

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2018
5:30 PM
Roger Ludlowe Middle School
Team Room

Minutes

Call to Order 5:02 PM

- Present: Jeff Peterson, Jennifer Jacobsen, Phil Dwyer
- Colleen Deasy and Mike Cummings staff to committee

Approval of May 1, 2018 Minutes

- Approved 3-0

Policy: High School Graduation Requirements

- Mike Cummings reported to committee follow up on questions that had arisen at the May 1 meeting, including on the topics of community service as a graduation requirement, credits for science courses with a lab component that includes a “mini block” of time with the course, and an update on the draft policy.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

- Michelle Hermsen, Art Department Head for FPS, expressed concern with the Fine Arts requirement being “cut” from the draft policy. She stated that the philosophy of the Policy Committee was moving “from STEAM towards STEM.”

- Sara Hoefler, Music Department Head for FPS, stated that under federal law (ESSA), music and fine arts are considered core subject areas, and that to cut fine arts from a graduation policy would indicate that FPS is not holding students to rigorous standards. She also stated that Wilton, Westport and Darien all require at least a year of fine arts credit to graduate.
- John Whaley, FPS English Teacher, stated that he was concerned with the use of the SAT as a proficiency measure, and asked the Committee to consider why ELA is a mandated 8 semester requirement.
- Dave Fuller, a parent, stated that he was concerned that the policy as written is excluding students who might not be looking to go to college but instead are interested in being employed in trades. He also stated that he would like to see the Committee restore the Fine Arts requirement.
- Bob Smoler, FEA President, stated that he was also concerned about the SAT as a proficiency measure, he was concerned with the evaluative implications for staff that would result from the policy, and that he had a concern about the de-emphasis of the policy on the fine arts.

Vote to Adjourn 7:52