

**Minutes
Fairfield BoE; June 10, 2014**

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 7:07PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Convertito, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Donna Karnal was absent. Others present were Superintendent David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, student representative Billy Moeder and approximately 40 members of the public.

Student and Group Recognition

Dr. Title and Mr. Dwyer presented the Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE) Award to Jacob Garrell and the Superintendent Award to Pauline Blatt, Ellie Schroeder, and Kevin Warten. Mrs. Gerber also recognized Reflections Winners Kiara Burns, Alexis Maresca, Danielle Hazelton, Liam Farrell, Monique LaFlamme, and Lillian Garbe.

Student Reports

Student Billy Moeder reported on Fairfield Ludlowe High School sports and activities.

Public Comment

Kelly Crisp, Papermill Lane: Advocated for online reporting system

FLHS Project Presentation

Mr. Costa from Perkins Eastman, gave a presentation on the FLHS Building Project and focused on the classroom and lab additions, as well as the landscaping. In response to Board questions, he stated that the difference in the new and old dining hall floor height elevation is 30 inches; the April 9 plans are not the most current; drainage into the parking lot will be addressed with a surface basin that acts as a rain garden; the glass in the cafeteria will have louvers and possibly a dot pattern to mitigate heat; in the parking lot, there will be a wheel stop or a bollard with a slight incline to act as a physical barrier and a cost estimate is being prepared; and limited funding drives the final form of the project.

Mrs. Gerber spoke to the history of the project and mentioned that current information has been provided to the Board on multiple occasions.

Mr. Fattibene asked about the difference in cafeteria floor height elevation, and whether the April 9 plans were different than the current plans.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about drainage into the parking lot. She also expressed concern over the amount of glass in the cafeteria for heat and security concerns.

Mr. Llewellyn asked about the distance from the edge of the building to the parking lot.

Mr. Convertito questioned the rationale for a rooftop garden as opposed to adding more classroom space.

Dr. Title said security concerns are being addressed. Also, new rules for building projects ensure that the project is limited to the specific ed specs of 6 classrooms total, to prevent scope creep.

Mr. Dwyer requested and received unanimous consent to move up agenda item 8A, Approval of Mill Hill Plans and Specifications.

Approval of Plans and Specifications for Mill Hill Roof Replacement Project

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Plans and Specifications for Mill Hill Roof Replacement Project TMP-051-PZBV.

Motion Passed: 8-0

Mr. Silver briefly explained the Mill Hill roof project that would match existing membranes and replace skylights.

Mr. Dwyer asked if this has kept in line with ed specs and Mr. Silver said it has.

Mr. Llewellyn questioned the warranty agreement on the roof. Mr. Silver said the current roof is at least 22 years old and the warranty that is designed into the project is a 20-year no dollar limit non-prorated warranty for replacement.

Mrs. Liu McCormack questioned the replacement of skylights. Mr. Silver explained that the Office of School Facilities (OSF) mandates preserving natural light where possible, and that it is customary to replace them.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about the budget for this project and Mr. Silver maintained that there is almost 30% of contingency for this project.

Presentation of AP Psychology Text

Mr. Pugliese and Dr. Boice presented the AP Psychology Curriculum and Text recommendation.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked if this will take the place of full year psychology electives. Mr. Pugliese responded that there will be 5 sections of the full year course, and 4 AP sections between the schools with no increase in FTE.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly offered that this is a very popular course in Greenwich, and asked about the AP audit and student feedback. Mr. Pugliese offered that there is plenty of time in the summer for writing the syllabus for August submittal and the best student feedback was regarding the text and the AP exam tips that are embedded throughout.

Mr. Patten asked if this is different from a college course and whether teachers are prepared. Mr. Pugliese responded that the content is the same and is arranged to fit the topics of College Board curriculum; the teachers will get training and are well prepared to teach.

Mr. Convertito expressed concern over the cost of the course, and justifying the expense with current budget climate.

Mr. Llewellyn and Mrs. Liu-McCormack expressed similar concerns to Mr. Convertito and recommended a high school program audit.

Dr. Title mentioned that new staff are not needed for this course, and it offers another level. NEASC accreditation will take place soon which is more cost-effective than an audit.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded, to add an item to the agenda regarding the discussion of the pricing of a program audit for the high schools.

Motion Failed: 2-6

In favor – Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

Opposed – Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten.

Mr. Llewellyn commented that the concept of getting a price is innocuous and this has been requested by previous Boards.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly questioned what was learned from the previous NEASC accreditation and does not support the motion. This could be discussed with Board Goals at the next meeting.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said this will start the discussion on understanding where we are.

Mr. Dwyer did not support the motion as the NEASC audit is coming up.

Mr. Convertito, while agreeing with the idea of a program audit, did not support the motion at this time.

Old Business

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded, that the Board of Education approve the English/Language Arts, Grades 6-12 Curriculum.

Motion Passed: 7-1

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Opposed: Mr. Llewellyn

Mr. Chiappetta responded to multiple questions sent in by the Board and assured them that teachers will implement the curriculum with fidelity; additional language regarding books was added to the curriculum in response to the Board's

request. Assessments will be addressed once curriculum is approved, the curriculum is dynamic and the common core is used as a guide for minimum requirements. Implementation is a process that contains internal and external accountability structures.

Dr. Boice offered that the purpose of the curriculum is to answer the question - what will a student know at the end of the course. Consistency is ensured through common assessments and classroom observations. Curriculum and implementation guides are separate. Curriculum is not just a list of standards.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly enthusiastically endorsed the motion and thanked the staff for being exceedingly responsive and also for engaging in wonderful dialogue. She is satisfied that fiction is not being sacrificed, endorses the added phrasing, and added that all concerns have been addressed.

Mrs. Gerber strongly supported the motion and thanked the staff for being so accessible.

Mr. Patten echoed Mrs. Gerber's comments and said it is the best overhaul of curriculum that he has ever seen.

Mr. Fattibene asked about assessments, and indicated consistency should be maintained in the document with the use of 'Fairfield Public Schools,' rather than 'Fairfield English Dept.'

Mr. Llewellyn asked whether this curriculum was fully aligned with the common core, and expressed concern that it was not more fully developed and contained no metrics, measurable objectives or key goals. He asked if curriculum was a dynamic process that takes place over time. Before voting on this, he requested to see how the K-5 implementation roll-out has progressed, and added he would like to see this on the September agenda. He would like to see more consistency, and know how the curriculum leader will ensure consistency.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack expressed concern that curriculum is not being consistently delivered and discussed her view of and concerns about the workshop model, especially in terms of peer to peer review. She has concerns of how kids are learning, and whether content is being delivered as effectively as it can be to all kinds of learners. Are we structuring classrooms properly.

Mr. Dwyer thanked the staff for their hard work and responsiveness.

Public Comment:

Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road: Consistency with curriculum

Kelsey Llewellyn, Sturges Road: Past curriculum

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive: Thanked the ELA group, stressed consistency and feedback

Christine Vitale, Verna Hill Rd: Support of curriculum

Suzanne Miska, Rygate Road: Alignment across the district, implementation, follow-up

Julie Gottlieb, Applegate Road: Support of curriculum

Mr. Dwyer requested and received unanimous Board approval to postpone agenda Item 7B, the Revised Educator Professional Growth Plan, to the June 24 meeting. Mrs. Leffert asked Board members to keep Plan copies previously provided; the changes are minor and will be provided in a memo format consisting of several paragraphs.

New Business

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Convertito seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between Bargaining Unit Fairfield Association of Educational Office Professionals (FAEOP) and the Fairfield Board of Education for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

Motion Passed: 6-1-1

In favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Opposed: Mrs. Liu-McCormack

Abstained: Mr. Llewellyn

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2014.

Motion Passed: 4-2-1

Favor: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Opposed: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Fattibene

Abstain: Mr. Convertito

(Mr. Llewellyn was not in the room.)

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded, to amend the May 6 minutes to incorporate, after the word “variety” on page 2 of the minutes, the two paragraphs of “Amendment 1” in the document “ELA presentation, time 1:12.”

Motion Failed: 4-4

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Fattibene

Opposed: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested the amendment to include points that were omitted regarding the instructional method and the workshop model.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly did not support the motion; she does not want to replicate a transcript; the minutes should be consistent, and the audio can always be referred to.

Mr. Llewellyn supported the motion and approved the addition of the abstract.

Mr. Patten did not support the motion; if this were to be included, then the entire presentation should be included.

Mrs. Gerber did not support the motion, as the Board received it just this morning and it is too detailed.

Mr. Dwyer did not support the motion; the minutes should only reflect what was done and not what was said.

Mr. Convertito asked if the revision accurately reflected Mr. Fattibene’s comments and Mr. Fattibene said it did.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded, to add the 4 paragraphs under “open comment 1:45” to be placed following “on May 20” on page 3 of the minutes.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly made a friendly amendment to Mrs. Liu-McCormack’s amendment to read, “that Mrs. Liu-McCormack questioned curriculum’s content and delivery and specifically the workshop model.” She then withdrew that friendly amendment after understanding that the comment was not omitted from Open Board Comment, but from the ELA presentation comments.

Motion Failed: 3-4-1

In favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn

Opposed: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstained: Mr. Convertito abstained

Mr. Dwyer did not question the validity of the amendment, only the level of detail. He objected to Mr. Fattibene’s statement that the minutes are politicized.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack offered that her revision incorporates a conversation that was completely omitted.

Mr. Convertito mentioned that minutes should contain Board conversations with administrators when Board members feel passionate about it.

Mrs. Gerber explained that Mrs. Liu-McCormack’s comments could have been more easily summarized and included if requested earlier, as these revisions were only received this morning and the current minutes have been available for review for 4 weeks.

Mr. Fattibene questioned Mrs. Gerber’s statement as his emailed comments were not incorporated, and went to the full Board for a vote, resulting in a failed motion. He stated the fundamental problem is that the minutes are politicized.

Mr. Llewellyn agreed with and supported Mr. Fattibene regarding incorporating comments into the minutes and said the same has happened to him.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly took issue with Mr. Fattibene’s statement; Board members cannot assume their submissions will be included when a judgment call is needed; if agreement can’t be reached then a Board vote is required.

Mr. Patten moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded, the recommended that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 15, 2014.

Motion Passed: 6-0-1

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstained: Mrs. Liu-McCormack

(Mr. Llewellyn was out of the room at the time of the vote.)

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2014.

Motion Passed: 6-0-1

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstained: Mrs. Liu-McCormack

(Mr. Llewellyn was out of the room at the time of the vote.)

Superintendent Report

Dr. Title updated the Board on the SBAC testing and credited the schools for its completion. Feedback from the consortium is uncertain in regards to the date it will be received and the level of detail it will contain.

Mr. Llewellyn asked when feedback will be provided.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly noted that it was a successful first run-through with lessons learned.

Dr. Title reviewed the CSDE memo regarding racial imbalance at McKinley. The district has been given a year to see if this changes. Any revisions to the Racial Imbalance Plan currently in place must be approved by the CT State Dept. of Education.

Mr. Fattibene commented that the racial imbalance plan does not appear to be working, and is uncomfortable with the current fee structure for Pre-K.

Mr. Dwyer stated that good faith efforts have been made to keep McKinley racially balanced, and the Board may have to address this.

Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly attended the PTA Council Awards where faculty and PTA were recognized.

Open Board Comment

Mr. Fattibene would have liked to have seen a financial update on this agenda.

Mr. Dwyer responded the financial update is scheduled for the June 24 agenda.

Mr. Convertito moved, Mr. Patten seconded, to suspend the rules and go past 11PM.

Motion Passed 8-0

Superintendent Evaluation

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Patten seconded, that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation."

Motion Passed 8-0

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:47PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 1:59AM.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Convertito seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

Motion Passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned 1:59AM.