

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 18th of March, 2021 in the Catherine D. Milligan Community Room.

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

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark & Mrs. Gundrum
Absent: Mrs. Shorter

Also present: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lane, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Aug & Mr. Clemmons

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Michael Berding

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Shorter arrived at 6:34 pm.

A. South Elementary Spotlight – Jason Hussel

Mr. Hussel shared a video presentation that told the story of South Elementary. It started with the school's motto and history, then went on to showcase the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Wall of Fame, flags that represent the diversity of South's student body, and students engaged in a physical education class, technology lab and recess. When Mr. Hussel asked students and staff what their favorite thing is about South Elementary, the overwhelming response was the teachers and the principal!

Mrs. Shorter acknowledged that everyone seems to be a fan of Mr. Hussel.

Mr. Begley thanked Mr. Hussel for the presentation.

Mrs. Gundrum noticed that the atmosphere at South Elementary is positive and high-energy. She said that it looks like a fun place to be.

Mr. Clark admitted that South Elementary is his favorite elementary school, especially since all of his children have attended South. He agreed that the energy there is great and appreciates that Mr. Hussel is so involved.

Mr. Berding stated that people love South Elementary and are very fond of Mr. Hussel and the staff there. He's glad that Mr. Hussel is in our district.

B. Class of 2021 End of Year Activities – Bill Rice

High School principal, Bill Rice shared the good news that the Class of 2021 Celebrations will go on, even though they will be modified. Here are the planned events in chronological order:

May 11th – Senior Scholarship Night – will be held in the high school arena. AP Scholars and the top 15 will be able to enjoy punch and cookies prior to the recognition.

May 15th – Prom – will be hosted in the FHS Arena. Capacity is to be determined, but 500 is an estimate. Prom will be for seniors only; however, they can bring a guest from within the school district. Dancing will be permitted, but masks must be worn. Although there will not be a “post prom” event this year, we will work with the “after prom” team to see about using a separate part of the building to set up activities for those students who prefer to not go to prom, but would rather participate in games and other typical after prom activities.

May 26th and 27th from 6:00-9:00 pm – Stadium Access for fun photo ops.

May 29th – Graduation – Cintas Center. There will be two sessions: 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Seating capacity is 25 percent occupancy max, which is about 1,600 people each session. Four tickets per family will be issued, and there will not be live music during the ceremony.

Mrs. Gundrum wanted to know if streaming [the ceremonies] will be available.
Response: Yes, just like in the past couple of years.

Mr. Begley asked if the guidelines change, would it be possible to issue more tickets per family.
Response: Yes, [if the guidelines change] Cintas will work with us.

Mr. Clark thought that the fun photo opportunity at the stadium is a great idea. He’s excited that these events are happening, and he’s pleased with Mr. Rice’s focus on the seniors.

Mrs. Shorter praised Mr. Rice’s efforts and said that she thinks he’s doing a great thing, and that the kids will love this.

Mr. Begley agreed that [these plans] sound great and thanked Mr. Rice.

Mr. Berding also thanked Mr. Rice for his hard work and acknowledged Mr. Smith’s involvement in planning the events.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Rice and Mr. Crapo for their efforts.

C. Virtual Learning Option Program for the 2021-2022 School Year – Mandy Aug and Matt Crapo

Mr. Smith prefaced this presentation by stating that it is expected that the majority of our students will choose the face-to-face option for next school year, however feels that it’s appropriate to have the virtual learning option.

Mrs. Aug gave an overview of the proposed Virtual Learning Option (VLO) which included the criteria, successful learner profile, expectations, and the application process. Important information to know is that face-to-face learning for next school year will be five days a week for all grades, including grades 9-12 (who are currently four days a week). Some key points that were discussed include:

- VLO would be available to students in grades K-12 (no PK option)
 - Final offering will be determined by student enrollment in the program
 - If enrollment is too low, VLO might not be offered at all grade levels
- Commitment would be for the entire school year
- Students will have to meet and maintain certain criteria in order to be accepted into and remain in the program

Criteria for Acceptance into the VLO program

- Students who wish to be accepted into the VLO must have demonstrated satisfactory performance and attendance
- Students in grades 9-12 must be on track for graduation and cannot be credit deficient
- Students on IEPs must have met their SDI minutes

Expectations of the Program

- Students will be required to log in at various times during each regular school day Monday-Friday
- Parents or another adult will need to play an active role in their child's virtual program
- Students will be required to come into the school buildings for state testing
- Students receiving special education services must participate in all specially designed instruction

Mr. Crapo discussed the application process:

- Applications will be available online from 8:00 am on April 5 through 4:00 pm on May 7
- Applications received by May 7 will be given priority status
- Applications received May 8 – July 31 will be reviewed and students will be placed based on availability/space

Mrs. Shorter questioned the necessity to have a designated space for virtual teachers and students for testing.

Response: Virtual teachers have specific needs. They also need to have access to materials, technology, etc. They don't need a classroom-sized space; more likely an office space would be sufficient.

Mrs. Shorter wanted to know how the [state] tests are being monitored right now, and how many students will be part of the VLO program.

Response: Students must report to our buildings for state testing. We will have a better idea of the number of students who will be part of the program after the May 7 application deadline.

She also wanted to know how many K-5 students are currently in the virtual learning program.

Response: Approximately 900.

Mr. Begley likes the application process that was described.

Mrs. Gundrum wanted to know if this option would be open for newly open-enrolled students.

Response: Initially Fairfield residents would have priority, then current open-enrolled students, and after that, depending on space, it would be open to everyone.

Mr. Clark stated that the application process should whittle down the number of participants.

Mr. Berding feels that parents of K-5 students will want them to be face-to-face.

D. ESSER Funds – Nancy Lane

Mrs. Lane gave a brief update on the details of round two of the grant funding for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II). The total anticipated amount to be received is \$4,788,049.82.

E. ODE Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan – Mandy Aug and Matt Crapo

Mrs. Aug outlined Fairfield School District's plan to identify and evaluate the effects of the pandemic on students' learning. She also discussed the District's plans of addressing academic needs, learning gaps and student needs. Some key points include the following:

- It is assumed that all students were impacted by the pandemic in some way
- Data accumulated from state and local assessments will be used to identify learning loss
- It is important to recommit to pre-Covid Ohio Improvement Plan (OIP) practices to address academic needs
- Learning gaps and student needs will be addressed in Summer 2021 by offering an expanded K-5 Summer School and by offering a no-cost Credit Recovery option for students in grades 9-12. Additional plans for the 2021-2023 school years will be implemented.

Mr. Crapo presented the District's strategies to address the social and emotional needs of students. These plans include:

- Placing two full-time social workers at the high school and one at the academy
- Using a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) screener for elementary students in grades 3-5 and middle school students in grades 6-8 two times per year. This will help teachers and counselors tailor lesson plans that will work with the needs of their students

Mrs. Shorter inquired about how the social workers would be paid.

Response: They are contracted positions with the ESC and would be paid using the ESSER funds previously discussed.

She requested more information on Panorama (the screening tool).

Response: Mr. Crapo will provide the information.

She also wanted to know if there is a way to differentiate between the typical summer learning loss and learning loss during the pandemic.

Response: The company that is being used for testing does have resources for us to use. Additionally, personnel from the Curriculum Department have been reviewing the data and meeting with school principals to translate the findings.

Mr. Begley feels that one important piece [to help students who have fallen behind] is the use of academic tutors (vs. summer school or extended before and after school programs). Optimally, the neediest students would be tutored during the school day, in the classroom, and not have to be pulled out of the classroom for tutoring.

Mrs. Aug responded that there are ongoing discussions with the school principals about how this can be accomplished effectively, and this includes academic tutors and possible restructuring.

Mr. Begley also expressed concern about the perception of social workers at the secondary level. He noted that high school students are more likely to feel comfortable speaking with the SRO rather than risking the stigma of talking to a social worker. Mr. Crapo responded that it's all about relationships and once the social worker is in place and becomes part of the school environment, relationships will evolve. He mentioned the success of having a social worker at the Academy.

Mr. Clark was enthused by the presentation and is happy that there's a map in place, even if changes are made to it. He likes the proposed methods to get kids caught up early in the school year, rather than waiting for the spring.

Mr. Berding loves this outline and noted that in order for the recovery process to be successful, it is imperative that we have a lot of parental involvement.

COMMUNICATION - None

This is the portion of the meeting where you, the residents of the Fairfield City School District, are invited to share your thoughts with the Board. Please know that this time has been set aside for the Board to listen to you. Your comments are valued and will be taken into careful consideration. The Board will not engage in dialogue at this time. Presentations are limited to five (5) minutes each.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

21-27 RESIGNATIONS/EXTRACURRICULAR RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT – Mr. Martin

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

A. Personnel – Professional

1. Resignations

- a. Jacob Fields, Freshman, Band
(effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year; for personal reasons)
- b. Ta'Vonna Ishmon, Senior High, English
(effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year; for personal reasons)

- c. Connie Leugers, Compass, 1st Grade
(effective June 1, 2021; for retirement purposes)
- d. Leslie Shannon, Freshman, Intervention Specialist
(effective June 1, 2021; for retirement purposes)
- 2. Extracurricular Resignations 2020-2021
 - a. Kelly Walker, Select Choir Director, Crossroads Middle
(effective 2020-2021 school year; for personal reasons)
 - b. Kelly Walker, Drama Club Director, Crossroads Middle
(effective 2020-2021 school year; for personal reasons)
- 3. Unpaid Leave of Absence
 - a. Kayla Osso, Creekside, 7th Grade ELA
(effective on April 19, 2021 through May 24, 2021; for childrearing purposes)
- 4. Employment
 - a. Extracurriculars 2021-2022

Senior High

Jay Muldoon, Technical Director, Stage

Freshman

Ashley Miller, Track, 50%

Middle – Creekside Middle and Crossroads Middle combined

Lexi Claypool, Track, 7th/8th Grade

Michelle Osborne, Track, 7th/8th Grade

Middle – Creekside Middle

Natalie Loy, Youth Coalition Advisor, Additional 50%

Middle – Crossroads Middle

Tess Marjanovic, Select Choir Director

- b. Home Instructors 2020-2021

Melissa Coppock

Tiffany Mason

(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 \$31.46 per hour, effective for the 2020-21 school year.)

c. Substitute Teachers 2020-2021

LuAnn Gati
Jennifer Roth

(All recommendations are for the 2020-21 school year at a rate of \$94 per day.)

d. Volunteer(s) 2020-2021

Dylan Beal
Mark Zecher

(The above-noted persons are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2020-21 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.)

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Gundrum

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

21-28

RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT - Mr. Smith

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

B. Personnel – Support

1. Resignations

a. Ruth Hagan, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day May 27, 2021; for retirement purposes)

b. Lynnette Lewis-Jackson, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day January 29, 2021; for personal reasons)

2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

a. Laurie Hadden, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(extension of unpaid leave of absence starting March 16, 2021 through April 2, 2021; for personal reasons)

b. Jaime Powell, Central, Custodian
(effective for .25 day on March 19, 2021 through April 3, 2021; for personal reasons)

c. Sandra Schuler, Transportation, Bus Driver

(effective for .75 day on March 15, 2021 through March 26, 2021; for personal reasons)

- d. Melissa Snow, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective March 1, 2021 through March 5, 2021; for personal reasons)

3. Employment

- a. Ethan Arcuri, Senior High, Educational Assistant
(effective March 3, 2021; for a replacement position)
- b. Makenzie Claypool, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective March 15, 2021; for a replacement position)
- c. Jessica Davies, Crossroads, Food Service Assistant
(effective March 8, 2021; for a replacement position)
- d. Maddie Frechtling, West, Educational Assistant
(effective March 15, 2021; for a replacement position)
- e. Jason Newton, Senior High, Custodian
(effective March 22, 2021; previously temporary custodian; for a replacement position)
- f. Lance Perry, District, Director of Business Operations
(recommended for a new two-year administrative contract effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023, for 228 days, on the support administrative salary range 3 for a replacement position)
- g. Elizabeth Sicking, Compass, Educational Assistant
(effective March 15, 2021; for a replacement position)
- h. Karen Smith, Compass, Food Service Assistant
(effective March 22, 2021; for a replacement position)

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Board Policies

- a. JECBF – Admission of Students to the Virtual Learning Option – Roger Martin

- b. JECBF-E – Application of the Virtual Learning Option – Roger Martin
- c. JECBF-R – Administrative Regulations for the Virtual Learning Option – Roger Martin

Mr. Martin reviewed the highlights of these new board policies.

Mrs. Shorter wanted clarification as to whether this commits the District to offering the VLO program.

Response: No, it does not.

Mr. Berding inquired about the normal deadline for open-enrollment application.

Response: It is the same as the virtual learning application.

21-29

APPROVAL OF LOCATION CHANGE FOR APRIL & MAY BOARD MEETINGS/
APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES/APPROVAL OF BUS BID – Mr. Smith

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

D. Other Items for Board Action

1. Recommend approval of the change of locations for the following board meetings:
 - a. April 15, 2021, regular meeting to take place in the Fairfield High School Performing Arts Center, 8800 Holden Blvd.
 - b. May 6, 2021, work session meeting to take place at Fairfield Freshman School in the Auditorium, 8790 North Gilmore Rd.
 - c. May 20, 2021, regular meeting to take place in the Fairfield High School Performing Arts Center, 8800 Holden Blvd.
2. Recommend the approval of the following Board policies:
 - a. JECBF – Admission of Students to the Virtual Learning Option
 - b. JECBF-E – Application of the Virtual Learning Option
 - c. JECBF-R – Administrative Regulations for the Virtual Learning Option
3. Recommend awarding the bus bid obtained through Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to Rush Truck Centers of Ohio, Inc., for the purchase of two (2) 77-passenger buses for the cost of \$99,197.00 per bus. The total cost for these buses is \$198,394.00 and includes the trade in of two (2) buses. (This vendor provides the International IC Conventional buses currently utilized in the bus fleet and will provide consistency for the bus fleet servicing and maintenance needs.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

21-30

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021 /APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/DONATIONS/ DISPOSAL/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES & CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

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

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Recommend approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

February 18, 2021 – Regular Meeting
March 4, 2021 – Regular Work Session Meeting

B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of February 2021.

C. Recommend approval of the 2020-2021 Amended Appropriations Resolution.

D. Recommend approval of the following donations:

1. A donation of \$980 from the Fairfield Tempo Club to the Fairfield City School District music program for the purchase of a xylophone.
2. A donation of books valued at \$180 from Ruthie Back to Fairfield North Elementary School

Total donations for 2021: \$3,832.00

E. Recommend approval of the disposal of the following fixed asset:

<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
16359	Poster Printer	Curriculum

F. Recommend approval of the resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

County Auditor’s Estimate of Tax Rate To Be Levied:

Bond Retirement Fund	2.50 mills
General Fund	53.51 mills
Permanent Improvement Fund	<u>.50 mills</u>
Total	56.51 mills

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Gundrum

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Update – Balena Shorter - None

B. Butler Tech – Michael Berding

Mr. Berding gave a briefing about Butler Tech:

- Graduation is May 17 at the Cintas Center and there will be more than one session
- The District Leadership Team is working with NAPE (National Alliance Partnership Equity) in recruiting and retaining underserved students
- Café Lee is open on Thursdays and Fridays

C. Planning Commission – Brian Begley - None

D. Student Achievement – Jerrilynn Gundrum

Mrs. Gundrum recognized two wrestlers who represented Fairfield at the State Wrestling Tournament last weekend:

Brandon Smith is the 220 lb. state runner up

Donovan All placed in the top 16

E. Parks and Recreation – Scott Clark

Mr. Clark was happy to inform everyone about Fairfield's BIG Easter Egg Hunt that will begin on March 29th and go through April 4th.

Details can be found on Fairfield's Facebook page as well as on the city's website:

www.fairfield-city.org/986/Hoppin-at-Harbin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29 – April 2, 2021 – Spring Break

April 5, 2021 – School resumes after Spring Break

April 12, 2021 – In-service Day – No Students

April 14, 2021 – District Community Diversity Alliance Virtual Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Please email gentry-fletcher_g@fairfieldcityschools.com if you are interested in attending.

April 15, 2021 – Board Meeting (Regular Session), 6:30 PM, Fairfield High School Performing Arts Center

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Begley

He thanked the presenters and said he appreciated everyone's efforts.

Mrs. Shorter

She thanked her friend and local author, Ashley Ferguson for reading her books to students at Fairfield North Elementary. Mrs. Shorter has purchased books for each elementary school.

Mrs. Gundrum

She echoed Mr. Begley's gratitude to the presenters. She thanked them for all they are doing to help students who may have fallen behind to catch up. She really appreciates it.

Mr. Clark

He welcomed Mr. Perry to the District. He restated how much his kids love South Elementary and thanked Mr. Rice, Mr. Crapo and Mrs. Aug for their presentations. It's all about the kids.

Mr. Berding

He mentioned that he was recently invited to speak to Mr. Lewis' class at Creekside Middle School about the importance of setting goals for their future. He said that it was great to be back in the classroom and thanked the students for the thank you notes they sent him.

21-31 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Clark to recess to Executive Session at 9:15 pm to discuss the following:

The employment of public employees 121.22 (G) (1)
Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 10:20 pm.

21-32 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 pm by the President, Mr. Berding.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer