

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2010 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Kearns, Mrs. Ko, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter  
Absent: None

Also present: Mrs. Milligan, Mr. Otten, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Lane, Mr. Martin & Mr. Clemmons

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION

A. Homecoming Parade review/recognition – Randy Oppenheimer

Ken Rhodus addressed the Board regarding the parade.  
Rachel Plaughter, Homecoming Queen, addressed the Board.

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Youth Commission – New seven-bell schedule, including early dismissal for seniors, and revised electronic devices policy

Electronic Devices

Students stated that the electronic devices policy is effective as the students are using devices appropriately outside of the classroom.

In the classroom, cell phones can be used as graphing calculators and IPODs can help students focus when writing.

Early Release Program

Students stated that the seniors like the Early Release Program as it allows them to go to work earlier or get their homework done.

New Seven-Bell Schedule

Students stated that the new schedule works well with AP classes, but classes with labs have to be extended several days in order to complete the labs.

Teachers do not seem to be adjusting the homework load based on the new schedule. “Everybody” likes it, but the day does seem longer.

B. Update on “Race to the Top” – Mr. Otten presented

Mr. Otten stated that the Race to the Top is a federal grant.

The school district will receive \$534,000 over 5 years.

“Race to the Top” Update (cont.)

The deadline to submit the application is October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the process has been exciting for the committee.

Jennie Thompson, Roger Martin and Paul Otten have chaired groups involved in the application process.

This item will be on work session agendas between now and the final deadline of November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

C. Financial Review Committee – update on assigned action steps – Mr. Martin & Mr. Lewis

Mr. Martin updated the Board on the following Financial Review Committee Recommendations:

Explore the selling of on-line or distance learning services for credit to outside sources, home schooling, GED, etc.

The Fairfield City School District currently uses outside sources such as Butler Tech, APEX/Aventa and KET for on-line classes. This seems to be the most cost effective way to provide these classes to our students due to the increase in staff that would be necessary to create the classes, monitor the students, supervise the staff, and manage the increase in technology needs.

This is an initiative to explore in the future, perhaps through a consortium of schools that would like to accomplish the same goal.

Provide IT Training to broad staff to develop self-service concept

The Fairfield City School District does provide IT assistance in each building by staff members who receive a stipend as well as IT assistance by Technology Department staff.

There is a concern that this IT training initiative will take the focus of teachers’ professional development time away from teaching.

Mr. Lewis updated the Board on the following Financial Review Committee Recommendations:

Expand advertising to include busing is not legal at this point.

Expand advertising and sponsorships to include stadium and PAC:

A Payment of \$30,000 for 3 years from Wal-Mart will include advertising at all facilities.

A donation of 2 scoreboards from ProSource, a donation of copy machines in athletics, Middle School, Kindergarten and has been made.

\$20,000 has been received from Coca-Cola at contract signing.

Mr. Lewis' update (cont.)

Renegotiate all capital and service equipment leases to lower cost providers

Negotiations for the past 2 years have resulted in an estimated combined savings of approximately \$600,000.

The work continues as we analyze all contracts and agreements to find better agreements and more cost effective ways to complete work.

Reduce the number of paper copies unless deemed critical

There has been a reduction in the amount of printing through the DCS contract.

Print volumes have been moved to copiers at a lower cost (.45 cents on the copier, 1.3 cents on a printer).

Scanning function has been provided in all buildings to send more documents electronically.

D. Discussion of social media presence for the district – Mr. Oppenheimer & Mrs. Thompson presented

Mr. Oppenheimer and Mrs. Thompson explored the idea of the Fairfield City School District creating a Facebook page.

Dr. Morris stated that we need to create a Facebook page.

Mrs. Ko emphasized that people want to see snippets of information that can be read quickly.

Mrs. Milligan presented information from a workshop that she attended regarding social media.

E. New items for discussion

Mr. Kearns read the following statement:

The Board does not have a Facilities Master Plan and with as many building assets that we have, there is a critical need to have such a plan. A Facilities Master Plan allows us to evaluate our schools and district facilities to ensure they will meet the current and future demands. It is imperative that we have classrooms that support college and career readiness. We will be asking some very important questions such as:

Are they (facilities) meeting our educational needs?

Are they meeting the current health and safety needs of our students?

Are they cost effective?

Are they addressing usage needs of the community? and finally,

How will they serve the educational needs in the future?

We have employed Steed Hammond and Paul (SHP) to assist us in this review. SHP has a long history of working with schools and our district as well. Their expertise will be invaluable as we take this journey.

Mr. Kearns' statement (cont.)

We know that our facilities are our community assets. Therefore, we will involve our community in developing the Facilities Master Plan. All of this is part of our overall community engagement plan which we have discussed previously. We may have those who ask about the timing of this process. First, let me reinforce the point that Fairfield (City School District) does not have a Facilities Master Plan. This process will at least provide us with a document that focuses on our schools and facilities. It may also be the time to take advantage of lower interest rates, reduced construction costs and some assistance from the State.

Finally, in some cases we cannot wait since there are some real issues with our facilities that we must address such as: over crowding at Central Elementary and the high school, accessibility of technology, air conditioning, and the age of the facilities. Tonight, what I'm talking about is building pride by linking facilities with learning. As we move forward, we will update our community as to our progress. We welcome community involvement.

10-119 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to recess to Executive Session at 7:48 pm to discuss the following:

- The appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employees 121.22 (G) (1)
- Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation
- Purchase of Real Estate 121.22 (G) (2)

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Kearns, Mrs. Ko, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 8:55 pm.

10-120 APPROVAL OF 4 ½ YEAR CONTRACT, 228 DAYS PER YEAR. FOR NANCY LANE, TREASURER, EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2011 THROUGH JULY 31, 2015, /RECOMMEND TO TREASURER THAT EDUCATION FOR JOBS FUNDS MONIES BE EXPENDED FOR CURRENT SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR ALLOWABLE EMPLOYEES

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to approve the following:

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Recommend approval of a new 4 1/2 year contract for Nancy Lane, Treasurer, effective from the Organizational Meeting in January, 2011, through July 31, 2015.
- B. Recommend to the Treasurer that the Education for Jobs Fund monies (estimated to be \$1,224,182) be expended for current salaries and benefits for allowable employees.

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter

Public comments: None

Board comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Kearns, Mrs. Ko, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 23, 2010 – Make a Difference Day 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM – collaborative effort of the Fairfield City School District, the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township.

Donations for Fairfield Food Pantry will be accepted from the community at:  
the Fairfield Municipal Building,  
the Fairfield Middle School and  
the Fairfield Township Administration Building

We encourage the community to participate.

Please refer to [www.fairfieldcityschools.com](http://www.fairfieldcityschools.com) and [www.fairfield-city.org](http://www.fairfield-city.org) for details.

October 13, 2010 – Butler Tech All Boards Meeting, 5:30 PM

October 18, 2010 – Board Meeting, FHS Community Room, 6:30 PM

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Shorter

She congratulated all of the students that took the OAA tests.

#### 10-121 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Ko

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mrs. Ko, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer