

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 6th of October 2011, in the Catherine D. Milligan Community Room.

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

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, Mr. Nuss & Mrs. Shorter

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION

- A. Final outcome of bond refunding - John Payne, Financial Advisor, Bradley Payne LLC and Scott T. Stubbins, Director, RBC Capital Markets, LLC

11-145 RESIGNATIONS/LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Personnel -- Classified

1. Resignations

- a. Linda Brown, Sr. High, Custodian
(effective the end of the day October 31, 2011; for retirement purposes)
- b. Donna Leugers, Intermediate, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day October 31, 2011; for retirement purposes)
- c. Dorothy Rauen, Intermediate, Food Service Assistant
(effective the end of the day September 30, 2011; for retirement purposes)
- d. Sandy Stewart, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective the end of the day March 31, 2011; for retirement purposes)
- e. Chelsey Templin, Freshman, Food Service Assistant
(effective the end of the day September 16, 2011; for personal reasons)

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. Linda Bowen, West, Educational Assistant
(effective October 7, 2011 through November 7, 2011; unpaid personal medical)

- b. Michael Furginson, Freshman, Custodian
(effective October 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011; extension of unpaid Workers' Compensation)
 - c. Sandra Taylor, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011; extension of unpaid personal medical)
3. Employment
- a. Kim Humphries, Cincinnati Christian, Auxiliary Services Clerk IV
(effective October 1, 2011; for a new position, paid from auxiliary services monies)

(All employment is contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter
Public comments: None
Board comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, Mr. Nuss & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Youth Commission
Senior High School students stated that the start of the school year was positive and that students are more lively with the later start time. Tardies are lower.
- Students stated that parents and friends are the main sources of transportation with the elimination of bussing. They did not see negative side effects from the lack of bussing.
- B. Update on "Race to the Top" – Roger Martin
- C. Resolution for counsel – Mr. Kearns
- Mr. Kearns stated that at the last Board meeting the community requested that the Board review the current bus maintenance contract. The resolution before the Board tonight is to move forward with securing outside legal counsel to review the contract.
- Mr. Kearns asked Mr. Clemmons for his comments.
- Mr. Clemmons stated that he whole-heartily concurs with the board's action to retain independent counsel on this matter. Mr. Clemmons explained that when lawyers write contracts they are bound to honor the contract. When one side considers termination of the contract during the contract period, it is appropriate that independent counsel review the contract.

Mr. Clemmons added that it was publicly stated in local news media that he and his law firm had some business with the vendor at the time that the contract was signed. He stated that the comment "is not true then and it is not true now". He makes the comment for the record to avoid any misunderstanding that could occur from the board action tonight. He stated that securing independent legal counsel is unfortunate but a necessary expense for the board.

D. Proposed reductions (if November levy fails) – Paul Otten

Mr. Murray asked how many positions would be cut to make up for the shortfall of money if the levy does not pass. Mr. Otten stated that 30-40 positions would be eliminated.

Mrs. Shorter asked the current teacher/student ratios, specifically for an elementary classroom. The response – the maximum is 28 per classroom per the contract with teachers.

Mrs. Shorter asked how a district can replace a registered nurse with LPNs or Health Aides. Mr. Otten stated that other districts have maintained one registered nurse with health aides or LPNs.

Mr. Murray asked how many music teachers would be left in the district. Mr. Otten stated that there would be 3 music teachers left in the district.

E. New items for discussion

11-146 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MCCASLIN, IMBUS & MCCASLIN AS LEGAL COUNSEL ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

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

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Recommend that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION APPROVING McCASLIN, IMBUS AND McCASLIN, LPA AS LEGAL COUNSEL ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District wishes to retain McCaslin, Imbus and McCaslin, LPA to provide legal advice, counsel and representation for the Board on an as-needed basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District that:

The Board of Education hereby approves McCaslin, Imbus and McCaslin, LPA as legal counsel for the Board of Education on an as needed basis as determined by the Board or Superintendent at an hourly rate of \$225.00 per hour. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute an engagement letter and to do all other things necessary on behalf of the Board of Education to retain McCaslin, Imbus and McCaslin, LPA as legal counsel on an as needed basis.

IT IS FOUND AND DETERMINED that all formal actions of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution were conducted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were adopted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris

Public comments:

Mr. Engel stated that it should not take too long to look at these contracts.

Board comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 7, 2011 - Homecoming Parade, 5:25 PM, and Football Game, 7:30 PM

October 8, 2011 - Homecoming Dance, 9:00 PM – 12:00 AM, FHS Arena

October 16 2011- Dancing with the Choraliers - 2:00 PM- FHS Arena

October 20, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Shorter

She stated that the community is facing devastating cuts that strike at the very core of the district's functioning.

She acknowledged that there are those who are not supportive of the levy and asks that they step back and take a look at what is at stake for the school district and the community.

She realizes that we are in hard economic times but really wants everyone to think about what they are doing.

She stated that she thoroughly hopes and prays that we have a united community to pass the levy.

She knows that everyone has their own personal philosophies regarding taxes, but reminded everyone that our kids and our community are at stake.

Mr. Murray

He acknowledged that he could not say it any better than Mrs. Shorter in her comments.

He reminded everyone of the Dancing with the Choraliers event to be held on October 16th at 2:00 pm at the Senior High arena.

He feels badly for Mr. Otten, a new superintendent starting out and having to face this.

He feels that there is a gray cloud over the district at this time.

He urged everyone to seek the facts and to not just trust what is written on a flyer in the yard. He reminded everyone that home values are at stake and that we will lose good teachers.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (cont.)

Mr. Murray (cont.)

He urged everyone to register to vote by October 11th and then to go out and vote. He reminded everyone that they have the option to vote before November 8th.

Mr. Nuss

He stated that he is proud of our school district and that (the levy failure) is like a death penalty for the district.

He asked that everyone think about what they are doing when they vote.

He reminded everyone of the costs that would be associated for any student that participates in extra-curricular activities. The costs associated would far exceed the actual property tax for the approved levy.

He pointed out that Fairfield Schools has many programs in music, athletics, drama, etc. that are good programs that benefit the students.

He urges the community to come together and move forward.

Dr. Morris

He stated that the potential cuts have been defined as “threats” (by some in the community). However, there are actions that must be taken as consequences for a failed levy.

He vowed that he is prepared to make tough decisions and that there is a lot at stake. He has taken an oath of office to fulfill his duties as a board member and he will do what is necessary to make the nine million in cuts.

As a result, the district will be reshaped into something that nobody will recognize. The longer the district goes without a levy, the more expensive it will be to make the cuts. The recovery from such extensive cuts will take years and years.

He urges everyone to preserve home values and support what we have in place now, which is not out of the ordinary.

Mr. Kearns

He stated that the facts are out there and he is prepared to make the tough decisions. There is a lot at stake.

He appreciates the work that Nancy Lane and Paul Otten have put into the proposed cuts and acknowledges that it is not an easy task to present the cuts. The easy cuts have been gone for years.

He will do what is necessary and will not shy away if cuts become necessary.

He urges everyone to seek the facts.

11-147 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to recess to Executive Session at 7:53 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
Collective Bargaining 121.22 (G) (4)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

Public comments: None

Board comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 8:32 pm.

11-148 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

Public comments: None

Board comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

President

Attest: _____

Treasurer