

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Fairfield BoE, April 6, 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 7:35PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:47PM), Donna Karnal (arrived 7:37PM), Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Anthony Calabrese, Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and John Llewellyn. Marc Patten was not present. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 120 members of the public.

Mr. Dwyer dedicated a moment of silence to honor Tomlinson teacher Ms. Barbara O'Brien. Also mentioned were the fathers of the First Selectman and the Town Attorney.

Student Recognition

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly recognized Odyssey of the Mind student participants. Odyssey of the Mind is a collaborative problem-solving activity led by parent volunteers. First place winners are invited to participate in the World Finals Competition in Michigan next month.

- North Stratfield School participants – recipients of the Jill Riggles Award for spontaneous problem solving.
- Stratfield School participants - Honorable Mention
- Sherman School participants - First Place (tied) and recipient of the Jill Riggles Award for spontaneous problem solving.
- McKinley School participants - First Place (tied)

Student Reports

Ms. Behjati reported for Fairfield Ludlowe High School: Juniors had SAT testing on Wed.; a recent blood drive was successful; Best Buddy event was hosted by Ms. Kennedy; Ms. Bassett organized a visit with Senator Chris Murphy; the Ludlowe community is rallying around a senior student recently diagnosed with cancer.

Ms. Agrello reported for Fairfield Warde High School: A recent blood drive was a success with a record 71 donors; CAPT for 10th graders and SATs were held; Health classes participated in the 'Save-a-Life Tour' that simulated a texting-while-driving activity to show the dangers of this practice; students participated in the Senator Chris Murphy visit and appreciated the invitation; the jazz ensemble competed in Darien; town-wide band festival for grades 5-12 was held; community college fair was held; the winter sports season concluded with Girls Ski Co-op Team and Co-op Bowling winning state championships; college acceptances are continuing to arrive and students are looking forward to spring break.

Public Comment

Kelly Socol, York Road: Requested clarification for McKinley's number of school days and the proposed last day of school. Disappointed in McKinley's communication to parents on several issues.

Carol Waxman, Fairfield Beach Road: Supports solar projects at high schools.

Presentations

Family/Consumer Science Curriculum Presentation

Dr. Boice introduced Rachel Keleher, Vicki Hastings and Linda Mushala. Rachel Keleher is the department liaison and has led the team in curriculum revisions for Fashion and Textiles, Human Development and Culinary Arts. It has been 10 years since the last revision, and the team addressed the changes that have taken place including the new block schedule, technology and academic expectations. Current trends and innovations were researched.

- Culinary curriculum revisions focused on healthier eating, more content selection and increased skills-based performances.

- Human Development curriculum revisions include a realignment with educational requirements, academic expectations and recommendations at state and national levels; and updated formatting for clarity.
- Fashion and Design curriculum revisions include a realignment with educational requirements, academic expectations and recommendations at state and national levels; and realigned performance-based assessments.

The curriculum has clear and concise goals, district-wide alignment, observational formative assessments and performance-based summative assessments. Fairfield receives approximately \$60K from the Perkins grant, which is based on Fairfield's high scores on the NOCTI exam.

Mr. Dwyer was impressed with the presentation.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said the presentation was great and acknowledged the program's excellent reputation.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said it was a wonderful presentation. Liked the district-wide alignment and the skills flow-chart. What outreach takes place to attract non-typical students? How is the food allergy policy addressed? Ms. Keleher said the programs speak for themselves; the food programs generally have equal numbers of boys and girls. The middle schools are nut-free; the high schools have signage alerting that the room is not nut-free. Dr. Boice added that Ms. Keleher is aware of the possibility of new legislation and is already working on addressing that.

Mrs. Gerber thanked Ms. Hastings; both of her children enjoyed the Culinary Arts, particularly at the high school level, and said it is a wonderful program.

Ms. Karnal thanked the presenters and said her son has benefitted from the program.

Mr. Dwyer said the curriculum will be on the May agenda for adoption.

<i>Old Business</i>

Approval of the Racial Imbalance Timeline

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Calabrese seconded that the Board of Education approve the Racial Imbalance Benchmark Timeline as presented on March 16, 2017.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the Timeline begins on page 7; the plan has already been adopted by the Board. The CSBE requested an amendment to the original plan and requested the addition of benchmark planning items, found on pages 7-12. Dr. Jones added that changes were made as requested.

Mr. Llewellyn questioned Mr. Calabrese's eligibility to vote and said he was making a point of procedure; he supplied Board members with a letter from the Town HR department regarding Mr. Calabrese's position at the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mr. Dwyer said the item is not on the agenda and will not be considered.

Mr. Llewellyn and Mrs. Liu-McCormack said this is a point of order on the vote.

Mr. Dwyer ruled Mr. Llewellyn out of order.

Mr. Llewellyn challenged the ruling:

Mr. Llewellyn moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to discuss whether the vote should continue without Mr. Calabrese recusing himself.

Mr. Llewellyn referenced a March 23 email from Mr. Hibson to Mr. Mayer, confirming Mr. Calabrese's appointment as Director of Parks and Rec., with the expectation that it would be finalized within the week. Mr. Llewellyn read from the Town Charter, section 2.1C, which he believed made Mr. Calabrese ineligible to be a member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Dwyer said Mr. Calabrese's appointment to Director of Parks and Rec has not yet been finalized. Until both parties have signed the letter, there is no official contract, the appointment is not official and he is not required to resign.

Mr. Llewellyn asked Mr. Dwyer who told him this.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack questioned the ethics of the Board Chairman on this issue.

Voting in favor of Mr. Dwyer's ruling on the point of order: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko,
Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Voting in favor of Mr. Llewellyn's point of order: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

Mr. Dwyer apologized to Mr. Calabrese for the interruption

Ms. Karnal - what is the procedure when this becomes official? Board members should show respect for one another.

Mr. Dwyer continued the meeting and said further discussion on non-agenda items can be addressed after the meeting.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said this is an important issue; there is a conflict of interest.

Mr. Dwyer said that Mrs. Liu-McCormack has not been recognized.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly - has central office received any public feedback on the Timeline? What are your impressions on the state delegation tour of McKinley? Dr. Jones said she has not received much feedback. The state delegation tour was helpful to understand the complexity and uniqueness of McKinley. The Commissioner was very impressed with what was going in the classroom and with the building itself.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack – She does take issue with the timeline. Why are redistricting and a magnet program placed later in the timeline. Why would we spend money on non-mandated populations such as PK and Open Choice, at the expense of our K-12 students? We may have to cut back on some of our core offerings. Why should our primary population suffer? Suggests re-ordering the timeline to study redistricting earlier. Redistricting seems to be the only option; it wouldn't be that complicated. We need to do what we have to do first. She can't understand why we reverse the order. We will spend millions of dollars more on these other concepts, and then maybe have to close a neighborhood school. She's all for the state coming around, but it's not here yet, but we're willing to spend millions of dollars when we don't have it. Open Choice costs more than the cash flow that is shown. Every child is no different from any other child. If we continue to expand to areas that aren't mandated we will get into a deeper pit. We share the same pocketbook and the same responsibility. Prioritize non-mandated programs after we do what we have to do first.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Committees should be open to the public, not with just parents and staff but with all members of the public. BoE should have a town hall meeting on a Saturday morning for all of the public.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn left the meeting at 9:00PM.

Original Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote.)

Adoption of Policy 5145.15 – Students – Directory Information

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education adopt Policy 5145.15, Students – Directory Information.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said PTAC will be discussing working with the IT department for a transfer of directory information to PTA's.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Adoption of Policy 6111, Instruction – Schedules – Student Calendar

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education adopt Policy 6111, Instruction – Schedules – Student Calendar.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

<i>New Business</i>

SAT Mindset Survey: "How Does Parent Mindset Influence Child Mathematical Experience?"

Ms. Barba gave a brief background of her study and request to use online surveys and interviews to gather data. She is currently a doctoral student at Teachers College/Columbia University and is interested in parent mindset and influence on student mathematical experience.

Ms. Pytko – are we the only high schools involved in the survey? Are you looking for a percentage of the population? Ms. Barba said only Ludlowe and Warde students and parents will be surveyed and interviewed; this is a preliminary study and a selective participant pool.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly – Is this a Fairfield Public Schools form – it is very thorough. Will there be a presentation? Ms. Barba said the forms are from Columbia University, and she would be happy to present her findings to the Board.

Mr. Dwyer noted that this is being supervised by a doctoral dissertation committee and it is a volunteer effort on the part of students and parents. Ms. Barba said she would offer an hour of extra help as an incentive for participants.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Ms. Pytko seconded to add a voting item to the agenda.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road: Suggested surveying other students.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Ms. Pytko seconded to approve the SAT Mindset Survey.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- How would you provide feedback? Ms. Barba said through the interview.
- Why only seniors? Ms. Barba said she needed students who have taken the SAT.

Ms. Pytko added that as an educator, she sees the value in the growth mindset.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Approval to amend the 2016-2017 Calendar for the Special Election Date of June 6, 2017

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Dwyer seconded that the Board of Education approve to amend the 2016-2017 school calendar per enclosure No 3.

Dr. Jones said the enclosed memo addresses the June 6 special election. At the recommendation of the Police Department, June 6 will be a Professional Development day and school will be closed for students. The other aspect of the memo includes the last day of school for students; McKinley students will have the last day on June 20, with the final 2 days as half-days; all other students' last day will be June 16, with the final 2 days being full days. An attempt to get a waiver for McKinley's 2-day loss earlier in the school-year was rejected by the state. This calendar ensures that students will have the required 180 days of instruction.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- Does not understand how 5 days can be made up with half days. Dr. Jones said this calendar keeps us at the required 180 days for all students.
- Could half-day early releases be used to make up some of the time lost for McKinley? Dr. Jones said no.

- Could McKinley have the school day and still remain a polling site on June 6? Dr. Jones said the Police Department has advised against it. Other options were considered, including a request to move the polling date to a Saturday.

Mr. Dwyer added that a judge set the polling date.

Motion Passed: 4-1

Favor: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko

Oppose: Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Dr. Jones asked if the Board might be comfortable with a shortened day on Friday.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she would not be comfortable.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned that if more discussion on shortened-day decisions is of interest to the Board, it could be a future agenda topic.

Establish Date and Time of Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Fairfield Warde High School Graduation

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education establish Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of graduation for Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Fairfield Warde High School.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said her vote on this item is yielding to the will of the Board.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Acceptance of Riverfield Project No. 051-0125 EA

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education accept Riverfield Project No. 051-0125 EA as complete.

Mr. Dwyer said this is standard operating business.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly thanked all the committee members and staff that were a part of this project.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Approval of Tomlinson Partial Re-Roofing Project Ed-Specs

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve the Tomlinson Middle School Partial Re-Roofing Project Ed-Specs.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

First Reading of Solar Carport Project Proposal at Fairfield Ludlowe High and Fairfield Warde

Mr. Thompson, Chairman of Fairfield's Clean Energy Task Force, presented a proposal for solar carports at Fairfield Ludlowe and Fairfield Warde High Schools. The project would operate on a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The solar power facility would be designed, financed, constructed, operated, insured and maintained by Skyview. In turn, the Town agrees to purchase the solar power; the price would be fixed for 20 years and is less than what the Town currently pays. Together with the solar panels on the roofs, this will eventually make approximately 2/3 of the power at the high schools. If approved, construction can begin this summer.

Outreach to the community has taken place via flyers, meetings, websites and meeting with neighbors. The project has been approved by the Fairfield Police and Fire Departments, as well as by the Dept. of Public Works and the school transportation manager.

Mr. Dwyer

- What happens after BOE approval? Mr. Thompson said BOE acceptance is required for the PPA rates and the concept designs. Zoning review has been initiated with the Town; BOS approval is required for the PPA agreement.
- The BOE doesn't typically approve rates. Mr. Morabito clarified that the BOE would not be approving the rates, rather, the concept. Mr. Thompson deferred to Mr. Morabito.

Mrs. Gerber – thanked Mr. Thompson for the presentation. Concerned about student drivers hitting the structure and parents' awareness of the structure. Mr. Thompson said the vendor will be installing pads around the columns. He will continue to work to inform the school community.

Mr. Calabrese supports the project – where will the lights be? Mr. Thompson said carports will have LED timer controlled lighting.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- Noted that question 22 on the FAQ list addressed Mrs. Gerber's concerns and said the Town and schools are not on the hook financially for this structure.
- Did the color of the panels change? Mr. Thompson said the steel frame will be painted to match the school exterior.
- How can this get through the Town bodies in time? Mr. Thompson said if this is approved at the BOE's May 9 meeting, it will move forward to the BOS on May 17. It has already been submitted to the Town Planning and Zoning for review – but not yet sure of that timing.
- How can this move ahead when Ludlowe's parking lot paving was cut from the budget? Mr. Thompson said there is no impact.
- FAQ 16 – appreciated that the BOE amended language is included. Mr. Thompson said an EV charging permit fee could be added to recoup some of the cost if needed. That had been the BOF objection.
- Is this something that we can officially start factoring into the budget? Dr. Jones said this can't be factored in until complete. Mr. Cullen agreed and said there is much to be done before the system goes live. Mr. Thompson said page 26 and 34 show the savings.
- What is the go-live date? Mr. Mohab from Skyview said construction should be complete by the end of August; the go-live date should occur prior to the end of September.
- Given that, requested preliminary numbers to be provided for budget discussions. Mr. Cullen said he could do that.

Ms. Pytko was happy that the school headmasters were included in the conversation as it relates to security. Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Hatzis for his input and wisdom; the design was changed due to his insight.

Mrs. Gerber mentioned the summer windows installation. Mr. Morabito said Gilbane is aware of this project.

Mr. Dwyer said the windows project has been in the works a long time and nothing should impact it.

First Reading of Policies

6162.3, Instruction – Instructional Resources – Instructional Resources for Teachers

6163.31, Instruction – Curriculum – Basic Instructional Program – Dissection of Animals in the Classroom

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly welcomed Board questions and comments.

<i>Approval of Minutes</i>

Approval of the Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Special Meeting

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 16, 2017.

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jones congratulated the middle schools on their performances last week, as well as McKinley's version of Charlotte's Web. The Dwight PTA meeting was well attended; many questions addressed the town discussion on structural change. We will send out clarification on the calendar change. Thank you to the Family/Consumer Science team for the wonderful presentation.

Regarding the budget, the BOF and BOS voted to restore the \$2M, therefore the original reduction of \$2.33M has all been restored with the exception of the \$33K. Still watching the excess cost and special education component; those are big numbers and won't be final until the June/July timeframe. Will have to be very conservative going into next year and will be following the state very closely.

Mr. Dwyer added that the BOF decided to add to the contingency fund in the event the legislators move a portion of the pension payment to Fairfield. Once the state budget settles, the First Selectman would be in a position to recommend to the BOF to spend contingency dollars. Despite the good news regarding the \$2M restoration, we still have to cut \$2.35M which is not an easy task in a tight budget.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the RTM vote is the final hurdle and asked about the RTM meeting. Dr. Jones said she attended last night's meeting; the RTM has watched BOF and BOS meetings where the BOE budget was presented and discussed, and so the group was prepared to hear an update. As a result, there weren't many questions.

Committee/Liaison Reports

Ms. Pytko said the SEPTA fundraiser was a wonderful event and she thanked the participants and staff.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly mentioned that the PTAC will soon be accepting nominations for awards named for Brian Fagan, Alis B. McGrath, Deanna O'Kiernan and Patricia Ford Money.

Open Board Comment

Ms. Pytko said she attended the town-wide band concert at the high school and it was beautiful. She appreciated the invitations for the TMS and McKinley performances, but was unable to attend.

Mr. Dwyer encouraged staff to invite Board members to everything.

Public Comment

Mary Hogue, Stonewall Lane: Supports solar project and thanked staff for being thorough and engaged.

Mr. Dwyer noted the next meetings on April 25 will be a self-evaluation and a town-hall style. He clarified that the self-evaluation is at 6:00 pm and the town-hall meeting will be at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed: 5-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal and Mr. Llewellyn were not present for the vote)

Meeting adjourned at 10:17PM

*Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Board of Education
Secretary*