

**Organizational Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, November 25, 2014**

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

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Special meeting to order at 7:07PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack, John Llewellyn, Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Marc Patten, Paul Fattibene, and Donna Karnal. John Convertito was not present. Also present were Dr. David Title, members of the Central Office Leadership Team and approximately 30 members of the public.

*Election of Temporary Chairman*

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Ms. Karnal seconded the recommended motion that in accordance with the By-Laws, Superintendent Dr. David Title will serve as Temporary Chairman/Secretary during the election of Board Officers.

**Motion Passed: 8-0**

*Election of Officers*

Board of Education Chairman

Ms. Karnal moved to nominate Mr. Fattibene for Chairman, he accepted.

Mr. Patten moved to nominate Mr. Dwyer for Chairman, he accepted.

Votes: 4 for Mr. Fattibene (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn)

4 for Mr. Dwyer (Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten)

**No Chairman was elected.**

Board of Education Vice Chairman

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved to nominate Ms. Karnal for Vice Chairman, she accepted.

Mr. Fattibene moved to nominate Mr. Dwyer for Vice Chairman, he declined.

Votes: 4 for Ms. Karnal (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Fattibene, Mr. Llewellyn)

4 against (Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten)

**No Vice Chairman was elected.**

Board of Education Secretary

Mr. Patten moved to nominate Mrs. Gerber for Secretary, she accepted

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved to nominate Mr. Llewellyn for Secretary, he declined.

Votes: 6 for Mrs. Gerber (Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Patten)

2 against (Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Mr. Llewellyn)

**Mrs. Gerber was elected Secretary.**

Mrs. Gerber will serve as acting Chairman until the next Regular BoE meeting, when Board Officer elections will resume.

Dr. Title explained that per statue statute, if the Board is unable to elect a Chair, the Selectmen would appoint one.

Mr. Llewellyn questioned whether there was also a Town rule that would address this situation and said he thought the RTM would make the decision, not BoS.

*Approval of Ad-hoc Committee By-Laws*

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded the recommended motion that the Board of Education approve the Ad-hoc Committee changes to the By-Laws as presented.

Mr. Dwyer moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to divide the question into three parts.

Mr. Dwyer withdrew his motion.

Ms. Karnal moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to divide the question into three parts.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack and Mr. Llewellyn said this motion was originally presented as three motions last December. Mr. Fattibene felt this motion was appropriate to divide, given that it is a report on several recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Kennelly mentioned that a motion to divide was rejected last December.

**Motion Passed 8-0**

**By-Law Motion #1:**

Mr. Llewellyn moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to accept the proposed language '8100 Responsibilities of the Board' to replace the existing 'Responsibilities of the Board,' 8100, Section B.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack supports the motion, as the language is lifted directly from CABE, and she made sure to check with senior attorneys at CABE to ensure that it is appropriate for BOE By-Laws.

Mr. Patten does not support the motion; budgets are not developed by the Board – they are approved and overseen. A CABE official said this language was lifted from an overview and not from a CABE manual.

Mr. Llewellyn supports the motion; it is more robust; in the past, the district has struck select phrases from the CABE Code of Ethics. This added language gives more specificity.

Mr. Fattibene does not support the motion; By-Laws are governing documents that should not be restrictive or detailed.

Mr. Dwyer does not support the motion; CABE does not recommend this language; it comes from a document that was not intended for By-Laws.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack, when asked why she did not use the CABE governance documents language, said that it contains language which includes giving the Board the responsibility to confirm administrative position appointments; she felt the Board would not want to do that; this motion follows existing By-Laws but is more comprehensive.

- a) Mr. Llewellyn moved, Mrs. Liu-McCormack seconded to divide the motion into seven separate items.

**Motion Failed 3-5**

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

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

**By-Law Motion #1 Failed 3-5**

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

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

**By-Law Motion #2:**

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded to approve the Short-Term Goals, Objectives and Action Plans and to add BoE By-Law 8450 to the current By-Laws.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack read from the enclosure and said this language will make the Board more effective.

- a) Mr. Llewellyn moved, Ms. Karnal seconded to divide the motion into six separate items.

**Motion Failed 3-5**

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

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

Mr. Fattibene does not support the motion; while it may warrant more discussion, it is more properly discussed as a policy.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack mentioned that she had previously tried to raise similar issues during the Board Goals, but they were not brought forth for discussion. The By-Laws are the policies that govern the BOE and more clarity is needed; there are currently no short-term goals.

Mr. Dwyer agreed with Mr. Fattibene; there is a well-developed strategic initiative plan in process this year; strategic planning is more dynamic.

Mr. Llewellyn commented on #3; it is very different from Board goals that fulfill political promises and is similar to what has been adopted in Darien, New Canaan and Westport; it puts fiscal management at the top of the list, and he felt the Board was not provided with any detailed student achievement reports last year.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly does not support the motion; the Board always puts student achievement first and does not need a reminder to do so; this By-Law is too much work for the district; to produce these reports would impede student achievement; the district recently received AP recognition from the College Board, unlike New Canaan or Darien. There is a process in place for short-term goals and a long-range strategic plan goal that the Board has agreed to.

Mrs. Gerber said these By-Law amendments appear as Board Goals in other districts, but not as By-Laws in other districts.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said the Board should be doing this anyway, but since it isn't, she has added it to the By-Laws in order to start a process to monitor progress reports.

Mr. Patten said it may not be appropriate to constantly compare with other towns; he felt the rationale behind this is a lack of trust; he does not support the motion.

**By-Law Motion #2 Failed 3-5**

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

Oppose: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fattibene, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

**By-Law Motion#3**

Mrs. Liu-McCormack moved, Mr. Llewellyn seconded to add the amendment By-Law 8460 regarding the strategic plan.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack read the By-Law Amendment explaining the rationale for a yearly review of the strategic plan.

Mr. Dwyer said the district initiatives are reviewed yearly with the superintendent. There is a 5 year plan/process in place, the sentiment expressed in this amendment belongs in the strategic plan and not in the By-Laws.

**By-Law Motion #3 Failed 3-5**

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

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

<i>Adjournment</i>
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Mr. Dwyer moved, Ms. Karnal seconded that the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

**Motion Passed 8-0**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

*DRAFT*

*Acting Chairman and Secretary*