoods should be maintained
  - a. Natural and manmade boundaries (rivers, highways) shall be reviewed when determining attendance lines
2. Consider the impact on Busing and Walkers
  - a. Students currently allowed to walk to school should be able to maintain that status
  - b. Long bus rides are to be avoided
3. Safety issues shall be considered
  - a. Traffic patterns
  - b. Walking patterns
4. Phase out all temporary solutions (portables)
5. Headroom capacities - 90% shall be targeted
  - a. Consider deficiencies of existing facilities
6. Maintain District Guidelines for class size
7. Siblings should attend same schools
  - a. Avoid crossing feeder plans
  - b. Grandfather 5<sup>th</sup> graders
8. Create the least amount of disruption

*Accepted as the Final Report from the Adhoc Redistricting Committee.*



Toni Jones, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## S u p e r i n t e n d e n t M e m o r a n d u m

**To:** Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Toni Jones  
**Date:** April 9, 2019  
**Re:** 2019 Date of High School Graduation and Last Day of School

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After careful thought and planning by FPS staff, the proposed date for Fairfield Warde and Fairfield Ludlowe High School graduation is Friday, June 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

It is also proposed that Friday, June 14, 2019 be the last day of school as an early dismissal day, district-wide for all students (PK-12). With this proposal, Fairfield students will have 181\* instructional days. Teachers will still be required to report on Monday, June 17, 2019, in order to meet their contractual obligations.

The following was factored into this proposal:

- Exam Schedule
- Student Awards Schedule
- Expense of an early-dismissal, final day on a Monday (i.e. \$40K in transportation)
- High Absenteeism
- College Orientation
- Father's Day Weekend

*\*February 12, 2019 and March 4, 2019 were snow days. (The 2018-2019 school calendar does not have extra instructional days in the event of inclement weather, and shows Thursday, June 13, 2019 as the last day of school.) The state requires 180 instructional days.*

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**Special Meeting Notes, 6:30 PM  
Fairfield BoE; February 27, 2019**

**Call to order of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Christine Vitale called the Special Meeting to order at 6:32PM. Present were members Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Leeper, Philip Dwyer, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Jacobsen, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and Jeff Peterson. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, Stephen Sedor, and Jim Walsh.

**Business Items**

**Board Discussion: Collective Bargaining**

Ms. Pytko moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education hereby moves to enter into Executive Session to discuss records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining and invite into executive session Attorney Sedor, BoF member Jim Walsh and Dr. Jones in accordance with Connecticut General Statute CGS 1-210(b)." Motion passed 9-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:30PM

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Aysseh seconded the recommended motion "that this Special Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn." Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

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**Special Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE; February 27, 2019**

**Call to order of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Christine Vitale called the Regular meeting to order at 7:40PM. Present were members Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Leeper, Philip Dwyer, Jessica Gerber, Christine Vitale, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, and Jeff Peterson. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 25 members of the public.

**New Business**

**Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fairfield School Administrators Association and the Board of Education: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023**

Mr. Peterson moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fairfield School Administrators Association and the Board of Education: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023."

Mr. Peterson, as the BoE liaison to the negotiating team, voiced his support.

Motion passed 9-0.

**Sherman Building Committee Update**

**Mr. Eric Lang**, building committee chair spoke to the issues regarding Phase Three of the Sherman project. Last month the committee received a cost estimate which came in significantly over budget, so the committee has been working on various ways to rein things in and get the project on track. There are budgetary restrictions on this project due to Sherman's location. The committee has been looking at value engineering or places to reduce scope. They are looking for input from the Board as to what the Board believes the priorities should be for the building committee, knowing that they need to stay within the budget. He provided a handout to the Board that delineated possible changes. Removal of stage addition is one possibility. The driving force behind the cost increases lies with the HVAC and life safety upgrades.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** said that her priority would be getting AC at the school. She recognizes the possibility of adding another Phase to complete all the work.

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**Ms. Pytko** agreed.

**Mr. Aysseh** said that when the Board initially spoke about this project there was discussion regarding which improvements would trigger the FEMA cap and which ones would not. **Mr. Lang** called his attention to the handout the Board had received. The only two things not restricted by FEMA are sitework and soft costs. Items in green are identified as those the BC wants to pursue; the items in white are the ones being proposed to be eliminated. The HVAC controls item at \$240k is the cost to tie in all of the systems for heating and cooling. **Mr. Aysseh** asked about the stage addition and was told that not doing it would make Sherman an outlier. **Mr. Aysseh** also voiced his concerns about the \$240k tied to the AC and why this wasn't made more clear during Phase Two. He also asked about the sitework and the Stop, Kiss N Go and the costs associated with that and **Mr. Lang** provided a lengthy explanation as to how they arrived at where they are at this point. **Mr. Aysseh** said he felt that the primary focus should be on AC as opposed to the Kiss N Go line.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** asked about the information in the handout and said she was unclear as to the costs related to what has been budgeted. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the BC chair coming to the Board. It was agreed upon that this was a way for the Board to get a sense of the body to give guidance as to what the BC's priorities should be.

**Ms. Pytko** asked about how many schools have a Stop Kiss N Go line; **Mr. Cullen** said he believed all did. **Ms. Pytko** said that she agreed with **Mr. Aysseh** that changing the stage could be problematic because she wants all schools to be equitable.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that we shouldn't go over the FEMA cap. Safety of children is paramount, which leads him to believe that AC would be top priority, followed by sitework and stage. **Mr. Lang** said that with the stage – they're not proposing adding a stage in the gym but modifying it in the APR to create more flexibility. **Mr. Dwyer** asked about the Sherman community's reaction to the three options. **Mrs. Vitale** said there were mixed reactions to Kiss N Go from different parents. **Dr. Jones** said she believes that the Kiss N Go changes could be taken out and it wouldn't be a problem. **Mr. Dwyer** said that when this topic comes back to the Board he will ask Dr. Banner if he believes that the changes are what the school community wants.

**Mrs. Jacobson** asked about the removal of the stage and if it's been accepted by the Sherman community. **Mr. Lang** said he didn't get much



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feedback on that, more on AC, life safety and lockers.

### **Legislative Update**

**Mrs. Jacobson** said that she had provided the Board with a comprehensive update via email. She has been closely following issues that could impact our district. The Board has links to the state budget. Should certain areas move forward there will be an impact on Fairfield. Many committees are reviewing bills that could make possible changes related to education. **Ms. Pytko** asked: what should Fairfielders do in terms of voicing their concerns; whom do they contact. Mrs. Jacobson said that people should contact the state delegation. There will be public hearings; people can submit testimony in advance or attend in person. **Dr. Jones** said that there are still many unknowns; she is keeping an eye on things.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** said that people can also contact the First Selectman, who met with the Governor not long ago, so there appears to be an open line of communication. **Mrs. Vitale** said that PTAs can also be a source of information. **Mrs. Jacobson** said to submit testimony in advance of Friday's hearing.

**Mrs. Vitale** said that this was supposed to be a working meeting with a free flow of ideas. Redistricting can be an emotional topic. Would like to say that just because something is discussed tonight does not mean it will happen. No one should assume that just because an idea is broached that it will happen. The Board is trying to be transparent in their discussions.

What problem is the Board trying to solve – the Board members should share their specific ideas and concerns.

**Mr. Peterson** said that there is a conceptual gap between what the public is seeing and what the Board is discussing. It's difficult to bridge.

**Ms. Pytko** said she wants to discuss the ECC. She believes that it should operate under one central model. When she first came on the Board there weren't as many issues. She believes redistricting may need to happen. She is concerned that the state will not provide funding for school construction projects.

**Mr. Peterson** said he has heard all of the public comment on the ECC but wonders if one site is the only answer. IF the initial site was ideal and is now overcrowded, perhaps two sites wouldn't be a bad thing. It's a conceptual idea he's been wrestling with.

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**Mr. Aysseh** said that regarding Sherman, which is over 100% capacity, . He thought that Holland Hill's renovation and expansion lends itself to redistributing student population numbers and making capacity numbers more equitable. Wonders how the MH project also plays into this. If enrollment numbers in the beach area were dwindling. Dwight as a building has many needs but their numbers are lower; what will this mean. Won't advocate for closing a school and losing that building based on past actions. But he isn't opposed to looking at an ECC site in an elementary school. Does the Board want one ECC site or two? If one, an elementary school site may be the only answer. Also mentioned AC in schools – how can the Board deal with this and get all schools equipped with AC? Times have changed and not having AC has become a health and safety concern. Need to figure out prioritization and may have to rework the waterfall chart.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** said that Board needs to look at the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and how the school district is impacted by that. Should the Board reach out to the TPZ and the planning and zoning department at Town Hall? And need to talk about structural change issues that the town bodies have asked the BoE to discuss.

**Ms. Leeper** said that the ECC decision will impact all others. Questioned the increasing enrollment at the ECC in regards to the decision between one and two sites. The program will continue to grow; the Board needs to consider this. Concerned about AC as well in terms of health and safety. Also liked the idea of getting costs to install AC for all schools without and take it to the town to see if there is interest in moving forward.

**Ms. Pytko** said that WFC campus is also a concern to her. Also asked about Math Academy – if implemented, will those numbers grow. Reiterated her belief that one ECC site is important.

**Mrs. Jacobson** said that she wants to hear what the Board members' concerns are. Agreed about WFC concerns and AC need.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that while we all want to do everything we can't. Aligned with Mr. Peterson in that one site for ECC might not be feasible. Concerned about what will happen when the Superintendent and Chair go to Hartford regarding racial imbalance. Regarding redistricting – is this something the Board wants to do. Redistricting regarding the two high schools – should the Board look at this? Also wants to look at ECC decision of one versus two sites. Agrees with Mr. Aysseh that it will be a difficult sell to get MH as a 504 school. Board needs to look at guidelines as they

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pertain to neighborhood schools. If MH is only approved as a 378 school should we perhaps look at other ways to spend the capital dollars? WFC is also a concern, though perhaps not as urgent. Sees nothing wrong with putting forth a 15-year proposal of installing AC at all schools, likening it to the effort to get rid of portables, and to increase school security measures. Understands that structural change is a nice phrase but need to understand what type of change you're willing to accept. You can't create efficiencies unless you are willing to have larger class sizes, and even slightly increasing class sizes won't realize significant savings.

**Mrs. Jacobson** said that we need to understand where the town is building capacity in town. What is being built where.

**Mr. Peterson** said that it's time for bold change, or at least the Board should discuss it. He has said that the town needs a comprehensive top down redistricting. He won't shy away from it. We are past the point of half measures.

**Mrs. Vitale** wants to look at Sherman. Concerned about the capacity of the school and overcrowding. How will any future major storms impact the beach area. Adding onto Sherman may not be the most cost-effective measure since there is space in other buildings and other buildings have needs. If Sherman becomes even more crowded where will the students go? They shouldn't have more portables or Art and Music on a cart. Need to look at the infrastructure of our schools and how town development may impact it.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** asked Dr. Jones that if there are any possible new programs on the horizon that may impact space utilization it would be helpful for the Board to know.

**Mrs. Jacobson** asked about the possible incentive regionalization regarding SPED services.

**Dr. Jones** said that everything being discussed is still in the planning stages. Hasn't heard such about regionalized SPED services. We have CES already.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that the facilities notebook needed to be updated regarding waterfall. Asked about the building principals. Should Board commit to saying that the information in the book is what drives future facilities decisions? BoE needs to decide most important issue to address and then take it from there and determine other priorities.

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Mrs. Jacobson said that some of the info in the notebook is outdated at this time. Should have some updates on enrollment and utilization.

Dr. Jones said that the utilization is based not just on general ed classrooms in a building; need to look at programming.

Mr. Peterson asked about the site acreage for Riverfield; it seems large. Mr. Cullen said the info is current.

Mrs. Jacobson asked if there would be updated enrollment and utilization. She asked to get a by-school programming breakout. Mr. Dwyer said that he thought school administrators usually have a clear description of how their schools are utilized. Dr. Jones said that she's not sure if they have updated information for this year; she will check

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about the 273 number for MH; there was a discussion that took place before which said MH was 378. Dr. Jones said that this shows the space deficiencies at this school. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly is concerned that having 273 as the number will make it seem that building to a 378 will add enough space. Dr. Jones said you are looking at capacity vs. utilization.

Mrs. Vitale said that for MH the 273 is acknowledging the fact that some full sized classrooms are being used for other programs. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said that to avoid confusion perhaps there should be two floor plans provided.

Mrs. Vitale said that the Board should discuss the ECC.

Ms. Pytko said that she wants to advocate for what's best for our students. Practically all of the staff from the ECC said that one site was optimal; we should listen to them.

Mrs. Gerber said that if one site is all the Board wants to consider then we are looking at moving the ECC to a 504 school and redistricting 100 or more students; or we are looking at moving the ECC to a smaller elementary school and redistricting all of the students (300+). There will also be impact to the MS and HS feeders. IS this type of upheaval necessary or could there be two ECC sites in two 504 schools that will make less of an impact.

Mr. Aysseh said that he doesn't think we could close an elementary school but could repurpose it as an ECC. Thinks that two sites could work if

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every effort is made to create equality. Believes that either way the Board needs to start taking action and make a decision sooner rather than later.

**Mr. Peterson** said that we need to look at the negative impact that could result from repurposing too many general ed classrooms on the elementary level. Wants to know what the optimal number is for an ECC program.

**Mr. Aysseh** said that Board members need to speak out as to where we stand on the ECC decision. Mrs. Vitale said that the Board won't be voting but needs to start making decisions.

**Ms. Leeper** is worried about continuing to kick the topic down the road without heading in some specific direction. She would like to get a sense of the body.

**Mr. Mancusi** said that he visited five other school districts and met with staff and parent focus groups regarding the future of the ECC. The parents and staff predominantly want one site. He and Kristen Bruno looked at all of the facets necessary for a top notch ECC program. He believes that the program in Fairfield can be delivered in one site or two.

**Mrs. Gerber** asked about the sizes of the ECC sites in other districts.

**Mrs. Jacobson** asked about the state information providing details on outcome data and how it correlates to the type of ECC sites in each district. Mr. Mancusi said they did not.

**Mrs. Vitale** asked if the program would change if in one site of over 200 students. **Ms. Bruno** said that no matter the number of sites she would look at providing proper components for an ECC regardless of the size. **Mr. Mancusi** said that if a program continues to grow the staff would continue to grow and perhaps there would be some changes, but they would still strive for the collaborative model.

**Dr. Jones** said that you're never going to get an answer saying that one model is better than the other. It's about the culture and climate that you create, the resources you provide, all of the components. There is no right way to do it.

**Mr. Dwyer** asked that if being at an elementary school would help better facilitate the increase of the peer ratio? **Mr. Mancusi** said that increasing the peer ratio was helpful.

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**Ms. Bruno** said she believed that 75% or higher of the students were receiving services. **Ms. Pytko** said that the model we have right now works. The positive impact on students is proof that this model works. **Mr. Mancusi** said that parents at Stratfield ECC also feel that they've gotten the appropriate services and a high-quality program.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** asked for the number of the preschool enrollment and the number of the students receiving itinerant services. Dr. Jones said that changes constantly.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that he is always inclined to listen to the staff input. That said he doesn't see the feasibility of doing a one site ECC.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** said that she's been leaning towards having one ECC site. She is curious as to, if we went back 15 years, would the Board approve one or two high schools. If we go to two ECC sites, there will be a perception as to one site is better than another, no matter what we do. There is no question that there are two different cultures in our high schools and that those two schools are not as viewed as being the same. She worries that the same will happen if there are two ECC sites. We probably won't hear about this perception until many years from now, but this decision will impact the lives of many parents and students.

**Mr. Mancusi** said that we get an annual performance report from the state including Early Childhood outcome data. He believes we can provide our youngest learners an excellent program for one site and for two sites.

**Mrs. Vitale** asked for a sense of the body. Ms. Leeper, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Jacobson, Mr. Peterson all leaned towards supporting two while voicing the complexity and difficulty in coming to that decision; Ms. Pytko and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly supported one.

**Mrs. Vitale** said that the location of the ECC sites would probably have to the next topic that the Board could discuss, with input from Dr. Jones and staff.

**Ms. Pytko** asked that staff come up with a list of buildings and any limitations and have tours for Board members should they desire them. Mrs. Vitale said that there are many issues regarding the ECC that need to be examined and discussed in the future.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that the Board is giving the staff direction to look into what

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two sites might be optimal, and then allow the Board to vote on that. Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Gerber and Mrs. Vitale discussed the different criteria that would be viewed as ideal for ECC sites in schools; Dr. Jones mentioned the rubric that had been put together in looking at sites and said it and the results could be shared with the Board. Dr. Jones said that the Board now needs to decide if they are willing to redistrict, as that decision will impact which schools would work for an ECC site.

Mr. Aysseh said that the Board needs more information regarding the possible ES sites for an ECC site or sites. Now that the majority of the Board has indicated an interest in moving forward with two ECC sites that somewhat changes the focus of the discussion regarding which elementary schools would work for an ECC site in the long run. Perhaps the waterfall chart should be revamped. The Board needs guidance to move forward with a discussion on which sites to use. He said that Holland Hill or Mill Hill could both be possibilities for a number of reasons but he would still like to get some staff input.

Mrs. Jacobson said that since some Board members have expressed interest in a top down redistricting it might be premature to come up with sites for ES ECCs. That said she does think that at least one site if not both should be centrally located. Looks forward to hearing staff recommendations. Is hesitant to say where, although Holland Hill could be an option for a number of reasons.

Mrs. Vitale is looking for Board input at this point.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said that McKinley and Holland Hill or McKinley and Burr were two pairings she had thought about. Would like to avoid having ECCs reflect the two high school districts. Having two sites in close proximity could be helpful for a number of reasons.

Mr. Dwyer said he heard Dr. Jones mention rubrics being used to evaluate sites; he will rely on analysis of the rubrics

Ms. Leeper said she is interested in the Mill Hill idea for an ECC site.

Mr. Aysseh said that the site could be viable, but not sure it necessitates a 504 capacity.

Mrs. Vitale said that the more info Board members share the better.

Mrs. Jacobson asked whether there was one school that was more or less represented at the ECC; Dr. Jones said that only Dwight didn't have

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significant representation; all other schools were pretty much represented the same.

**Ms. Pytko** said that the feeder plan should be considered in discussions regarding the ECC.

**Dr. Jones** mentioned the information provided for Board members regarding busers.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** mentioned some schools that don't have any walkers and asked if Mill Hill was one of those; Dr. Jones said that MH only has 11 walkers.

**Mr. Dwyer** mentioned that Burr is listed as having 50 walkers, which he thought was odd considering Burr's location.

**Mrs. Vitale** said that for next steps, the Town Hall will be Tuesday, April 30. Is open to suggestions from the Board as to what else the BoE should be doing.

**Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly** mentioned the possibility of reaching out to TPZ or Strategic Planning representatives.

**Mrs. Gerber** said that getting info about potential ECC sites could be a good next step.

**Mr. Dwyer** said that the redistricting question has to be on the top of the list for next topics to be discussed. The consultants need to get clear directions.

**Mrs. Vitale** asked if we should go through the redistricting principles or have more public input. She said she would put the redistricting principles review on the next meeting agenda.

**Mrs. Gerber** said that the Board has many meetings coming up and the Board should not overload their schedules.

**Mrs. Jacobson** asked for an update on WFC. Also how will the MH size play into these discussions?

**Adjournment**



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Ms. Pytko moved/Ms. Leeper seconded the recommended motion "that this Special Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn." Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:59PM

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**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, March 12, 2019**

**NOTICE:** A full meeting recording can be obtained from Fairfield Public Schools. Please call 203-255-8371 for more information and/or see the FPS website (under Board Meeting Minutes) for a link to FAIRTV.

**Voting Summary:**

**Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Christine Vitale called the Regular meeting to order at 7:33PM. Present were members Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Leeper, Philip Dwyer, Jessica Gerber, Christine Vitale, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, and Jeff Peterson. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, FLHS student reps Ms. Coolidge and Ms. Phillips and FWHS student reps Mr. Rivera and Ms. Solari, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 40 members of the public.

**Old Business**

*Adoption of Policy 5141.21 – Students – Administration of Medication in the Schools*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Peterson seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education adopt Policy 5141.21 – Students – Administration of Medication in the Schools.” Motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Jacobsen seconded to extend the meeting to 11:15PM. Motion passed 6-3 (Ms. Leeper, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Jacobsen, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly in favor; Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Peterson against).

**New Business**

*Appointment of Superintendent Search Firm*

Ms. Pytko moved/Mr. Peterson seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education appoint Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates as the search firm to assist in hiring a new Superintendent of Schools and authorize the Chairman of the Board to negotiate a contract based on the response to the RFP dated 2/1/19.” Motion passed 9-0.

*Approval of Amended 2019-2020 Student Calendar due to Primary Date: April 28, 2020*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 amended student calendar, as enclosed, to reflect April 28, 2020 as a non-school day.” Motion passed 9-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Pytko moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion, “that the Board of Education approve the following minutes:

January 8, 2019 (Regular)

January 15, 2019 (Special)

January 22, 2019 (Special)

January 24, 2019 (Regular and Special.”

Motion passed 9-0.

## Adjournment

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.” Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:12PM.

## Detailed Minutes:

### Student Reports

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Solari reported for Fairfield Warde: Wrestling coach Shaughnessy recently celebrated the team’s 400<sup>th</sup> victory; the Girl’s Co-op Ski Team won the CT State Championship for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; the Dance Team won the State Championship in Hip-Hop; the Bowling Team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in their league; numerous teams qualified for state tournaments including girls basketball, girls and boys ice hockey, girls and boys indoor track, gymnastics, cheerleading, boys swimming and co-op fencing; Warde hosted a blood drive for seniors and teachers; 8<sup>th</sup> graders toured Warde; 22 students were recently honored at the Mustang Values Personified (MVP) breakfast; the Junior Achievement Business Challenge Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> to FLHS; and the jazz band placed first at Norwalk’s high school jazz competition.

Ms. Coolidge and Ms. Phillips reported for Fairfield Ludlowe: The Freshman Forum was held on March 7; the Operation Hope Dinner will take place on March 21; Preparations for Project Runway are underway; varsity cheerleaders will be travelling to Disney World to compete and defend their national title; NEASC accreditation visit is taking place; juniors are in the process of registering with the National Honor Society; Mr. Parisi and Mr. Nulf held their ‘Taste of the Trail’ event recounting the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Mr. Peterson appreciated the FLHS NEASC reception and the wonderful performance by the student acapella group.

### Presentations

#### *District Improvement Plan (DIP) Mid-year Update*

Mr. Cummings referenced the DIP update and responded to Board questions:

- Items ‘in progress’ are expected to be completed on time.
- Low enrollment in the ELL Newcomer Academy was due to fewer students moving in at Levels 1-2. Enrollment will be monitored and the program can be implemented at any level if needed.
- World Language tech apps for students in K-2 are being considered partly due to budgetary reasons, and partly due to not having adequate staff or enough instructional time. The idea is to integrate an interactive program with simple skills such as letters, numbers and colors, in a center-style format.
- Feedback from the Science testing is expected to follow the SBA timeline, in late summer.
- The new Middle School schedule will be presented to the Board in May/June 2019, but not implemented until 2020-21.

- The new Elementary Facilitator position has been an unqualified success and has accomplished its goal to free up principals to be in classrooms and build sped leadership skills. The district is fortunate to have people with excellent skillsets hired to do this work.
- Budget holds on technology do not impact this list.
- The new ADA-compliant website is expected to be live over the summer.

### *World Language Curriculum – Status Update*

Ms. Frankel (Coordinator), Ms. Mwambulukutu, Ms. Seara, Ms. Cardoso and Ms. Shore presented the World Language (WL) Curriculum update. The group highlighted the differences in the 2009 vs. 2015 curriculum and gave classroom examples from grades 3-12. World Language now uses authentic sources as primary resources, rather than textbooks. The use of Chromebooks facilitates the use of online sources and a bank of authentic resources is shared. In addition, WL has moved from teaching grammar in isolation, to teaching grammar structure in context. One of the examples of the shift from 2009, was a student’s descriptive letter, written to the President of the Dominican Republic, which garnered a written response.

One of the presentation slides stated “We are no longer teaching students about a language, we are teaching students to use the language.” Proficiency levels are identified as Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. Proficiency is tested with the STAMP and ALIRA tests. There have been some adjustments of assessments and rubrics since the curriculum was first implemented. Some of the next steps include awarding the Seal of Biliteracy to qualifying students and instituting a new course – Introduction to Culture and Communication.

The group responded to questions:

- The Biliteracy Award requires English and reaching Int/Med Proficiency in another language.
- The STAMP test will not count towards a grade this year for seniors.
- Ms. Phillips said, as a student, she experienced the transition to the new curriculum and felt more grammar instruction would be helpful. Ms. Frankel said traditional instruction of grammar encourages memorization and rehearsed use of language; being understood is the goal. Ms. Frankel emphasized that grammar is taught within context and AP scores have not dropped.
- The baseline proficiency tests are STAMP and ALIRA.
- Authentic materials are considered superior to a textbook, as materials are created by native speakers and contain current events. One source for Latin is a daily newspaper.
- Common assessments ensure consistent delivery of curriculum. Resources and materials are shared.
- AP is not offered for Italian or Mandarin. The earlier students are exposed to language, the easier it is to learn it. Middle school students are exposed to Latin, Chinese and Italian as possible courses for 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the high school scheduling process.

### *Business Curriculum - Status Update*

Ms. Terwilliger (Coordinator), Ms. McGuigan, Mr. Zhitomi, Ms. Finn and Ms. Moses presented the Business Curriculum Update.

The Business Curriculum offers 21 courses with 4 AP classes, offering a broad array that touches upon the top college majors such as computer science, communications, business and economics. The Entrepreneurship course was featured on News 8, as students managed the development, sales and marketing of their clothing product. During the previous 5 years, FPS students scored higher than the CT average on AP tests in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Computer Science. Students also collaborate to service outside clients, for example, marketing students work with art and video production students to develop client advertising. The Business Dept. has also grown tremendously since 2009, and more students are taking more business classes every year. Recognizing the growth, the FPS Chapter of the prestigious National Business Honor Society was founded in 2018.

In addition, the Business department was excited to share:

- FLHS has won the JA Business Challenge 5 years in a row
- A partnership with World Language led to an upcoming overseas field trip to China
- Partnership with the Amazon Future Engineering Program

Next steps include a continuous quality education, reinforcing workplace competencies and successful learning experiences.

The presenters responded to Board questions:

- Low enrollment for the Financial Literacy course is being addressed through student marketing of the course, and enrollment is starting to grow. Ms. Leeper said she felt this was a very important course for all students and would like to see more students enrolled.
- The gender gap continues to close.
- Computer class enrollment is usually maxed out, in part due to introduction of coding at the middle school level.
- AP testing determines mastery for the graduation requirement, the Business department has discussed this but there is no other test or competition at this time that fulfills the mastery requirement. They can work on this.
- The Business Honor Society membership has GPA requirements, but anyone can join the Future Business Leaders of America.
- Ethics is integrated almost daily into business courses. For example, accounting students study Enron and insider trading.
- The curriculum changes by keeping up with trends. Chromebooks and the computer lab have been very helpful.

Mr. Aysseh congratulated the business apparel students and encouraged them to continue on as entrepreneurs. Mrs. Vitale thanked staff and BOE members that voted for the block schedule, allowing students to take more electives. Mr. Rivera added that his schedule included several business courses and he will be studying Business at UCONN next year.

## Old Business

### *Adoption of Policy 5141.21 – Students – Administration of Medication in the Schools*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mr. Peterson seconded that the Board of Education adopt Policy 5141.21 – Students – Administration of Medication in the Schools.

Mr. Aysseh asked for a minor formatting change on page 3 and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly agreed.

## Motion Passed: 9-0

## New Business

### *Review of Redistricting Guiding Principles*

Mrs. Vitale requested Board input on the (8) Redistricting Guiding Principles, as previously approved by Board in 2015.

#1 – *‘Established neighborhoods should be maintained...’* Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Dwyer. Ms. Pytko and Mr. Peterson discussed striking this item as too restrictive.

#2 – *‘Consider Impact on Busing and Walkers...’* Mr. Peterson said this item should be stricken. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly mentioned that parents tend to drive students to school, even if within walking distance. Mrs. Gerber was sensitive to the possibility of increasing busing costs, and recounted how a past redistricting solution would have bused walkers who were within sight of their school. Ms. Pytko questioned what was meant by a ‘long bus ride.’ Generally, the Board agreed that bus rides should not exceed one hour. Dr. Jones added that distances for ridership could be expanded, and current busses are not running empty due to proactive measures.

#3 – *‘Safety issues shall be considered...’* After some discussion, the Board generally felt this was an obvious requirement. Students in unsafe walk zones are bused.

#4 – *‘Phase out all temporary solutions (portables).’* Mr. Aysseh agreed with this item and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly suggested that no plan should increase or encourage the use of portables.

#5 - *‘Headroom Capacities – 90% shall be targeted...’* Mrs. Vitale said this will be part of the community discussion.

#6 - *‘Maintain District Guidelines for class size.’* The Board agreed to keep this item.

#7 – *‘Siblings should attend the same schools...’* Mrs. Gerber said this item would require grandfathering, which previously cost the district \$1M in transportation alone. Mr. Peterson said consideration of any changes to the feeder-plan will require community input. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she is not interested in tying the hands of the consultant.

#8 – *‘Create the least amount of disruption.’* Many Board members agreed that it is time for comprehensive redistricting, and this item does not apply. Mr. Peterson thinks that a top to bottom redistricting needs to happen. Ms. Pytko said the town has changed over the last nine years and it makes sense to have a change in facilities.

Mr. Dwyer said it might be a good idea to add a disclaimer that these principles are guidelines for the consultant. Mrs. Vitale added that the Facilities Planning Principles in the Long-range Facilities Plan have lots of duplication and public input will help determine if there should be a new document or if it should be eliminated.

*Facilities Update*

Dr. Jones referenced the Mill Hill floor plan, showing the current usage and layout of classrooms including instructional areas for sped, art, music, band and strings. OT/PT had been taking place in the trailer, but has since been moved to the stage. Band and strings also does not have its own space. Even if sticking with 378, expansion would still be needed to have sufficient space for current usage.

The lease for WFC was renewed for one more year, allowing more time for fixes. Jen Jacobsen expressed frustration at the landlord's response to the deficiencies, addressing only 3 out of 20. Mr. Cullen said the delay could be due to the realization that contractors and engineers are needed to fix some of the items. Dr. Jones added that finding new space and moving the program would require close to a full year's notice.

*ECC Facilities Update*

Mr. Mancusi presented the results from the PK rubric used to review facilities for the ECC program. Important long-term factors for consideration included ADA accessibility, HVAC, playground, move-in ready, classrooms with restrooms, building functionality and location. The results of the rubric ratings showed that Burr ranked first, followed by Holland Hill, McKinley, Riverfield, Stratfield, Sherman and North Stratfield. The strengths and weaknesses of each building were discussed. Building a restroom brings a significant cost to any choice.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Jacobsen seconded to extend the meeting to 11:15PM.

**Motion Passed: 6-3**

Favor: Ms. Leeper, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Jacobsen, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Peterson

Dr. Jones added that the Mill Hill all-abilities playground is not appropriate as an ECC playground. North Stratfield's rating using the rubric, would move up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place if it had air conditioning. NSS would still need a playground costing \$25K-\$35K. Location is also a factor.

*Appointment of Superintendent Search Firm*

Ms. Pytko moved, Mr. Peterson seconded that the Board of Education appoint Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates as the search firm to assist in hiring a new Superintendent of Schools and authorize the Chairman of the Board to negotiate a contract based on the response to the RFP dated 2/1/19.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

*Approval of Amended 2019-2020 Student Calendar due to Primary Date: April 28, 2020*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 amended student calendar, as enclosed, to reflect April 28, 2020 as a non-school day.

Mr. Aysseh requested the reason be noted on the calendar, similar to other no-school days.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Pytko moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the following minutes:

January 8, 2019 (Regular)

January 15, 2019 (Special)

January 22, 2019 (Special)

January 24, 2019 (Regular and Special).

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Jones reported:

- NEASC has approved the renewed accreditation at Warde. Once the report is received, it will be shared.
- Ludlowe's NEASC renewal is currently under review and the site visit is going well.
- The climate surveys have been sent to parents and staff, with double the response rate from last year. Over 1000 staff have already responded. The approach was a bit different this year. Similar and duplicate questions were eliminated, making the survey much shorter; but there are no new questions. In addition, the survey will also be used for teacher evaluation, which eliminates the need for a redundant survey. This ensures yearly feedback on climate, rather than biennial feedback.

**Committee/Liaison Report**

*Mr. Peterson/BOF:* Budget hearings begin on Thursday; the BoE presents the budget to BoF on March 18.

*Mr. Peterson/HHBC:* Holland Hill is on track, Chairman Quinn is trying to ensure that air conditioning will be in place for graduation.

*Ms. Leeper/RTM:* RTM passed the capital non-recurring items as presented.

*Mrs. Vitale/PTAC:* There was a good turnout for the report to PTAC.

*Mrs. Vitale/RSBC:* RSBC is looking to revise the edspect to exclude the back drop-off loop and possibly the stage renovation. This may come back to the Board in the next month or so. If Phase IV is needed, the building committee will take guidance from the Board of Selectmen.

*Mrs. Jacobsen/Legislation:* Mrs. Jacobsen plans to advocate on her own behalf by speaking out at Friday's legislative public hearing. She welcomed Board members to do the same and raised the idea of advocating as a Board. Mr. Peterson added that many proposed bills, including HB 7319, could directly hit the district, as it allows the BOE to levy taxes and borrow funds, radically reshaping the way the town



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currently conducts its business. He suggested the Board discuss these items more regularly as a whole. Mr. Aysseh agreed. Mrs. Vitale encouraged board members to provide testimony.

*Ms. Pytko/SEPTA:* SEPTA Sweet 16 will take place on April 6.

### **Open Board Comment**

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said SEPTA is accepting auction items for SEPTA's Sweet 16. The 15-20 Odyssey of the Minds teams are competing on Saturday and Ms. Pytko has agreed to be a judge.

Ms. Pytko said she is very interested to attend the Town-wide Choral Festival.

Mr. Dwyer welcomed back Executive Director of Human Resources, Ms. Deasy.

### **Public Comment**

*Jill Vergara, Old Post Road:* Asked the Board to reconsider the views on walkers and bussers; that is the most important guiding principle for redistricting.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Aysseh moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

### **Motion Passed: 9-0**

Meeting adjourned at 11:12PM

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Gerber  
Fairfield Board of Education  
Secretary*