

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, December 12, 2017**

**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.

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

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:32PM. Present were members Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Leeper, Christine Vitale, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Nick Aysseh and Jeff Peterson. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, FLHS student representatives Molly Baker and Isabella Schichter, FWHS student representatives Ted Orben and Paul Rivera, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 20 members of the public.

**Voting Summary:**

*Approval of Holland Hill Plans and Specifications*

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Holland Hill Plans and Specifications” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw Change*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the bylaw change for Article II Section 3C as enclosed” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Approval of Special Minutes of November 28, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Jacobsen seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 28, 2017” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Approval of Organizational Minutes of November 28, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Aysseh seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of November 28, 2017” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Approval of Regular Minutes of November 28, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2017” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Approval of Special Minutes of December 6, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 6, 2017” **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Adjournment*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.” **Motion passed 9-0.** Meeting adjourned at 10:25PM

**Detailed Minutes:**

Student Reports

Mr. Orben and Mr. Rivera reported for FWHS: Looking forward to Carillon concerts; Warde hosted the District Leadership Team for a walk-through of 36 classrooms; winter sports are beginning including basketball and skiing; the courtyard pink-out poster is displayed in the hallways.

Ms. Baker and Ms. Schichter reported for FLHS: the Blood Drive was very successful; the Candlelight concerts take place next week; the NEASC school evaluation survey is underway; the winter sport pep rally takes place this week; AP Gov

students video-chatted with Tommy Vietore (former US National Security Council spokesperson); also hosted career day last week.

#### PTA Delegates

Mrs. Gerber introduced the BOE PTA representatives who were in attendance: Jill Vergara and Linda Erickson from Sherman, Ria Mehta from Dwight, Kelly Jacobsen from Mill Hill, Kelly McWhinnie from NSS, and Bonnie Rotelli from SEPTA. Mr. Dwyer thanked all for their participation.

#### New Business

##### *Approval of Holland Hill Plans and Specifications*

Mr. Aysseh moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Holland Hill Plans and Specifications.

Mr. Dwyer reviewed the project history. Mrs. Gerber added that the vote is really a technicality for the state, nothing in the ed specs has changed. Mr. Tom Quinn, Holland Hill Building Committee (HHBC) Chairman and Bill Manderville, Vice-Chair, agreed. The project cost is \$18.5M with \$500K reserved for unforeseen remediation. The \$500K will not be bonded.

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

##### *Health Insurance Projections*

Mrs. Munsell, Executive Director Finance and Business Services, introduced AON representatives Mr. Lindgren and Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Lindgren compared the self-insured Cigna Plan with the current State 2.0 Plan. Previous Cigna claims were projected forward to simulate costs. Using the State Plan as adopted on October 1, 2017, the comparison showed a savings of \$5M. The district did not have the option to adopt changes to the State Plan earlier than October 1, 2017. He also noted that dental benefits can be complicated to separate out. Mr. Chamberlain said a wellness component with preventive care requirements includes dental and is easier to track through the State Plan.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked if the employees had premium impacts. Mr. Lindgren said yes; he also reviewed overall state participation of the Plan with the 10/1 changes. Mr. Dwyer added that the district had one week to decide. The Superintendent worked quickly to review the changes with union leadership. Mr. Lindgren said the projected costs for 17-18 will be significantly lower than the 15-16 costs.

##### *High School Academic Expectations*

Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hatzis and Mr. Ebling reviewed the High School Academic Expectations, which reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, guide instruction and assessment, are met through successful implementation of curriculum and help to accomplish NEASC accreditation. The Expectations address (1) how students will demonstrate critical and creative thinking to effectively evaluate evidence and construct solutions, and (2) how students will communicate information clearly and effectively in a variety of contexts and work collaboratively to solve problems. Additionally, Mr. Cummings said the district is actively involved with 18 other districts, working to develop the portrait of a graduate.

Student representatives asked, when will the new graduation requirements take effect? Has the computer proficiency exam been eliminated? Mr. Hatzis said new graduation requirements will take effect with the class of 2023 - today's 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Cummings said the computer proficiency exam will no longer be required under the new guidelines.

Ms. Pytko asked where the district was in the NEASC process. Mr. Hatzis said Ludlowe falls under the older NEASC guidelines; the NEASC visit takes place in March 2019. Step 1 is self-study analysis using the Endicott Survey. Mr. Ebling said Warde falls under the new NEASC 2020 guidelines. The initial NEASC visit takes place in October 2018. Priority

areas will be reviewed. Students and faculty have completed a survey and parents will have a different survey. A full visit takes place in 2020 to review progress. This is more aligned to school improvement planning.

Mrs. Jacobsen: Might there be a change in PE credits? Mr. Hatzis said the requirement of 1 credit remains the same, however, the definition has been expanded to wellness – with opportunities to explore other options. The idea is to look at multiple pathways for students to graduate which may include online or distance learning. Ms. Pytko asked if that includes the option to play a sport instead of take a gym class. Mr. Cummings said it is not yet defined.

Mrs. Leeper asked several questions regarding the accreditation process, realistic achievements, grades vs. skills, and how the profile of a graduate is measured. Mr. Ebling said a rubric is used to assist faculty with standards and ratings. Mr. Hatzis added that 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be assessed on standards of curriculum for those grade levels. Teachers will provide feedback on acquiring skills. Mr. Cummings said as students acquire skills, the rubric will be changed or replaced over time.

Mrs. Gerber: Will the portrait of a graduate involve stakeholder groups? Mr. Cummings said this is still being developed, but the idea is to set aside a meeting time to invite some aspect of the community.

Mrs. Vitale: Is it possible that students may have a skillset in one discipline and not another? Mr. Ebling said yes. Dr. Jones added that the work is exciting because the state has opened the door to new possibilities without huge cost implications.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly noticed the content vs. skills in the rubric and expressed some concern that content might be let go. Mr. Ebling said skills are taught through the content. Mr. Hatzis added that the teachers will report an accumulated grade with a standards-based approach. There will be many opportunities for proficiency. Mr. Cummings said the state has not provided much time to complete the work for the class of 2023, but the plan is to work with the Policy Committee and present to the Board in June 2018.

#### *Proposed Capital Project Requests 2018-2019*

Mr. Cullen presented the Capital Project Requests for 2018-2019.

(1) The Sherman Elementary Phase III Renovation and Addition: \$3.2M; the cost number must not exceed the amount calculated under the FEMA regulation of 50% of the value of the property for improvements due to the close proximity to a major watercourse. This is the final phase of the project and was previously in the waterfall as \$3M. Adding a bus loop and parent pick-up has increased the amount to \$3.2M. However, the FEMA regulation has exceptions such as architectural engineering fees, lockers and tech upgrades; bringing the FEMA number closer to \$2.5M.

In response to Board questions, Mr. Cullen added the following:

- a. Would recommend this project use the Special Projects Building Committee.
- b. Is concerned about the roof structure being strong enough to support the air conditioning piece. Could change this to a maintenance issue, or could possibly have a Sherman Phase IV, if problems are encountered.
- c. \$180K will remove the stage and make the APR larger to allow for increased seating.
- d. Lockers are rusted through and cannot be re-purposed.

(2) The Mill Hill Elementary School Renovation and Addition Project Team Initial Funding: \$1.5M. Mill Hill is in need of a partial renovation and new addition to meet the capacity deficiencies, enrollment needs and elimination of five portable classrooms. Existing portables need to be moved during construction.

The Board commented on the most recent 10-year enrollment projections and the impact on this project. Mrs. Gerber asked for a presentation on enrollment projections.

Mr. Cullen responded to Board questions and comments:

- a. Portables could be moved to various places; two of them may not be needed at all. It was mentioned that portables were included in the Holland Hill project as well, and there were Board questions regarding the differences between the costs of the HH and MH seed money requests.
- b. The Board will decide on the size of the addition. If the Board continues with the 504 addition, the price of the project may jump from what is currently in the waterfall at \$18M, to \$25M; due to past experience with Holland Hill and Riverfield. The site is small and difficult – there is a ledge. Dr. Jones agreed and added that Mill Hill is a small school – a project based on a 504 will be a very large addition. Mr. Dwyer asked whether building a larger project could impact reimbursement. Mr. Cullen said the state will let us know if we are building too big. The highest projected enrollment for Mill Hill in the next 10 years is 384.

Mr. Dwyer said this will be a January action item. As projects cost more or less, the Finance Department works together with the Town during the fall Capital Planning Summit to balance out the waterfall with other projects.

#### *Proposed Capital Non-Recurring Projects 2018-2019*

Mr. Cullen said the 4 projects total just under \$2M and include: Security Infrastructure Upgrades, I.T. CAT 6 Electrical Project, FLHS Student Parking Lot Replacement and I.T. Switch Replacement Project.

- (1) The Security Infrastructure Project (\$345K) will enhance security and safety for staff and students. It covers intrusion panels as well as other improvements that cannot be shared with the public.
- (2) The I.T CAT 6 Electrical Project (\$200K) is for low voltage cabling and additional dual outlet/quad at secondary schools. Ms. Byrnes added that this allows projectors to be accessed remotely.
- (3) The FLHS Parking Lot Replacement Project (\$275K) is badly needed and was not approved by the BOS last year. The parking lot is in very poor shape and the solar carport does not impact this project. Once complete, it will have a new sub-base and should last 20 years.

Mr. Aysseh expressed some concern regarding drainage issues with the carports. He also asked about paving the side road that abuts Carolton. Mr. Cullen said the carport has some drainage issues on the sidewalks. The Carolton Hospital will re-pave the side road after construction on their end is complete.

Mrs. Gerber confirmed with Mr. Cullen that this project will not conflict with the summer window installation. Mrs. Gerber also noted that each time this project gets pushed to the next year, it becomes more expensive. Mr. Dwyer agreed and said the BOE needs to advocate for this project.

- (4) The I.T. Switch Replacement Project (\$972K) is a larger project that will occur in 2 phases and will migrate the Ethernet switches in the high schools, WFC and Central Office. Ms. Byrnes said the \$1.55M is the actual amount without the Erate federal grant (as on page 20). Mr. Cullen said the Town bonds the projects.

#### *Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw Change*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve the Bylaw change for Article II Section 3C as enclosed.

Mrs. Gerber said the minutes were easier to read prior to 2013 and she hopes the Board supports the motion. Mr. Dwyer advocated to stay closely aligned with Roberts Rules. He fully supports this motion and hopes for more

concise minutes.

**Motion passed 9-0.**

Approval of Minutes

*Approval of Special Minutes of November 28, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Jacobsen seconded that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 28, 2017. **Motion passed 9-0.**

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Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2017. **Motion passed 9-0.**

*Approval of Special Minutes of December 6, 2017*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 6, 2017. **Motion passed 9-0.**

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jones said she is looking forward to attending the high school concerts. She attended the McKinley concert, Riverfield's Shark Tank, visited the Bella Boutique, watched the Warde TV show, and previewed Dwight's new 5<sup>th</sup> grade show.

The 15-16 District Profile Report is online.

Committee/Liaison Report:

Ms. Pytko reported for SEPTA. The cookie walk and Holiday Party will take place on December 20.

Mrs. Gerber reported for the OHSBC. It is expected that this committee will be disbanded at the BOS meeting.

Ms. Leeper reported for the RTM. The Administrator Contract was presented last night.

Open Board Comment:

Ms. Pytko noted that she is unable to attend the upcoming Town Hall on December 14.

Mr. Dwyer said the 2018 BOE meeting date schedule is official and will be posted with the Town Clerk. Liaison and committee assignments have also been completed.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly and Mr. Dwyer encouraged the public to attend the BOE Town Hall on December 14 at 7:30.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

**Motion passed 9-0.** Meeting adjourned at 10:25PM

*Respectfully Submitted  
Jessica Gerber  
Secretary, Fairfield BOE*