

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 6th of November 2008 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 5:33 pm.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, & Mr. Murray

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

08-127 RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE CHAD LEWIS AS DISASTER RELIEF AGENT FOR FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Bailey to approve the following:

ITEM FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Recommend approval of the following Resolution for appointing an agent for obtaining and administering federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288).

RESOLUTION

DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT’S AGENT

BE IT RESOLVED BY: Fairfield City School District, that Chad Lewis, Business Director is hereby authorized to execute for and in behalf of the Fairfield City School District in Butler County, Ohio, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, applications for the purpose of obtaining and administering certain federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288) and to file them in the appropriate state office.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, & Mr. Murray
Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

Mr. Lewis presented an update of the windstorm damage and the funding from FEMA.

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

1. Presentation on Energy Education – Glenn Gaines
2. Chapter 1, 2, & 3 of A Whole New Mind by Daniel Pink
3. Outcome of PI replacement levy vote

Comments concerning the levy failure:

Mr. Murray

We need to spend the remaining PI funds on the highest priority items.

We need to look at priorities, make no more expenditures, and reduce textbook purchases.

Dr. Morris

Busing is now at the bottom of the list in priority sequence.

The highest priority is the repairs to the buildings.

All expenditures from Permanent Improvement will be frozen unless deemed a priority.

Mr. Kearns

We did tell the community what we are going to spend (remaining PI funds) on.

Steve Barrett (public input)

He spoke about negotiations and is willing to sit on a committee regarding bussing.

Will McIlwain (student)

He stated that it all comes down to funding. He challenged the Board to fix school funding.

Mr. Engel

We need to meet with the Butler County Commissioners to discuss sales tax. Dr. Morris will assist in this discussion.

Dr. Wiedenmann (public input)

He stated, “You can’t pick your product in a school district and then ship it to China when it doesn’t meet your expectations.”

He asked Mr. Engel to show him where he would cut the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 20 – 6:30 pm Board meeting (high school community room)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Engel – None

Mr. Kearns

Voters around the country came out in record numbers to participate in this historic election. In Butler county 64% of the registered voters turned out and participated in this privilege. Regardless of how you voted it is clear we are entering a time of change. For the first time in 25 years voters did not support our districts permanent improvement levy. 1196 votes made the difference. One could speculate, we didn't do enough to get the message out to our voters or we have entered unprecedented economic times, whatever the reason this does not change my commitment to seek additional cost saving ideas.

I have stated numerous times that our solution will be one of cutting expenditures, generating tax revenue or a combination of both. This challenge just became a little tougher, but again my commitment has not changed. Now that the November election is over I anticipate that our Governor and Legislature will make funding of Ohio's schools a priority. Together with my fellow board member Dan Murray, we presented several cost saving ideas that were supported and approved by the entire board. I will remind you that this is only the beginning of our recommendations for cost saving ideas. My commitment remains the same as I continue my research and bring forward additional ideas in the future.

This type of challenge will require us to regroup and some of that discussion occurred this evening. I ask my fellow board members to work with me in identifying those areas we can cut to respond to this challenge. For Fairfield our solution was a combination of cutting expenditures and generating tax revenue and the voters have taken one of our solutions away. I appreciate those that supported this levy and respect the outcome and will continue with proposing cost cutting ideas.

Because those items to be funded with the permanent improvement levy were already determined to be important to student success our challenge will not be easy. Change will occur. We spent a great deal of time working on a definition of Student Success and I ask that my fellow board members keep this commitment in mind as we make these tough decisions - Fairfield students do their best and bring out the best in others.

Mrs. Bailey – None

Mr. Murray

He agrees with Mr. Kearns. He stated that he was disappointed with the outcome of the levy.

Dr. Morris

He stated that Tuesday night was a historic night for our country.

He stated, "The hope I felt for the nation, I am not feeling for this district."

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to recess to Executive Session at 8:02 pm to discuss the following:

Employment and Compensation 121.22(G) (1)
Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation
Collective Bargaining 121.22 (G) (4)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Kearns

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

The Board resumed the Regular Session at 9:46 pm.

08-129 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Kearns

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 pm by the President, Dr. Morris.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer