

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE; September 23, 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 7:32PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Convertito (left 10:40PM), Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly (arrived 10:06PM), John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Paul Fattibene was not present. Others present were Superintendent David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 40 members of the public.

***Public Comment***

Edward Peruta, Legal Investigator for Attorney Baird: September 4 incident.  
Jenny Gillis, Nichols Street: Whitsons pricing, administrative positions.  
Wendy Bentivegna, Village Lane: RYASAP survey.  
Tricia Donovan, Fairfield resident: Food in school setting.  
Trudy Durell, Fairfield Resident, Holland Hill renovation timeline.  
Lisa Davy, District 8: RYASAP survey.  
Rachel Baird, attorney: Freedom of Information request.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned that the BOE will be discussing the capital plan through next spring.

***Presentations***

***School Data Team Presentation***

Dr. Title reviewed the developmental rubric and model of data analysis for data teams, and explained that data teams are happening in various stages throughout the district.

Mrs. McGoey, Stratfield School Principal, presented the data team process that is ongoing at Stratfield. This includes instructional rounds, problem of practice, school improvement plan development, data teams, and systems of support. Two Stratfield teachers, Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Naiburg explained how the process works at the teacher level, which includes support from curriculum leaders Mike Rafferty and Walter Wakeman. Mrs. McGoey said that support is also offered through the PK-12 Leadership meetings, embedded professional development, and school visits from Dr. Cutai- Leonard and Dr. Title. She added that the goal is to reach the exemplary stage.

Mr. Dwyer asked where this ranked in quality and effectiveness in terms of a workshop; the teachers responded that seeing the process modeled in a live classroom is very effective.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked if this was a new process, when it had started. She asked for hard examples, details on instructional changes, and asked when things had been seen during rounds that could be done differently, inquired about effectiveness, how to measure if changes made were successful, asked for tangible example in math, what strategies were used when staff had identified issues that needed to be changed. Dr. Title said he implemented this process in the fall of 2011. Ms. Naiburg gave specifics on implementing higher level questioning skills and character analysis. Mrs. McGoey added that benchmark reading assessments are used; the need to expand questions was an identified issue. Mrs. McGoey explained how working with Walter Wakeman helped to expand strategies for math.

Mrs. Gerber asked if schools that partner together might change from year to year and was told yes.

Mr. Llewellyn thanked the staff for sharing, asked for details on embedded professional development, whether it is modeling in front of students or modeling in front of other teachers; and asked about when PD is done across schools are teachers giving guidance to one another and also asked whether a transition to i-Ready will feed directly into data teams. Mrs. McGoey provided detail on lessons modeled by curriculum leaders in live classrooms and added that the i-Ready test will be a data point.

Mr. Patten asked whether similar Problems of Practice will group schools together for professional development and was told yes. Dr. Title added that this is the first year this has been done at the elementary level.

Mr. Convertito asked whether the RYASAP survey will be used in data teams. Dr. Title mentioned that this will be included via the school climate survey and will be used for the school improvement plan to improve school climate.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked if the district gave any thought to accepting parent input in the data team process. Dr. Title responded that it would be most helpful for principals to share the outcome with parents, such as any identified gaps in practice.

Mr. Dwyer took a moment of personal privilege to thank Dr. Cutaia-Leonard for all her work in the district before she moves on as Superintendent in Region 14; all Board members present wished her the best of luck. Ms. Anziano, Riverfield Principal, presented Dr. Cutaia-Leonard with a bouquet of flowers and spoke to the highlights of Dr. Cutaia-Leonard's career including aligned curriculum, revised progress reports, data team implementation, expanded PreK program, and full-day Kindergarten among many others. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard thanked the team, the Board, and all the parents she has worked with during her seven years with the district.

#### RYASAP Survey

Mr. Francis and Ms. Weidema-Lewis presented the RYASAP Survey results via Powerpoint presentation. Both emphasized the idea of focusing on assets. The powerpoint and overall report will be made available to the public on RYASAP's website. It was suggested that the alcohol trend data is declining in part due to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade forum. Survey data is used to obtain grants, aid in curriculum, and help with prevention efforts.

Mr. Patten would like to see more comparisons over time, similar to the alcohol trend comparison.

Mr. Llewellyn thanked the presenters and asked if trend data could be broken down by school, and if schools are able to validate certain student responses, for instance the question regarding students getting A's. He asked if any delta more than 5% should be something to look at. Mrs. Weidema-Lewis said that trend data cannot be seen by school, but by grade level. Mr. Francis added that it would be possible to validate certain student data, but said self-reporting is accurate within 5%; a small number of surveys are thrown out due to bad data.

Mrs. Gerber asked if alcohol use is broken down by grade level, and was told it can be seen by grade in the large report, which will soon be available on the website

Ms. Karnal questioned the four core measures and the overall purpose of the survey. Ms. Weidema-Lewis responded that the federal government is interested in these measures; this information is used to obtain grants; the purpose is to give a profile of young people. Ms. Campbell, FWHS director of Pupil and Counseling Services, added that the data is used in many different ways with a focus on prevention.

Mr. Convertito asked if there is a means to identify students who self-identify with no assets. Ms. Leonardi gave some examples of how students with anxiety and depression could be screened and helped, as there are a number of behaviors to look for; the school guidance office is an excellent resource for this.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked whether the data could be compared with other Southern Fairfield County districts, to see if things are very low in Fairfield or very high, in comparison to other places, because this information could be very valuable, and was told that districts tend to publish their own data on their websites; nationally aggregated data is available on the Search Institute's website.

Mrs. McCarthy-Vahey commented that the Fairfield Cares and Fairfield Public Schools' partnership is taken very seriously, and thanked the Board.

Mr. Dwyer maintained that the overall purpose of the survey is to design and develop programs to help kids and families become stronger.

#### ***Old Business***

##### Approval of Policy 5119-Students-Student Discipline – Suspension/Expulsion.

Mr. Convertito moved, Mrs. Gerber that the Board of Education approve Policy 5119 –Students-Student Discipline – Suspension/Expulsion.

##### **Motion Passed: 7-0**

*Mr. Llewellyn was not in the room for the vote.*

Approval of Policy 5510 – Students—Welfare – Health Assessments

Mr. Convertito moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve Policy 5510- Students-Welfare – Health Assessments.

**Motion Passed 8-0**

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2014 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Regular Meeting** of September 9, 2014.

**Motion Passed 7-0,**

*Mr. Convertito was not in the room for the vote.*

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Title referenced a September 2014 Money Magazine article referring to Fairfield schools as being among the state's best, with Fairfield Ludlowe and Fairfield Warde ranked in the top 25 high schools in the state, which contributed to Fairfield being ranked in the 'Top 50 Best Places to Live 2014'.

Dr. Title mentioned that more than 50% of new hires were experienced teachers, and there was no change in policy regarding bachelor degrees. October 1 Enrollment data including actual vs. projected, will be provided to the Board as soon as it is available after October 1. He will also be contacting CABE regarding any legal obligations related to the Strategic School Profile Report.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked for an update on the Physics teacher situation.

Mr. Llewellyn requested more information on i-Ready and its use with ELA, and requested additional discussion regarding the climate survey that was received in the Board Friday packet; he felt the survey should be Board approved, he asked Dr. Title to clarify that the Board does not need to approve the survey, and questioned the anonymity of survey administration through Infinite Campus. He expressed his belief that all materials sent to Board members should be part of the agenda if the Board wants. Ms. Leonardi responded that the climate survey will be available for review for parents for 2 weeks prior to its dissemination.

**Committee/Liaison Reports**

Mrs. Liu-McCormack reported that work on the Ad-hoc By-Law committee is ongoing and has had some public attendance, to provide broader context. The committee is planning on lifting language directly from CABE and will clarify the language regarding the strategic plan and short term goals and objectives. The next meeting is expected to take place on October 11, hoping to provide a draft for the Board. She encouraged the public to attend. She also reported that she is waiting for the budget season to begin to give updates from the Board of Finance meetings.

Mrs. Gerber reported that the Parks and Rec had a successful summer playground season, there is a new Kindergarten soccer program and a new marina manager. Regarding the Osborn Hill Building Committee, the windows have been replaced, there is a temporary floor in place in some of the hallways, the gym is in the process of being remediated and the remainder of the windows will be replaced next summer. Regarding Fairfield Ludlowe, the roof is being re-bid and bids go out next month for the cafeteria/classroom expansion.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly stated that the PTAC had their first meeting.

Mr. Llewellyn CES has its second meeting coming up, no meetings over the summer, so nothing to update

Mr. Patten reported that the RTM continues to discuss the Penfield Pavilion and RTM redistricting. Riverfield meeting was canceled for September, will meet again October.

Mr. Dwyer reported on the Board of Health nursing services at the high school, and services to the town. As bargaining unit liaison, Mr. Dwyer has not received any requests for meetings with the BOE outside of negotiations.

**Open Board Comment**

Mr. Llewellyn stated that it would be beneficial to understand educational achievements gained from a high school schedule change since it is now a Board goal. He asked if the consultants who are working on the plan can show how other districts have benefitted from this. He said that if the Board isn't doing it to achieve better learning and success then perhaps it should consider pushing it out.

Mrs. Gerber noted that Fairfield Living magazine features several Fairfield students and highlights their achievements in academics, arts and sports.

Ms. Karnal asked for a follow-up on Mr. Fattibene's suggestion for lunch with the Superintendent and requested the non-profit National Executive Service Corps be invited to present to the Board since she saw them at a nearby town's BoE meeting and was impressed by them.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack requested an update on the science teachers at the high school, i-Ready, and tech time curriculum based on feedback she was receiving.

**Adjournment**

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

**Motion Passed: 7-0**

*Mr. Convertito was not in the room for the vote.*

Meeting adjourned 10:55 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted  
Jessica Gerber  
Fairfield Public Schools  
Secretary*