

**Minutes
Fairfield BoE; June 24, 2014**

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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 7:46PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Convertito, Donna Karnal, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Paul Fattibene, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, John Llewellyn and Marc Patten. Others present were Superintendent David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team, and approximately 25 members of the public.

Public Comment

Lisa Davy, Wilton Road: RYSAP Survey implementation and policy.
Dawn Llewellyn, Sturges Road: Improvement of student achievement.
Christina Marsan, North Cedar Road: School security and Infinite Campus.

Old Business

Approval of AP Psychology Curriculum

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the AP Psychology Curriculum.

Motion Passed: 9-0

Approval of AP Psychology Text

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Patten seconded that the Board of Education approve the AP Psychology textbook as defined in the May 30, 2014 memo from Dr. Boice.

Motion Passed: 6-3

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten
Opposed: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

Dr. Boice reiterated that while there aren't subject specific prerequisites, it is not an easy or watered down course. Experienced teachers chose the Myers text as the most comprehensive, and teachers are not limited to the text in providing rigor.

Mr. Pugliese said there are 83 students interested in taking the course, spoke to the comprehensive process by which the text was chosen, and explained that it is an AP edition and is the most commonly used text for AP Psychology. Teachers will also use other resources.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack felt the Bernstein text was more comprehensive and rigorous but agreed with Dr. Boice that teachers are not limited to the text for providing rigor. She spoke to outside psychologists and they felt Bernstein was more comprehensive, particularly with the price point.

Ms. Karnal asked whether more professionals – psychiatrists, psychologists -- should be consulted regarding the text since the one professional on the textbook committee preferred Bernstein. Mr. Pugliese felt the selection process was comprehensive.

Mr. Fattibene stated he has no problem adopting the Myers text. After asking for clarification, he was told by Mr. Pugliese that the course is classified as a Social Science and is offered in our district through the Social Studies department, as it is in many districts.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly agreed with the text selection and maintained that the first responsibility is to the AP exam preparation. Rigor is provided by the teachers, not the text.

Mr. Patten agreed that professional opinions do matter, but this is an introductory course, and confirmed that the cost of the text is included in the 2014-2015 budget.

Mr. Llewellyn asked if Bernstein provided info about districts out of CT that use their text; Mr. Pugliese said that some districts in RI, MA and NY were mentioned but he used the information from CT. In terms of how the selection process worked Mr. Llewellyn expressed skepticism; the text appears easier than it needs to be for this AP course.

Public Comment:

Tricia Donovan, Taintor Drive: Consideration of AP course readability level.

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent to move forward items 5A-D to before item 4C and the Board agreed.

<i>New Business</i>

Food Service Program and Financial Summary

Mrs. Munsell reviewed the Food Services Financial Summary.

Mr. Llewellyn asked about the fund balances and the cash balance, and what the liability was. He asked if we will discuss where the funds come from during the transfer discussion, Mrs. Munsell said yes.

Ms. Karnal asked about the surplus, and Mrs. Munsell replied that Whitsons guarantees a profit of \$170,000 next year, as stated in the contract.

Mr. Patten asked about the projected fund balance.

Mr. Dwyer explained that the fund balance stays with Food Services.

Mr. Fattibene asked about the fund balance and government reimbursements.

Approval of the Participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program

Mrs. Munsell introduced Whitsons representatives: Senior Vice President John Gersbeck, and District Managers Karen Gersbeck and Lisa DePaolo. Mr. Gersbeck gave a brief history of the company and reviewed some of the offerings.

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program for the school year 2014-2015 with the exclusion of the sale of food: (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.

Mr. Gersbeck responded to Board questions; the 8 known food allergens would be listed for each food item in each school in an easily accessible 'station binder'; anything offered in a classroom would require approval; the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act changed last year for portions and offerings; fruits and vegetables are unlimited; soup is offered; the Healthy Certification List is followed; the beverage law disallows sugar beverages, but 100% fruit juice is allowed; there will be a mobile app; and surveys will provide feedback.

Mr. Convertito asked about food allergens.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked about the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act and expressed concern that students aren't getting enough food and don't eat the fruit or vegetables.

Mr. Patten liked the PTA involvement and the technology aspect.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack stressed the importance of feedback.

Public comment:

Tara Cook-Littman, Stella Lane: Thanked the Board for bringing in Whitsons.

Approval of the Sale of Beverages Not Listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Convertito seconded that the Board of Education allow 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

Mr. Patten asked about the difference between the motions.

Dr. Title explained the first motion allows exceptions for food, the second for beverages; exceptions are allowed at concession stands, and at events after school or on the weekends.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked if the exception allows for the sale of pizza and cupcakes, and Dr. Title replied that it must be an event after school hours.

Approval of Public School Lunch Prices

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mr. Convertito seconded that the Board of Education approve the recommended school lunch prices for the 2014-2015 school year, as contained in Enclosure No. 5.

Motion Passed 9-0

Mr. Gersbeck responded to Board questions: the lunch prices are in line with expectations; a deluxe meal is not always offered and may be something like a visiting chef; staff cannot control what a student spends; and a premium meal is offered daily.

Mr. Convertito asked about the lunch prices.

Mr. Fattibene asked about the deluxe meal.

Mrs. Karnal asked about the premium meal.

<i>Old Business</i>

Approval of the Revised Educator Professional Growth Plan

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan.

Mr. Fattibene expressed concern regarding the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) and suggested amending the plan to have 2 SLO's.

Mr. Dwyer asked about the state approval process for the plan.

Mrs. Leffert responded that any change to the plan requires the committee to meet and approve the change before being sent back to the state.

Mr. Smoler, the incoming FEA president and committee member, mentioned that having 2 SLOs, as was done this past year, required a significant amount of data collection and meetings, and resulted in loss of instructional time. He urged the Board to approve the plan as is.

Dr. Title reminded the Board that this plan must be implemented by September 1.

Mr. Patten, after hearing that this plan will be revisited next year, offered that it should be approved for now. If the Board feels strongly about it, changes can be made next year.

Mr. Llewellyn expressed concern regarding insufficient direct feedback on a teacher level, and felt there was a solution for those teachers with too few students to have a meaningful survey. He felt that students should be given the chance for feedback.

Mr. Convertito suggested an annual approval.

Mr. Fattibene moved, Mr. Convertito seconded to amend the motion to read: that the Board of Education approve the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan until the end of the 2014-2015 school year after which a presentation shall be made to the Board on the implementation of the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan including a recommendation for revisions, if any.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded to amend the amendment to read: that the Board of Education approve the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan until the end of the 2014-2015 school year after which a presentation shall be made to the Board on the implementation of the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan including a recommendation for revisions, if any, and with the understanding that in the 2015-2016 school year a student survey shall replace the school climate survey.

Mr. Llewellyn asked whether there was a presentation last year and was told no, it was not part of the motion made by the Board last year.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack felt strongly that the student survey should be included and wanted to see how the rest of the Board felt.

Dr. Title requested clarification on the amendment.

Mrs. Leffert and Mr. Smoler both expressed concern about the student feedback language in the motion; it is inadvisable to lock it in to the plan at this time.

Mr. Patten expressed concern regarding the student survey language as there are too many unknowns. The committee is actually where these decisions would be made.

Public Comment

Lisa Davy, Wilton Road: Importance of survey administration.

Julie Gottlieb, Applegate Road: Replacement of climate survey is concerning.

Christina Marsan, North Cedar Road: Safe school climate questions.

Mr. Convertito would not support the amendment to the amendment but would like the committee to investigate a student survey.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly appreciates the value of student feedback, but will not support the amendment to the amendment as it fulfills a different purpose. She reminded the Board that the plan is very ambitious; the Marzano model shows that student feedback is measured.

Mr. Fattibene will not support the motion and will wait for more discussion next year.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said her intent was to include the student survey election; she asked to withdraw her amendment; the Board agreed.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded to amend the amendment to read: that the Board of Education approve the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan until the end of the 2014-2015 school year after which a presentation shall be made to the Board on the implementation of the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan including a recommendation for revisions, if any, and with the understanding that in the 2015-2016 school year a student survey shall replace the whole school learning indicator.

Public Comment:

Lisa Davy, Wilton Road: Requested clarification on how the climate survey fits in.

Mr. Smoler mentioned that a student survey is an enormous undertaking and advised against it for now.

Mr. Patten considered the budget implications for administering a survey.

Motion Failed 2-7

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

Oppose: Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Mr. Convertito moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded to call the question.

Motion Passed 7-0-2

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstain: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

Mr. Fattibene's amendment: that the Board of Education approve the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan until the end of the 2014-2015 school year after which a presentation shall be made to the Board on the implementation of the revised Educator Professional Growth Plan including a recommendation for revisions, if any.

Motion Passed 9-0

Original Motion (as now amended) Passed 7-2

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Oppose: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

<i>New Business</i>

Financial Report and Approval of Budget Transfers for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

Mrs. Munsell discussed the enclosures. Dr. Title noted that the year ended in the black due to Mrs. Munsell's diligence as well as the support from the administrators and teachers.

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded that the Board of Education approve line item transfers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year as detailed in the Financial Statement Enclosure No. 6.

Mr. Convertito received assurance from Mrs. Munsell that the Food Service numbers also all appear in the long sheet. He also clarified that there are no transfers going into the Food Services fund, rather, Food Service expenses are being transferred to the General Fund.

Mr. Llewellyn said he had sent an email regarding information on a fund basis and had not received a response. He expressed concern regarding BOE approval of a General Fund transfer to the Food Service Fund, and suggested the Board of Finance, Board of Selectman and/or RTM may need to approve. He disagreed with the interpretation of the Cohn Reznick letter that the practice was correct.

Mrs. Munsell clarified that funds are not being transferred to another fund, only reclassified, and referenced the Cohn Reznick letter, dated June 23, 2014.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the accounting memo affirmed the practice as normal and customary, and BOS/BOF approval is not required.

Mr Fattibene said he had not received the memo from the accountant. He was told it was sent by email and if he had not received it an additional copy could be provided

Mrs. Liu-McCormack asked what would happen if the Board did not approve the transfer request, and Mrs. Munsell responded that there would be a deficit for Food Service, which is the responsibility of the BOE.

Dr. Title offered that a new addition to the state statute requires that the transfer information, once complete, gets sent to the BOF and the RTM for informational purposes only, and mentioned that Mrs. Munsell met with the partner in the auditing firm to ensure this was being handled properly.

Mr. Convertito stated that we are not transferring funds into Food Services, we are transferring expenses that we budgeted for out of Food Services into the General Fund.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack felt that this is a technicality and felt we are discussing the same thing and we should not differentiate.

Mr. Llewellyn moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to amend the motion to read, "that the Board of Education approve line item transfers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year as detailed in the Financial Statement Enclosure No. 6, that will be effective upon affirmative approval of the Board of Finance, Board of Selectman and RTM."

Mr. Fattibene suggested changing 'approval' to 'review'.

Mr. Dwyer reiterated that the Town bodies will review the transfers this year, per state law.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly clarified with Mrs. Munsell that these items were previously in our budget.

Mr. Llewellyn had several questions regarding the Food Service pension payment. He took issue with the way this is getting done while maintaining that it should be funded. He also added that the School Lunch Program is a Special Revenue Fund on the Town's financial statement.

Mr. Patten maintained that this amendment may go against the Town charter and he will not support it.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack noted that if there are questions regarding the Town's purview, then the vote should be deferred.

Public Comment:

Kelly Dunn, Tuckahoe Lane: The amendment needs further research.

Motion Failed 2-5-2

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

Oppose: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstain: Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene

Mr. Fattibene requested clarification on enclosure No. 6, and received confirmation from Mr. Dwyer and Dr. Title that the transfers are all within BOE accounts.

Mr. Llewellyn asked for a reading of the auditor’s letter to pinpoint the transfer approval statement.

Mrs. Munsell read a portion of the auditor’s letter aloud and further explained that the transfer being referred to is the transfer from one classification to another.

Mr. Dwyer reiterated that expenses are being absorbed and bills are being paid.

Mr. Patten is hopeful that monies appropriated for technology can actually be used for technology next year.

Original Motion Passed 6-0-3

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten

Abstain: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

Adoption of Board Goals

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board for unanimous consent to move this item to the August 26 meeting; the Board agreed.

Ms. Karnal moved, Mr. Patten seconded to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past 11PM.

Motion Passed 9-0

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2014 Special Meeting

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Special Meeting** of June 10, 2014.

Motion Passed 8-0-1

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten

Abstain: Ms. Karnal

Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2014 Regular Meeting

Mr. Convertito moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the **Regular Meeting** of June 10, 2014.

Motion Passed 8-0-1

Favor: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Patten

Abstain: Ms. Karnal

Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Gerber mentioned that the OHS Building Committee met last Thursday, but there was no quorum. Bids did go out and the gym project will begin this summer, and the rest of the windows will be done in the summer of 2015.

Mr. Dwyer gave an explanation for the postponement of the FLHS approval, and said it will be addressed at a July 15 Special Meeting.

Open Board Comment

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly thanked and commended the staff for the graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Convertito remarked that the graduation ceremonies were very enjoyable.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack thanked the staff for their partnership with parents regarding the math articulation process.

Mr. Dwyer remarked that graduation was a wonderful experience.

Ms. Karnal enjoyed the graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Patten echoed the Board comments and thanked the parents, the public and the PTAs for attending.

Superintendent Evaluation

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mr. Convertito seconded that the Board of Education convene to Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion Passed 9-0

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:04 PM.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:02 AM

Approval of the Superintendent of Schools Contract

Mr. Convertito moved, Mr. Patten seconded the recommended motion "that the Fairfield Board of Education enter into a contract of employment with David G. Title as Superintendent of Schools for the period 7/1/14 through 6/30/17 on the same terms as set forth in the 2013-2016 contract, except the base salary for each year shall be as for the 2013-2014 contract year unless otherwise negotiated between the parties, and that effective July 1, 2014 the 2013-2016 contract be terminated and replaced by the 2014-2017 contract."

Motion Passed 7-2

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten
Oppose: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mr. Patten seconded that the Fairfield Board of Education set the Superintendent's base salary for 2014-2015 at a 1.75% increase over the 2013-2014 base salary.

Motion Passed 5-4

Favor: Mr. Convertito, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten
Oppose: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed 9-0

Meeting adjourned 2:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Jessica Gerber
Fairfield Board of Education
Secretary