

DRAFT

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, September 6, 2016**

**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 7:45PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, Marc Patten, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Anthony Calabrese, Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and John Llewellyn. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Stephen Tracy, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 10 members of the public.

*New Business*

*Approval of Election of Superintendent of Schools for Fairfield Public Schools*

Mr. Dwyer thanked the Board for its commitment to the superintendent search process. The Board hired the consulting firm Hazard, Young & Attea to facilitate the search. There were 27 candidates; 6 were interviewed. The Board decided to hire Dr. Toni Jones, currently a superintendent of Falls Church City in Virginia.

Mr. Patten moved, Mr. Calabrese seconded that the Board of Education approve the election of Toni R. Jones as Superintendent of the Fairfield Public Schools effective December 5, 2016, and that it further approve a contract commencing December 5, 2016 through June 30, 2019, in the form and accordance with the terms previously distributed to the members of the Fairfield Board of Education.

Mr. Patten said it was a pleasure and an honor to make the motion. Dr. Jones brings a positive attitude, is no stranger to prioritizing the needs of her district, listens before acting, has vast experience making hard decisions when developing the annual budget, and has proven herself as an exemplary leader.

Mr. Calabrese said the nation-wide search was thorough and comprehensive. Dr. Jones' passion for education has taken her all over the world including Australia. Her career has included classroom teaching as well as the administrative positions of Elementary and Middle School Principal, Director of Secondary Education and Technology, and Chief Academic Officer. She began as Superintendent of Falls Church City, Va. in 2011. Dr. Jones has a track record of excellence and commitment to improving public education.

Mr. Dwyer added that Dr. Jones is at her own Board meeting tonight; she intends to notify her Board immediately following the vote.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

(Ms. Karnal left the meeting at 7:50PM)

*Approval of the CSDE Authorized Signature Change Form for the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the Signature Change Form for the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education per Enclosure No. 1.

Dr. Tracy said this relates to the Free/Reduced Meal grant in compliance with federal regulation.

**Motion Passed: 7-0** (Ms. Karnal and Mrs. Liu-McCormack were not present for this vote.)

*First Reading of Policies for Approval (3516, 3524.1 4115/4215) and Policies for Deletion (3120 and 3120.2)*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the Policy Committee is still working through the audit and asked Board members to submit any policy questions to her prior to the next meeting.

*Approval of Minutes*

*Approval of the Minutes of the August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2016.

**Motion Passed: 6-1**

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

Oppose: Mr. Llewellyn (*Ms. Karnal and Mrs. Liu-McCormack were not present for this vote.*)

*Superintendent Report*

Dr. Tracy congratulated the Board on its successful superintendent search. He reviewed the FPS September 1 enrollment count and said the first day of school went well. He enjoyed watching the faculty at FWHS greet incoming freshman, and he had the opportunity to ride the morning bus with both elementary and secondary students. He also mentioned the Convocation on August 29, during which the FLHS choral students, under the direction of Kevin Cotellese, added a nice spirit to the occasion.

Mrs. Leffert reviewed the staffing changes; there was an 8.7 FTE adjustment based on enrollment – 1.3 FTE added at the high schools, 1.0 FTE added at ECC and a net increase of 6 sections at the elementary level. There were 28 retirees; 18 were budgeted for. Currently there are 4 vacancies due to recent resignations and active searches are occurring. Additionally, 5 new hires are being held by current districts, and Fairfield is holding 4 staff members. The administrative and hiring teams have done an excellent job and she is impressed with the 73 new hires.

*Committee/Liaison Report*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the policy audit work is expected to be complete by the end of September. She reminded the Board that policies are now posted online and hard copy distribution is discontinued. She asked Board members to return their policy manuals to Central Office.

Mr. Dwyer reported for the Holland Hill Building Committee. The next stage of pricing out the proposal is expected in mid-November. Currently there are no changes to the ed-specs.

*Open Board Comment*

Mr. Dwyer said he has been trying to schedule the Town Hall meeting, but a multitude of conflicts has prevented him from finding a date before October that all Board members can attend. It appears as though mid-November to December looks likely; the alternative is to have the Town Hall meeting without all 9 members.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said it is best if all can attend, but most important to be best for the community. She suggested a date where most Board members can attend, as the November-December timeframe might be tough.

Mr. Llewellyn suggested setting aside time at the beginning of each meeting to solicit feedback.

Mr. Dwyer noted that Bridgeport has done something similar - the public can address the Board before the beginning of the actual meeting. The result has been that Board members arrive late and only a few hear the concerns. On a separate subject, he added that Board members will receive copies of Dr. Jones' contract within the next day or two; it follows in form and substance as that of Dr. Title.

*Adjournment*

Mr. Patten moved, Mr. Calabrese seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

**Motion Passed: 8-0** (Ms. Karnal was not present for this vote.) Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.