

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, State of Ohio, held a Work Session on the 6th of December at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 5:05 pm.

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

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

Mr. Murray arrived at 5:06 pm.

Tour of Weight Room

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

1. Fees gr. K-12 for 2008-2009 - Candy Aston & Carol Hallman
2. Pride Survey – Carol Hallman
3. Addition of an AP English course in Language and Composition – Carol Hallman
4. Revisions to the Business Education Course of Study – Carol Hallman
An accounting course is being added to the course of study.
5. Revision to the Art Course of Study – Carol Hallman
A digital photography course is being added to the course of study.
6. Date for Organizational Meeting/Work Session – January 3, 2008 – HS – 6:00 pm
7. OSBA Legal Assistance Fund Membership for 2008
Mrs. Lane will bring this issue back to the Board for approval at the December 20th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION

A. Personnel – Certificated

07-155 RESIGNATIONS/EMPLOYMENT/HOME INSTRUCTORS/SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

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

1. Resignations

- a. Randy Hambrick, High School, Athletic Director, Assistant (effective November 15, 2007, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year, for personal reasons.)
- b. Natalie Stothfang, North Elementary, Intervention Specialist (effective December 17, 2007, for personal reasons.)
- c. Kelly Walker, Middle School, Rhythm Express 50% (effective November 2, 2007, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year, for personal reasons.)

2. Employment

- a. Kelly Schneider, North, Intervention Specialist (recommended for a new one-year teaching contract effective December 17, 2007, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year for a replacement position.)
- b. Extracurricular

Middle School

Jeff Clark, Rhythm Express Choral Director 50%
(effective November 2, 2007, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year)

(All recommendations are for the 2007-2008 school year and are contingent upon submission of all required documents.)

c. Home Instructors

McQueen, Julia

(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

Bartlett, Susan
Begley, Thomas
Campbell, Chris
Combs, Erick
DeRemer, Jillian
Heath, Cassandra
Johnson, Lauren

Maurer, Shannon
Melton, Brady
Rapien, F. Kevin
Rollins, Leann
Sawyer, Ebony

Schaefer, Rachel
Scott, Jennifer
Schermerhorn, Terri

Konrad, Robin
Landers, Tim

Starkie, Zachary

Wagers, Stephanie

(All recommendations are for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per day.
All recommendations are contingent upon submission of all required documents.)

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

07-156 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS/REVISION OF 2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

B. Other Items for Board Action

1. Recommend approval of Volunteers.
Dave Barden, Middle School, Wrestling

(The above-noted person(s) are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2007-2008 school year in district athletic programs. Board approval of volunteers is a requirement of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Recommendation is contingent upon submission of all required documents.)

2. Recommend revision of the 2008-2009 school calendar.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Engel
Public Comments: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 20	Winter Break begins at end of day
December 20	Board meeting - Middle School – Cafeterias A&B 6:00 Reception for Eugene Ball & Nancy Wenning 6:45 Superintendent Briefing 7:00 Board meeting
January 2	School resumes after Winter Break

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ball

No comments

Mr. Engel

Once again my fellow board members Mr. Morris and Mr. Murray chose to disrespect me and the community by personally attacking me at the last board meeting.

Mr. Murray has suggested that I am not interested in keeping the district moving in the right direction. He talked about civility and respectfulness between board members and suggested I was the problem. He once again talked about my so called self interest.

Mr. Morris claims I have reckless fiscal ideas and destructive educational motions. He claims there is a voluntary code of conduct that each board member should follow and I would imagine Mr. Morris has appointed himself the administrator of the code. He did have one thing right in his attack on me. He seems to understand that he has no control over me. I was elected by the community and I will represent the community on this board.

These 2 board members seem to forget that during the 2005 election I received just as many votes as both of them. I am sitting on this board because the community put me here. I was elected on a fiscal conservative platform and I will not betray the voters who put me here by voting for or supporting the excessive spending of my fellow board members. I will not be silenced by their personal attacks and disrespectful comments and actions.

Am I driven by self interest and a hidden agenda? The answer is no. I have published my agenda for the entire community to see and here it is again. My self interest is in being a servant to the community. It gives me great pleasure knowing I am truly the voice of so many people in our community and it is the communities support that keeps me from succumbing to the hate being thrust upon me and my family by the pro-levy fanatics.

Here is my political agenda. Balance the budget resulting in no new operating levies. Preserve and grow the \$12,000,000 surplus and use that money to start building our new schools. Bring in alternative means of funding to pay for our new school construction. Implement a program to better prepare our children for college, regain our excellent rating, meet AYP in every area and address our drug and discipline problems in our schools. The road to achieving these goals is paved with accountability not more taxes.

Does Mr. Morris and Mr. Murray have a hidden agenda? You bet they do. It's an agenda to turn the Fairfield school district into an elitist community. Only those who can afford their taxes will be welcome. If you dare question their spending you will be attacked viciously. Their message to the low income citizens and struggling senior citizens of our community is pay or move. Many of our seniors have lived in Fairfield all their lives. Many are now faced with property taxes that amount to more than their house payments when they first moved to Fairfield. Does our board have a plan that includes them? If they do I have not seen it.

Mr. Morris also thinks I should have to listen to his pro-levy fanatic friends who constantly come to our meeting and spew anger and hatred in our community. I have news for these hateful people. If you want me to listen to you, you will be required to check your hatred at

the door. It is so very sad that our board president encourages this type of hateful behavior from his supporters. Our community has been polarized over school taxes and it is Mr. Morris's pro-levy fanatic friends who are responsible for the polarization and hatred in our community. If you don't believe me just look at the letters to the editor. The anger and hate is coming from those who claim they are supporting our children.

The community comment part of our meeting should be reserved for issues that fall under the purview of the board of education. Instead it has been used to personally attack people and groups that dare question the spending in our schools. I have witnessed some of the meanest, nastiest, angriest, Hateful people I have ever met standing right here at this podium. I will apologize to my constituents that have to sit and listen to these people spew their hatred throughout our community.

Not only am I appalled but the entire community should be appalled at the refusal of our board president to control the disrespectful venomous comments from these misguided people. Do I expect anything to change? I would hope our new board would work to put a stop to the hatred. I am however realistic and expect the board podium to continue to be used as a catalyst to continue launching hatred into our fine community. After all it is the pro-levy fanatics goal to crush anyone who dare question their tax and spend motives.

Mr. Morris said he will not sit and take my supposed disrespect to his hateful friends. I have sat and listened to both the boards hateful disrespectful comments and his supporters hateful disrespectful comments. It is time the community sees them for the truly sad people they are.

For those of you who feel it necessary to spread your anger and hate through our community, be it through the local paper, by knocking on your neighbors door or by speaking at the school board podium, I have a question for you. Just what is it that you think you are teaching your children? If you don't know, let me spell it out for you. You are teaching your children that if you should disagree with someone that it is OK to personally attack and hate them. You are teaching your children that it's OK to lie about them and that it is OK to commit criminal acts against them.

If you don't believe me believe this. In 2004 during the November levy campaign the senior class president and pro-levy poster boy was arrested and convicted for harassing me and my neighbors. Let me share some comments from Fairfield Municipal Court Judge Campbell, when she sentenced him. After Judge Campbell condemned the young mans actions, comparing them to what Hitler did, she made the following statement: **"What disturbs me here is that I think there are adults behind the scenes encouraging young people to make very bad choices. It has to stop because these young people are going to pay the price."** I hope our children don't end up paying the price for the propaganda and lies that were fed to them by the angry hateful adults in our community.

And since I am talking about adults encouraging young people to make very bad choices I would like to point to Mr. Holthouse who I understand had a recent call from Fairfield Police Chief Mike Dickey about his sons poor decisions during the last School Board race. And then there is Mrs. Curran who had the police knocking at her door because of a

harassing call that was traced to her home. You may want to talk to these folks and ask them just what they are teaching their children.

We have witnessed all the vandalism that was attached to the 2004 levy campaigns. Fairfield was on every TV station in the city every week during the last days of the November 2004 levy. Why? Because of criminal acts being committed against people who dare demand responsible spending in our schools and who dare vote no on a school levy.

We were front page news week after week in the local papers. Fairfield's name was being drug through the mud by very hateful people. It wasn't me or the CARE group who were the cause of the 2004 crime spree. I think it should be clear for all to see it was the adults behind the scenes encouraging young people to make very bad choices.

Why do I bring up the past? I bring it up because it was painfully clear to me and the community that the hatred and community division has continued throughout this last school board campaign. It is also painfully clear that at least 2 of my fellow board members are way too eager to perpetuate the polarization and community hatred.

We do live in America and because we live in America we can hate anyone we want. It does not however make it right and for those of you who are compelled to continue with the hatred, you should be ashamed of yourself. I don't claim to know everything but I do know this, life is way too short to spend any of it hating people.

I will close by saying this

Mr. Murray and Mr. Morris, like it or not we have 2 more years together. I would suggest accusations such as yours are disrespectful, rude and counter productive. I would suggest we keep the doors of communication open, respect each others right to our views and opinions and show the public we can get along and work together.

Mrs. Wenning

No comments

Mr. Murray

He thanked Randy Oppenheimer for all of his efforts with the Nuxhall visitation. He proposed to name the Fairfield High School Baseball Field for Joe Nuxhall.

Dr. Morris

He is supportive of the idea to celebrate the Nuxhall family.
He congratulated Jennifer Hoffman for National Board Certification.
He read a parent letter complimenting a teacher at East Elementary – Michelle Hoskinson.

07-157 EXECUTIVE SESSION

the MOTION – Moved by Mr. Engel to recess to Executive Session at 6:27pm to discuss the following:

A. Employment and Compensation of Personnel 121.22(G) (1)

Imminent and Pending Litigation ORC 121.22 (G)(3)

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Wenning

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

At 7:21 pm Mr. Amodio, Mrs. Milligan, & Mr. Clemmons left Executive Session.

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:32 pm.

07-158 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Engel 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 7:35 pm by the President, Dr. Morris.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer