

Upcoming Meeting Dates

BOE Chairman Memo re Structural Change, June 22, 2018

CSDE Memo to Superintendents re Racial Imbalance, June 22, 2018

CABE E-Meeting Documents

Policy Committee Minutes – June 5, 2018



Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Dates

June 26

6:30 PM

Special Meeting – Executive Session
501 Kings Hwy East
Superintendent's Conference Room

7:30 PM

Regular Meeting
501 Kings Hwy East
2nd Floor Board Conference Room



August 28

7:30 PM

Regular Meeting
501 Kings Hwy East
2nd Floor Board Conference Room

Town Meetings:

RTM, June 25 – Mill Hill BC Appointments



To: Board of Education
From: Philip Dwyer, Chairman
Re: Continued Conversation on “Operational Effectiveness”
Date: June 22, 2018

As you know, the Board has been discussing the best approach to investigating topics that might qualify as “structural change” and lead to operational effectiveness. As a reminder:

Ad Hoc Committee: This group was formed in 2017, held two meetings and the Superintendent produced a memo outlining the 65 ideas that were discussed. She highlighted ideas that the Board could continue to explore. At the November 2017 board meeting, the Board voted to disband the Ad Hoc Committee.

Special Meetings: The Board held one meeting and discussed Dr. Jones’ suggested topics. The Board agreed that some topics deserved a continued conversation, while others did not. However, board members’ schedules were pressed for time with budget, Mill Hill and other issues, and additional meetings were not scheduled.

“Business” Meetings: Dr. Jones suggested groups of three board members meet to discuss topics that appeared to be of a specific interest to individual board members. FOIA in CT states there are only two types of meetings – Regular and Special, and the discussion at our last board meeting clarified that if we named these as Ad Hoc Committees under our by-laws, they would be public meetings. The board agreed that, by any name, topics of this nature should be discussed with public notice.

Current status: Six major topics (board members are always welcome to suggest others) need further exploration, based on the requirement to report to the state in spring 2019, and should be in this order:

1. **K-2 and 3-5 grade configuration model.** The Finance Committee had one meeting to explore this option. Some board members felt the full board should first discuss the educational merits of this option, before the Finance Committee explored the specific

financial aspects. Dr. Jones suggested staff could be ready to discuss this at the September 25th meeting.

2. **Magnet Program.** While various options could be explored, the idea of having an International Baccalaureate program offered at McKinley School has been most frequently mentioned as a good addition to our educational opportunities AND as a means of changing the racial balance of that school. Same comment on timing as above.
3. **Re-districting.** As part of the Mill Hill discussion, this topic will need to be addressed during the 2018 – 2019 school year.
4. **WFC/ECC facility issues.** The ECC program has outgrown the FWHS site and the leased site for the WFC program is a source of concern for the BOE. Identifying alternate locations for these programs is an issue for further discussion. This was proposed for October 23rd with committee work done prior to that date.
5. **Class size guidelines.** Using grades 3 – 5 as an example, our policy allows for up to 30 children per class. However, administrative guidelines identify 25 as the desired limit. When a 3-section school gets to 25, 25, and 26, a fourth section is created. An idea was suggested, in conjunction with preparing last year’s budget, that perhaps we should create the split when all three sections get to 26, 26, 26 (i.e. a school with 25, 26, 26 would be acceptable). Discussion on this was proposed for October 23rd by the full Board, in conjunction with our annual discussion on budget ideas.
6. **Racial Imbalance.** We have an approved plan that requires a final report to the state by spring 2019. Our existing efforts on Open Choice and Pre-K education are to be continued, per our plan. Additionally, our plan includes a commitment to investigating a magnet program and, if none of these initiatives resolve our racial imbalance percentages, we would commit to a re-districting effort to be accomplished after both Holland Hill and Mill Hill were finished. This spring our racial “imbalance” at McKinley improved somewhat, but the state has not sent an official report to us on this topic, nor has asked for an update on current efforts. Board members differ on the best way to proceed: (1) update now, (2) have public discussion, (3) wait until the state asks for an update, and (4) complete a magnet program study and follow up with a discussion on re-districting.


Discussion of how to approach Operational Effectiveness and the items above has been placed on the agenda. I am hopeful the Board can reach consensus on the best approach to exploring these five topics at our June 26th meeting.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wenztell, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: June 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Racial Composition Statistics for Connecticut Public Schools 2017-2018

The racial composition statistics for each school under the jurisdiction of your local or regional board of education are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/racialimbalance>. Once on this page, select 2017 Public School Enrollment by District [PDF]. The racial statistics are based upon enrollment numbers for each district as of October 1, 2017. Each district should use this information to analyze any disparity in racial diversity that may exist among its schools. Failure to manage significant disparity could result in one or more schools being found to be racially imbalanced.

Racial imbalance exists when the proportion of minority students for any school exceeds 25 percentage points more than the comparable proportion for the school district. For all grades of a given school, the total number of minority students enrolled in the same grades throughout the school district is divided by the district-wide total student enrollment in such grades, and the resulting percentage is the comparable proportion for the school district. If a school is identified as racially imbalanced, the board of education must file a plan to correct the imbalance with the State Board of Education. Impending racial imbalance exists when the proportion for a school falls outside a range from 15 percentage points less to 15 percentage points more than the comparable proportion for the school district. Although a board of education is not required to file a plan to address impending imbalance, boards are strongly encouraged to address the matter in a proactive manner to avoid future identification of racial imbalance. Boards of education should strive to maintain balanced schools so that each child has the advantage of attending a school that is as diverse as possible.

Please note that districts have another important responsibility concerning the reduction of racial, ethnic and economic isolation. Connecticut law requires all school districts to take action to provide educational opportunities for their students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds. These opportunities may include participation in the following programs: interdistrict magnet schools; charter schools; after-school, Saturday and summer programs, sister-school projects and intradistrict public school choice programs; and many other experiences to increase awareness of the diversity of individuals and cultures. This is particularly important for districts with small minority populations where such interaction might otherwise not take place.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions, please contact Attorney Laura L. Anastasio, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, at 860-713-6520.

DRW:lla



Worksheet for Fairfield Board of Education

Monthly cost of Materials for Regular Paper Board Meetings

Cost of Paper & Other Supplies

Calculate cost for one board packet: Include # of pages printed or copied at .10 per copy

<u>35 # of Board packets @</u>	<u>\$2.50 (cost)</u>	\$	87.50	* average 25 pages w/out color Board +Public =35 copies
Grand Total per year based on 2017 (56 meetings including committees)		\$	4,900.00	
Yearly cost of eMeeting (first year)		\$	3,000.00	* not including toner, printer use,
Yearly cost of eMeeting (subsequent years)		\$	1,500.00	staples, clips
District Savings (first year - estimate based on 2017)		\$	1,900.00	*does not include staff time
District Savings (subsequent years - estimate based on 2017)		\$	3,400.00	

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 - Do you want to focus more of your human and financial resources on increasing **student achievement** in your district?
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18 Annual maintenance fee: \$1,500

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 - Support and maintenance; and
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For more information or to schedule a demonstration for your board, call Lisa Steimer at CABE (800-317-0033 or 860-571-7446) or email lsteimer@cabe.org.



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Don't forget about the CABE/CAPSS Convention!

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BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Minutes

Call to Order 5:03 PM

- Present were Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jeff Peterson, Colleen Deasy, Mike Cummings, Toni Jones.

Approval of May 22, 2018 Minutes

- Approved 3-0 as amended

High School Graduation Requirements

- The Committee reviewed the changes to the draft policy that had been made since the last meeting and made additional changes to the policy.
- Voted out to the Board for a first read 3-0.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Vote to Adjourn 8:00 PM