

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, January 25, 2018**

**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 Special Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call**

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:35PM. Present were members Trisha Pytko, Christine Vitale, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Jacobsen, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and Jeff Peterson. Jennifer Leeper was absent. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, FLHS student representative Molly Baker, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 10 members of the public.

**Voting Summary:**

**New Business**

*Adoption of a Recommended Budget for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year*

Mrs. Vitale moved/Mrs. Jacobsen seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve an operating budget to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield for the 2018-2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$173,956,991, amended as follows:

Reallocate \$403,602 from Technology (Summary Object 503) to restore the 20% student per pupil allocation reduction to be appropriated to each school.” Motion passed 8-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2018.” Motion passed 8-0.

*Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Special Meeting*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 9, 2018.” Motion passed 8-0.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Aysseh moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.” Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:22PM

**Detailed Minutes:**

Mr. Dwyer said he would be introducing a revised recommended budget motion. It will allow the budget to remain the same while restoring school allocations.

**Student Reports**

Ms. Baker reported for FLHS: Course selection night took place and the Program of Studies is posted to the website; next week is 8<sup>th</sup> grade night; seniors participated in the volleyball tournament.

**Public Comment**

*Mr. Convertito*, PTAC President: The budget does not meet the educational needs of the Town.

## **New Business**

### *Adoption of a Recommended Budget for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year*

Mrs. Vitale moved, Mrs. Jacobsen seconded “that the Board of Education approve an operating budget to be forwarded to the Town of Fairfield for the 2018-2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$173,956,991, amended as follows: Reallocate \$403,602 from Technology (Summary Object 503) to restore the 20% student per pupil allocation reduction to be appropriated to each school.”

Mr. Dwyer said the revised motion allows restoration to 18-19 school allocations by using a portion of the 17-18 current year health insurance savings to pre-purchase items in the 18-19 budget. The pre-purchase would allow approximately \$403K to be re-allocated to the school allocation accounts. Dr. Jones added that the original idea was to pre-purchase Science materials, but the Executive Team decided on the pre-purchase of technology materials instead, since that has a known cost.

Dr. Jones said the district does not keep a ‘priority 2’ budget list in writing but could do so going forward. One of the items discussed has been K-2 World Language. There will be more discussion on special education staffing levels after the SPED study has been completed. This budget is very responsive to the District Improvement Plan and aims at priorities to move the district forward.

School allocation correlates with projected student enrollment. Over time, what has been included in school allocation has changed, including copy paper and software. It is important to note that programming was not reduced. Mr. Dwyer confirmed that the high schools have already had some of the allocation restored.

## **Public Comment**

*Lisa Havey, Longview Avenue:* Read a National PTA statement on what PTAs should and should not fund.

*Suzanne Miska, Ryegate Road:* Supports budget and the budget process.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the budget is very frugal and the current year budget has \$2.3M that is not being spent as originally approved. Would like the district to thrive, rather than simply survive.

Mr. Dwyer said the budget transfer approval process typically happens in June. Items placed in reserve and reported on in the quarterly report are not voted on at the time of the report, as numbers may change prior to June. Mr. Aysseh would like big number items to come before the Board.

## **Motion Passed: 8-0**

### *Quarterly Financial Report*

Mrs. Munsell reported that by utilizing the \$2.3M reserve funds, the FPS total expenses are expected to be within budget for June 2018. The reserve amount was placed in a Support Expense category and consequently, the reserve amounts are no longer available for use as originally intended; for example, accounts reflected in column 1 of the report such as Maintenance Services and Projects, show an overage. Column 2 represents the location of the \$2.3M, in essence, where monies are added back in.

Due to the CT Partnership 2.0 changes, there is a \$1M projected insurance savings.

Mr. Aysseh would like to fund the \$227K maintenance in keeping with the waterfall. Mr. Dwyer added that the budget is fluid and staff manage any overages.

### *Discussion of Special Meetings for Facility Issues*

Mrs. Vitale introduced the idea of an informal Board meeting to address the district initiative on facilities and structural change. Since the dissolution of the Adhoc Committee on Operational Effectiveness, the discussion has stalled. There

are many remaining open items such as the waterfall, racial imbalance and facilities considerations. Dr. Jones agreed and said her previous district had 'Board working sessions' which proved to be very productive discussions for construction projects. A majority of the Board agreed with the idea and wanted to include public comment and engagement. Mrs. Vitale said she would get the process started with a special meeting, and perhaps it would become a committee.

*First Reading of Amendment to Policy 9000, By-Laws of the Board, Article II, Section 4, Committees*

Mr. Aysseh introduced the by-law amendment to form a Finance and Budget Committee. The committee would allow ideas to be researched and vetted prior to being presented to the full Board. The language in the amendment, copied from the previous Finance Committee, is intended to be broad. The language in #2, regarding labor agreements, is intended to maintain current practice. Mr. Dwyer said past practice is for the Board to meet and discuss strategy – then have one member participate in negotiations.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly disliked the vague, open-ended language in #2 pertaining to labor agreements; it should have clear parameters to avoid what happened to the Adhoc Committee. Would also like to see language that ensures the committee will address items originating with the Board rather than staff. Mrs. Gerber added that the existing Policy Committee does not have this language either but it is implied.

Mr. Aysseh was open to revising the language at the Board's request. Discussion followed on specifics of what the committee would be doing. Mrs. Jacobsen suggested the committee would review the budget as well as research ideas such as corporate sponsorship. Mr. Dwyer cautioned against making more or redundant work for staff, for example, the quarterly reports are embedded in policy; any change to their frequency would involve policy. Board members agreed the by-law amendment should be moved forward for approval at the February 13 meeting, even though Mr. Aysseh would not be able to attend that meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2018.

**Motion Passed: 8-0**

*Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Special Meeting*

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**Motion Passed: 8-0**

**Superintendent Report**

- Dr. Jones said Kindergarten registration has begun; the district wants to get students enrolled quickly. The PK registration has recently been automated. Ms. Miner said PK registration is also beginning soon. The PK program is advertised through principal recruitment, the FPS website, district posters, Peachjar and an upcoming February 8 orientation session at the library. Opt-in information was just recently sent out, but parents may not decide until the summer.
- High school scheduling is also underway, and transitional-year visits are taking place.
- The SPED consultants are here to meet with the community. A Board sign-up sheet is circulating for this purpose.

**Committee/Liaison Reports**

Ms. Pytko reported for the Board of Health: A Saturday flu clinic will take place.

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Ms. Pytko also reported for SEPTA: Mr. Mancusi will attend the next meeting on January 31 and SEPTA Teens Social Group meets on January 26.

Mr. Dwyer reported that Fairfield Cares will offer training on the use of Narcan. Kits will be provided free of charge to those who are trained.

**Open Board Comment**

Mr. Dwyer said the RTM committees appear to support the FEA contract; it will be voted on at the upcoming RTM Meeting.

Mrs. Gerber mentioned that the RTM Meeting is at OHS.

**Public Comment**

*Suzanne Miska*, Ryegate Road: Supports public participation during facilities discussion; questioned Finance Committee purpose.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Aysseh moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

**Motion Passed: 8-0**

Meeting adjourned at 9:22PM

*Respectfully Submitted by  
Jessica Gerber  
Secretary, Fairfield Board of Education*