

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, State of Ohio, held a Work Session on the 4th of October 2007 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 5:00 pm.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Ball, Mr. Engel, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, & Mrs. Wenning
Absent: None

Also present: Mrs. Milligan, Mr. Amodio, Mrs. Lane, & Mr. Clemmons

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Early Childhood Curriculum (Handicap Preschool)
Bonnie Fitzharris presented information regarding this program.
- B. November Regular Board meeting
November 8, 2007, Regular Board Meeting - Freshman Building. – 6:30 pm

December dates and locations were also discussed:
December 6, 2007, Work Session – High School – 5:00 pm
December 20, 2007, Regular Board Meeting - Middle School – 6:30 pm
- C. NSBA Membership
The Board has decided not to join the NSBA at this time.
- D. Policies – IGBE – Diagnostic and Intervention Policy for Grades K-12
IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students
Bonnie Fitzharris reviewed the policies with the Board. Adoption of these policies is anticipated at the next meeting.
- E. 5- Year Forecast
Mrs. Lane presented a draft on the Five Year Forecast to the Board.

A lengthy discussion occurred among the Board members regarding possible future budget cuts. Some of the points that were discussed are as follows:

Mr. Murray asked to hear Mr. Engel's plan.

Mr. Engel has talked to two different companies about an efficiency study to save one million dollars based on their recommendations. Savings must come from the union contracts.

Mr. Ball stated that he did not receive a copy of Mr. Engel's documentation on how the district could save money.

Mr. Engel stated that he would get the documentation to Mr. Ball.

Based on Mr. Engel's May 4, 2006, proposal, he suggested these possible cuts to avoid a levy:

1. Not replacing 2 principals
2. Lower paid staff to do discipline at higher levels
3. Cut 5 assistant principals
4. Can we justify 3 curriculum administrators? Cut one
5. Why do we need 10 PR people in the buildings?
6. Why did we create a bus safety coordinator?
7. Why do we have certified staff in the libraries? Can we use real librarians?
Reduce everybody to \$25,000
8. Do head coaches get additional periods off?
Mr. Amodio stated that they do not.
9. Can we really justify 16 technology support supplementals?
10. Can we justify 86 teaching aides? (not suggesting cutting any special education aides). Ask bus drivers to work in between routes to cover playground and lunchroom duty.
Mr. Amodio stated that many of those aides are office support, cafeteria aides, or latchkey aides.
11. Cut 20% of the aides for a total of 16.
12. A thorough review of each supplemental in an effort to justify the cost must be done. Also, a plea to the public to volunteer for the positions is needed.
13. A 10% cut in staff support budget
14. Removal of Board pickup for administrative share of STRS and require staff to pay another 5% for their health insurance benefits.
15. Biggest savings to the district would be if we require teachers to teach 6 hours per day. In Mr. Engel's estimation, we could save \$5 million. High school savings alone would be approximately \$3 million. (25% staff cut at the high school).

Dr. Morris stated that the high school is already a security risk and asked Mr. Engel if he would like to reduce the adult population by 25% in the high school.

Mr. Engel asked how much we would save – a minimum of \$2 million if we had all teachers K-8 teach one more hour.

Mrs. Wenning asked how Mr. Engel would limit class size.

Mr. Engel stated that if teachers taught all four bells at the high school, class size would be lower.

Mr. Ball asked where Mr. Engel would put the students.

Mr. Engel stated that the school day could be extended to 8 hours to allow an hour for planning period.

Mr. Engel stated that in lower grades it would be an 18% reduction in teachers. Dr. Morris asked Mr. Engel, "In the end, what do we produce? What is the goal? What happens to the kids in this scenario? Do you care?" Mr. Engel stated, "Absolutely."

Dr. Morris and Mr. Murray asked if we can spend operating funds for capital improvements.

Mr. Clemmons responded that he believed that can be done.

Mrs. Wenning asked why we need new schools.

Mr. Engel responded by asking how many trailers do we have kids in right now?

Mrs. Wenning stated that if you reduce the number of teachers, you have larger classrooms and she is not sure why we would need new buildings.

Mr. Engel asked where the kids go during plan period.

Mrs. Milligan responded that they go to art, gym, music, and the library.

Mr. Engel asked if elementary teachers can teach art and gym.

Mrs. Milligan responded "yes."

She asked Mr. Engel if it is it special areas that he wants to cut.

Mr. Engel stated that we won't need a specific art teacher.

Mrs. Milligan asked if we are going to cut specialists in art, music, and gym?

Mr. Engel's response was "yes".

Mrs. Wenning asked Mr. Engel that if we do all of these things, if this is what the Fairfield City School District will look like, does he honestly think we will be able to attract teachers and good talent to come here?

Mr. Engel stated that he thought so. When he asked Mr. Amodio about the number of resumes we received, over 2000 applied.

Mr. Amodio stated that these resumes are blanketed out to many districts.

Dr. Morris asked where does the actual quality of education come into play in this?

Mr. Ball stated that city of Middletown is in dire straits.

Dr. Morris asked Mr. Engel if that is what he wants in Fairfield.

Mr. Engel stated that we need someone to lead this district that believes in accountability. To him, accountability means to create a plan and you ask people to stick to it. You hold people's feet to the fire.

Dr. Morris asked how is this (suggestion) different than what we do today. He asked Mr. Engel if he thought we would be as successful.

Mr. Engel asked if anyone was interested in entertaining any of these ideas.

Dr. Morris stated that more specific data is needed.

Mr. Ball stated that he would like to see Mr. Engel's proposal in a true business proposal with real data. He can not support an estimate without the data.

Mr. Ball & Dr. Morris asked Mr. Engel when they would see the details of the plan.

Mr. Engel stated that he will bring the proposal to them as soon as possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

A. Personnel – Certificated

07-141 EMPLOYMENT

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to approve the following:

1. Employment

a. Extra-curricular

Middle School

Farrell Goodman, Jazz Band, Assistant Director

North Elementary

Marsha Reynolds, Unit Leader, Special Area 50%

(All recommendations are for the 2007-2008 school year)

(All recommendations are contingent upon submission of all required documents.)

b. ESL Tutor

Supriya Khirwadkar

(Periodically the district has students who qualify for English as a Second Language services as determined through the district's established assessment process. It is recommended that the above-noted person(s) be employed as an ESL Tutor at the rate of \$23.34 per hour, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.)

c. Home Instructors

Joyce Valerius

(Periodically the district has students who qualify for home instruction by placement on an IEP developed through the Special Services Department. It is recommended that the above-noted person(s) be employed as Home Instructors at the rate of \$23.34 per hour, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.)

d. Substitute Teachers

Adams, Cara
Alcantara, Paulino
Bullard, Colin
Corrado, Carol
Daniels, Brent
Wood, Lynn Marie

(All recommendations are for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per day.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Wenning
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Ball, Mr. Engel, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, & Mrs. Wenning
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

B. Personnel – Classified

07-142 EMPLOYMENT

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to approve the following:

1. Employment
 - a. Diane Adler, North, Educational Assistant, 3.5 hours per day, effective October 8, 2007
 - b. Cheryl Giesler, West, Clerk IV, effective October 8, 2007
 - c. Mary Lakes, Middle, Food Service Assistant, 2 hours per day, effective November 1, 2007

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Ball
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Ball, Mr. Engel, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, & Mrs. Wenning
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 18 6:30 Board Meeting East Elementary

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ball – No comments

Mr. Engel

He has received an Email about the stadium bleachers and would like to know if the area behind the bleachers can be closed off. Mr. Amodio stated that the area is patrolled by security staff during games.

Mr. Engel provided information to the Board regarding House Bill 315 which addresses an STRS increase for both the Board and the employees.

Mr. Murray

He congratulated the Middle School golf team for winning the GMC .

He reminded everyone of the Meet the Board Candidates forum on October 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm to be held in the Fairfield Council Chambers.

He urged everyone to get out and vote. Let people know that you value education.

He congratulated the Varsity Boys golf team who made the district tournament to be held next Wednesday at Weatherwax.

Dr. Morris

He noted the 50th anniversary of Sputnik and the fact that our nation rose to the challenge to meet the demands that were facing our nation at that time in terms of technology. He urged everyone in our community to rise to the challenge presented by our current educational system and come up with a new model. American schools are falling behind other nations and we can not continue to be complacent about education. Everyone needs to step up and make a commitment to improve our educational system.

Mrs. Wenning – No comments

07-143 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Wenning to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Ball, Mr. Engel, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray, & Mrs. Wenning

Nays: None

Motion carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm by the President, Dr. Morris.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer