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**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, June 12, 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.

## **Voting Summary**

### **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 Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Leeper, Christine Vitale, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Jacobsen, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and Jeff Peterson. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 10 members of the public.

### **New Business**

#### **Food Services Program and Financial Summary**

##### **Approval of Participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program**

Ms. Leeper moved/Mr. Peterson seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program for the school year 2018-19 with the exclusion of the sale of food and the sale of beverages not listed in section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes: (1) sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store”

Motion passed 9-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **Approval of Regular Minutes of May 22**

Mrs. Vitale moved/Ms. Leeper seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the BOE Regular Minutes of May 22” Motion passed 8-0-1 (*Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly abstained*)

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Jacobsen seconded to suspend the rules and extend the meeting indefinitely. Motion passed 9-0.

### **Board Discussion: Superintendent Evaluation**

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mr. Aysseh seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education hereby moves to enter into Executive Session to discuss superintendent evaluation in accordance with Connecticut General Statute CGS 1-210-(b)(9)” Motion passed 9-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 1:23AM

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mr. Aysseh seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.” Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:23AM.

## Detailed Minutes

### Public Comment

*Ethan Larkin*, FLHS student: Disappointed in the reduced class time for AP Studio Art next year.

*Fran Larkin*, FLHS parent: Interested in providing grant information to the district.

### Vision of a Graduate

Dr. Jones introduced the *Vision of a Graduate* as a yearlong development process that included a CAPSS sponsored workshop series and staff and community input. The *Vision* answers the question, "What do we want our students to know and be able to do when they graduate from Fairfield Public Schools?" The team of presenters included Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hatzis and Mr. Ebling. The group thanked many staff members for the amount of work involved.

Mr. Ebling said students will meet the FPS Vision of a Graduate through Academic, Social and Civic Expectations. All students will be Innovators, Communicators, Collaborators, Critical Thinkers, Responsible Citizens and Goal-Directed Resilient Learners. Mr. Hatzis reviewed the Academic Expectations that reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, guide instruction and assessment, and are met through successful implementation of curriculum and strong instructional practice.

Mr. Cummings detailed the initiatives and supports designed for both teachers and students, to accomplish the FPS *Vision of a Graduate*. Goals and Key Implementations were reviewed, followed by a short video presentation. Dr. Jones added that the resulting draft work plan is tied to the key implementations and will be formally presented to the Board in August.

Several Board members had questions and needed clarification on the Academic Expectations Chart. The team responded:

- Mrs. Gerber heard that several parents were a little confused about this information. Mr. Hatzis said parents have received and will continue to receive communication about this chart. The requirement is a .5 credit for mastery of Academic Expectations over the 4 years, and does not affect GPA.
- Ms. Leeper expressed some concern that the skills are extrovert-heavy. Mr. Hatzis said PD will help teachers choose the right methodology to reach students who are more introverted or shy. Ms. Pytko suggested that students might benefit from a self-assessment.
- Feedback will occur over time; some assessments may not be related to Academic Expectations. Normally, all 6 indicators will not be measured at the same time. Skills apply to cross-curricular areas and there will be multiple opportunities for feedback.

The Board discussed the draft work plan for the *Vision of a Graduate*. Mr. Dwyer said the plan is an early version of what will be presented for a first read in August. The District Improvement Plan data has changed and some sections may no longer apply. Several Board members requested a comparison or a crosswalk of this document with the District Improvement Plan to help outline all the changes and updates. The presenters addressed several Board questions:

- For consistency, the addition of 2 Educational Goals highlighted on page 1, might also be addressed by the Policy Committee.

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- Task parameters and content might change year to year for an assured experience, but the level of learning will remain the same.
- PD for innovative learning may include environmental classroom design, such as a change from the traditional desk-style design to a free-flow workspace.
- Mr. Peterson expressed some concern over the video at the end of the presentation; it appeared to be tech-heavy. Students are also preparing to be artists and writers.

The timing of the *Vision of a Graduate* coincided with the new policy on graduation requirements. The *Vision* work is much broader and is supported within the policy.

## **New Business**

### *Food Services and Financial Summary*

Ms. Leeper moved, Mr. Peterson seconded that the Board of Education approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program for the school year 2018-19 with the exclusion of the sale of food and the sale of beverages not listed in section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes: (1) sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Ms. Munsell reviewed the Food Services income statement and lunch meal comparison. At year-end, there is a guaranteed minimum profit of \$77,776 per the Whitsons contract. No change was recommended for lunch pricing. The low average daily enrollment numbers at FLHS and FWHS for 17-18 as currently listed on the chart, will be verified.

The Whitsons team included District Manager Mr. Emery, Food Services Director Ms. O'Malley and Registered Dietician Ms. O'Brien. The focus right now is on elementary, expanding the search for clean labels and exposing students to different sources of protein. A recent survey was only able to elicit a 4% participation rate, and work has begun on improving that. Whitsons will help prepare a specialty menu for any student referral from a doctor or school nurse. An interactive menu for students with allergies is also available on the website. It is important for all students to have the ability to participate in the lunch program. Whitsons also works together with Ms. Mediate to develop nutrition education plans. One recent example was a lesson plan on the importance of breakfast.

Mrs. Gerber suggested the survey design might have something to do with the low participation rate; the survey ended abruptly for those whose children did not get hot lunch.

### **Motion Passed: 9-0**

### *First Reading of Teacher Evaluation Revisions*

Dr. Jones said the revisions to the Teacher Evaluation Plan have been reviewed by the Instructional and Human Resources departments. The state denied FPS' waiver request, requiring the revisions to be approved by the Board. Mr. Cummings added that the district had several goals in the revision: focus on quality observations, include a Yearly Review of Practice, support teacher development in multiple settings, and encourage greater alignment in professional development. The idea is to move from mere

compliance to professional learning. Much of the language is tied to federal grant monies such as ESSA. It is difficult to quantify the cost of implementing this state mandate, but what is known is that it takes a tremendous amount of time. The following points were made:

- State mastery data cannot be used to measure an educator's SLO.
- Legislation language dictates that parent feedback goals are by school (not grade level).
- The Marzano framework is used as an internal rating system. A common video is shared and rated during the August advance.
- Due to the amount of time spent on PPT and formal evaluations, secondary administrators don't have much time for informal drop-in observations. Hopefully, next year's improved PPT process will allow more time.

Mr. Dwyer said any Board changes to this document would require a return to committee for re-approval.

#### *First Reading of Graduation Policy # 6146*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly introduced the policy and requested feedback comments within the week. The policy has been reviewed by staff. Mr. Peterson thanked Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly for her leadership during the much-debated process. Mrs. Jacobsen added that Fairfield is one of the first districts to create policy with the new state mandated requirements, so there weren't many examples for comparison. The statute does not specifically name which mastery test should be used.

Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Dwyer, and Ms. Vitale supported a community service option. Mr. Cummings said this would have a staff impact; students would need to be mentored individually which would require more staff.

Mr. Aysseh, Ms. Vitale and Ms. Pytko voiced their objections to including SAT and PSAT scores; Mrs. Gerber expressed some concern. Mrs. Jacobsen suggested using College Board's 11<sup>th</sup> grade SAT scores as a benchmark, rather than the state's benchmark. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly mentioned that all students take SAT and PSAT, which can provide definitive measures. The policy would still meet state statute without the SAT, but there is the notion that it can drive mediation work. Students with special needs will be accommodated through the PPT process. Dr. Rasmussen added that approximately 65% of 2017 SAT and PSAT results would meet this requirement in math; the 16-17 percentage will be provided. Mr. Cummings said that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the new SAT and College Board cautions against drawing conclusions from 3 years of data. Whether in policy or not, the district has an obligation to ensure that junior year students master SAT content.

Ms. Pytko felt that some students are on a career path and questioned whether World Language is a state requirement. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said yes; the district is already planning for how this requirement will impact students with special needs.

Ms. Leeper said the Capstone could be a meaningful and enriching requirement; advocated for the inclusion of a Personal Finance course requirement; and said there should be more creativity with meeting the PE requirement. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said that athletic coaches are not typically certified PE teachers, so credit could not be granted for varsity sports. Some of the ideas for Capstone are captured in the other .5; those same ideas offer creative ways of demonstrating certain skills.

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*Discussion: Board Goals*

Mr. Dwyer requested and received unanimous consent to defer this item.

**Approval of Regular Minutes of May 22**

Mrs. Vitale moved, Ms. Leeper seconded that the Board of Education approve the BOE Regular Minutes of May 22.

**Motion Passed: 8-0-1**

*Abstain: Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly*

**Superintendent Report**

- Dr. Jones said the political policy administrative regulations are complete and will be posted shortly.
- The draft BOE Meeting Schedule was reviewed for 2018-2019 with the idea that some of the larger topics would be addressed by an informal subset of the Board. This would allow options and ideas to be streamlined prior to Regular Board meetings.

Mr. Dwyer said the draft meeting schedule allows Board members time for review. In the past, efforts to address some of the larger issues have failed, such as the Adhoc Committee for Operational Effectiveness. This is a new proposal for the Board's consideration and up to 4 Board members may meet informally since they do not constitute a quorum.

The Board discussed the schedule and the various ways to address topics that might require multiple meetings. There was disagreement over whether meetings on some of the larger issues would have an initial discussion through adhoc, informal or special meetings. Mr. Dwyer agreed that more discussion on the schedule is warranted.

**Committee/Liaison Reports**

Ms. Pytko reported for SEPTA: The SEPTA year-end meeting will be held at Taco Loco.

Ms. Pytko reported for the Board of Health: A regional preparedness health emergency plan is in the works; the mental health component in response to emergencies is being addressed; a plan to address the handling of monetary donations is being prepared; the Epi-Penn supply has been re-stocked; the 'Stop the Bleed' campaign has ordered 1 tourniquet for each school in town; there is a need for substitute nurses; water quality testing is occurring; Lake Mohegan has a resident beaver; a new blood test can detect concussions.

Ms. Leeper reported for the Finance Committee: A discussion on going paperless also included the Board's use of E-Board software and a demo for the full Board will be scheduled. Grade reconfiguration was discussed. Corporate sponsorship is possible and both Athletic Directors are on board with the concept.

Mr. Aysseh reported for the Holland Hill Building Committee: No major issues.

Mrs. Vitale reported for the PTAC: The budget was approved; a new website will be designed; PTA awards will take place Thursday at RLMS.

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Mrs. Gerber reported for the FLHSBC: The window project will begin as soon as school is out.

Mr. Peterson reported for the BOF: A discussion regarding unspent monies dealt with paving, but there is nothing to report affecting BOE.

**Open Board Comment**

Mrs. Jacobsen wished all students a happy graduation.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly recognized and congratulated Mrs. Vitale and Ms. Pytko for their PTA Awards. It is a tribute to the amount of hours that each one has dedicated to volunteering.

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Jacobsen seconded to suspend the rules and extend the meeting indefinitely.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

**Board Discussion: Superintendent Evaluation**

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Aysseh seconded that the Board of Education hereby moves to enter into Executive Session to discuss superintendent evaluation in accordance with Connecticut General Statute CGS 1-210-(b)(9).

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

The Board came out of executive session at 1:23AM.

**Adjournment**

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

**Motion Passed: 9-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:23AM.

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