

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Fairfield BoE, May 8, 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 7:35PM. 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, student representatives Molly Baker, Isabella Schichter and Paul Rivera, and approximately 50 members of the public.

### Old Business

#### *Approval of PK-12 Science Curriculum*

Mr. Aysseh moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the PK-12 Science Curriculum”

Motion passed 9-0.

### Approval of Minutes

#### *Approval of Regular Minutes of April 5, 2018 and 6PM Special Minutes of April 24; and the 7PM Special Minutes of April 24*

Mrs. Gerber moved/Ms. Pytko seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Regular Minutes of April 5, 2018, the 6PM Special Minutes of April 24 and the 7PM Special Minutes of April 24.”

Motion passed 9-0

### Adjournment

Ms. Pytko moved/Ms. Leeper seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.” Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

## **Detailed Minutes**

### **Recognition of Excellence**

Mr. Trefry from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) presented the CABE Communication Award to Marco Taddei for the winning entry in the Website category, and to Rachel Keleher for the winning entry in the Computer Generated Project category. The winning entries were judged on criteria including clarity of message, design layout and graphics.

Ms. Hoefer, FPS Music Coordinator, recognized outstanding FLHS and FWHS musical students that were accepted in the Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Festival.

Headmasters Mr. Ebling and Mr. Hatzis recognized outstanding All-State champion athletes from FWHS and FLHS.

The Board congratulated all who were recognized.

## Student Reports

Mr. Rivera reported for Warde: Wilton administrators visited Warde to observe classes in the block schedule; the Red Cross Blood Drive was successful; the Speak Sobriety pre-prom assembly was held; the mock crash will be May 14; the Acapella group will perform on May 21; the drama production *"Into the Woods"* took place over the weekend; there are several Warde/Ludlowe athletic events taking place including today's tennis match, Friday's softball game, and Saturday's baseball game; the CIAC honored senior scholar athletes; AP exams are taking place.

Ms. Baker and Ms. Schichter reported for Ludlowe: Trauma nurses assisted in the mock crash exercise and MADD organized a guest speaker for the event; the spring musical *"Pippin"* was a hit; a Friday forum was held to discuss the new grading policy; boys lacrosse beat Staples; baseball beat Westhill and qualified for the State Tournament; Warner House won the Battle of the Houses; the career center held a military day; the seniors experienced Grim Reaper Day and attended the Speak Sobriety assembly; AP exams are occurring; junior and senior proms will take place the next 2 weekends.

## Music Presentation, PK-5

Ms. Hoefler acknowledged several teachers who assisted in the curriculum writing. The elementary Music curriculum was last revised in 2011 and new core national standards were adopted in 2014. The new standards shift the emphasis from skills and knowledge to overall conceptual understanding and build an organizing framework for Music, Theater, Media Arts, Dance and Visual Arts. There are 11 anchor standards shared across the five disciplines with cross-curricular linkages. Performance standards translate anchor standards into measurable goals that articulate student achievement. Much of the content in the curriculum documents has remained the same; topics have been reorganized to align with new standards and to emphasize the different artistic processes. Tightened assessments are included to assist teachers with the planning approach, and an instrument replacement plan has been drafted.

Ms. Hoefler reviewed the documents and showed several performance videos to illustrate learning. The curriculum has interdisciplinary aspects with assured experiences and does not require additional staffing. Teachers collaborate through monthly PK-12 meetings, monthly department meetings, and PD Days. Staff are flexible and work with unique challenges that may exist in performing arenas. The retention rate from elementary to secondary is very good. When asked about possible financial impact, Ms. Hoefler stated that they would like to eventually start replacing classroom instrument sets at individual schools.

The Board thanked the presenters and commented on the success of the program and the extraordinary concerts and productions that ensue.

## Old Business

### *Approval of PK-12 Science Curriculum*

Mr. Aysseh moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the PK-12 Science Curriculum.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about the NCAA Clearing House timeline and the independent research component. Mrs. Faggella said most new courses have already been NCAA approved; one course needs more clarification and that is being provided. The independent research component has not been abandoned, but the district must work within the current FTE. In the interim, many teachers help with independent study. In the past, the district has connected with university professors to use equipment not available within district.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

## New Business

### Quarterly Report

Mrs. Munsell reviewed the Quarterly report and referenced the budget projection summary. Of the \$2.3M held in reserve, \$916K will be returned to Maintenance, \$1.2M is required to balance the budget at year-end, and the remainder could potentially be restored for technology capital as originally budgeted.

Of the projected \$1M balance in health insurance, the BOE voted to use \$403K to pre-purchase technology, with the remaining \$600K potentially returned to the Town if there are no unanticipated expenses before year-end. Detailed account descriptions and projected balances were reviewed.

Several Board Members commented on the \$149K overage in electricity, given the addition of solar panels at multiple locations. Mr. Cullen explained that in addition to the contractor's projected savings being too high, a few solar projects went live only recently and full-year savings have yet to be realized. The district also added square footage and more mechanical means of fresh air, which is difficult to cost out because it is based on use. Mr. Aysseh hoped this information will be remembered for future builds. Mr. Cullen added that FWHS is currently experiencing a power issue that began after solar went live and affects the breakers. While it has been determined that the solar panels are not causing the issue, the exact cause is being researched.

Dr. Jones referenced the legal fees overage and said the largest expense was SPED legal, which has been reduced significantly by in-house counsel Attorney Deasy. The tuition amount is a result of students not attending magnet schools.

The Board reviewed the Budget Reserve Recap sheet and Dr. Jones mentioned that \$916K in maintenance was fully restored as noted. Mr. Aysseh confirmed with Mr. Cullen that planned projects were all taken care of.

Mrs. Vitale and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly questioned the return of \$600K to the Town. Ms. Vitale felt it was a self-imposed cut. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said that money could have been applied to summer curriculum work and/or the District Improvement Plan. Mrs. Jacobsen also felt there was a cut to line items. Mr. Aysseh felt the money should be spent on what was budgeted.

Dr. Jones referenced the detailed information provided in the budget reserve recap sheet and said budgetary decisions occur daily, depending on the needs of the district. There will always be areas that are over and under. If there was any question as to whether the district would be hurt by the return of the \$600K, a request would have been prepared for the Board. The budget was set this year and the district did a very good job of living within budget. Mr. Dwyer added that the Town could have asked the BOE to share the expense of lost ECS funding. Dr. Jones agreed and was grateful to the Town and clarified that released funds were already in the budget for this school year.

Dr. Jones referenced the Special Education detail sheet and reviewed the revenue and expenses. The \$244K in Open Choice special education revenue (exclusive of the \$3K/student) has been collected from Bridgeport. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about the high sub salary overage. Mr. Mancusi is working with the Business Office to get a detailed breakdown of that number.

## Approval of Minutes

*Approval of Regular Minutes of April 5, 2018 and 6PM Special Minutes of April 24; and the 7PM Special Minutes of April 24*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the Regular Minutes of April 5, 2018, the 6PM Special Minutes of April 24 and the 7PM Special Minutes of April 24.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

## Superintendent Report

Dr. Jones reported:

- The Mill Hill Building Committee Charge will be on next week's BOS agenda; still unclear whether the bonding resolutions will be addressed.
- Attended Burr's imaginative fashion show featuring items made out of trash. Burr has also been featured on Jane Goodall's blog.
- Attended Warde's phenomenal musical last weekend.
- The 'Vision of a Graduate' work will be presented to the Board in June.
- Congratulated Dr. Ian Banner as Sherman's new principal.
- The replacement program for ESS will be named Impact.
- Moving forward with the graduate survey.
- Will soon distribute the DRAFT outline of agenda items for next year.
- The Sped audit report may not be ready until after summer break.

## Liaison Reports

*Ms. Pytko* reported for SEPTA: Officers will be voted in at the May 30 meeting; a DBT Presentation on May 10 will provide an opportunity to learn more; the April 25 Resource & Provider Fair was well attended; Challenger Baseball sign-ups are underway.

*Mrs. Gerber* reported for FLHS: This summer is year 2 of the FLHS window replacement project, the project should be completed by the start of the next school year

*Mr. Aysseh* reported for Holland Hill: The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on May 10.

*Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly* reported for the Policy Committee: The policy addressing graduation requirement is expected to be on the first June agenda. Input is welcomed.

*Mr. Peterson* reported for the Board of Finance: The mill rate will be set next Thursday.

*Mrs. Leeper* reported for the RTM: The Town budget was passed with no fanfare; the RTM complimented all staff that contributed.

## Open Board Comment

*Ms. Pytko* attended Mill River training and is pleased to be a part of the program.

*Mr. Aysseh* thanked all the teachers in the district in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

## Adjournment

*Ms. Pytko* moved, *Ms. Leeper* seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

## Motion Passed: 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM

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