

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 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, Mrs. Gundrum & Mrs. O’Neal  
Absent: Mrs. Shorter

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Brian Begley

Mrs. Shorter arrived at 6:40.

#### PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

##### A. Equity Progress Report - Equity Leadership Team

Dennis Williams, co-chair and community parent, began the presentation.

Denise Hayes, co-chair, presented the pillars of the diversity plan.

Roger Martin- presented Pillar I.

Mandy Aug- presented Pillar II.

Gina Gentry-Fletcher- presented Pillar III & Pillar IV.

Kennedy Baker – a sophomore at Fairfield High School presented her involvement on the Equity Leadership Team.

Jabari Ashford & Madyson Walker also presented their involvement on the Equity Leadership Team.

Billy Smith provided closing remarks:

He thanked Denise Hayes & Dennis Williams on their leadership.

He thanked the committee members and students for their participation.

He thanked the Board of Education for their support.

Board comments regarding the Equity Leadership Team presentation:

Mrs. Shorter advised the committee to keep up the good work. She feels that the students on the committee are great examples of leaders.

Mr. Begley feels that the committee is doing an excellent job and appreciates the support of the students. He is impressed that only 400 graduates of color graduated with an education degree last year and we hired twelve new staff from that group.

Mrs. Gundrum thanked the committee for their work. She told the students that they are doing a great job as well.

Mr. Berding thanked the students for serving on the committee. He is impressed by the students who will truly be our future leaders. He recently saw a recommendation that schools bring students into staff meetings for input and realized that we already do that! He complimented Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Williams on their leadership and passion for the work that is being done on the Equity Leadership Team.

## COMMUNICATION

This is the portion of the meeting where you 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.

A parent approached the Board with comments regarding the last Community Diversity Alliance meeting, noted that school lunch times are 20 minutes long and discussed needs of her special needs child.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

### 19-120 RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT – Mr. Martin

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

#### A. Personnel – Professional

##### 1. Resignations

- a. Kelli Davenport, Senior High, Math  
(effective December 20, 2019; for personal reasons, accepted in order to fill position)

##### 2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

- a. Brooke Woodrey, East, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
(effective .75 of the day on December 4, 2019 through January 31, 2020; for childrearing purposes)
- b. Kathryn Conley, Senior High, Math  
(effective January 6, 2020 through February 7, 2020; for childrearing purposes)

##### 3. Employment

- a. Robert Ryan, Creekside, 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA/Math  
(recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2019-2020 school year, effective December 2, 2019; for a replacement position)

b. Extracurriculars - 2019-2020

**Senior High**

Ryan Aubin, Marching Band Instructor  
Christopher Pohlman, Marching Band Instructor  
R. Steve Sams, Wrestling, Reserve Assistant

**Freshman**

Jacob Bria, Wrestling, Freshman Assistant  
Jeffrey Ramsey, Wrestling  
Connor Roberts, Basketball, Boys

c. ESL Tutors 2019-2020

Francheska Maloney

(Periodically the district has students who qualify for English as a Second Language, as determined through the district's established assessment process. It is recommended that the above-noted person(s) be employed as a designated ESL Tutor at the rate of \$30.69 per hour, effective for the 2019-20 school year.)

d. Substitute Teachers 2019-2020

Candice Griffin  
Nanette Huey

(All recommendations are for the 2019-20 school year at a rate of \$94 per day.)

e. Volunteers 2019-2020

Angela Gray, Senior High, Basketball  
Jason Laflin, Senior High, Wrestling  
Michael Massie, Senior High, Wrestling  
Adam Sams, Senior High, Wrestling

(The above-noted person is recommended for approval as volunteer coach for the 2019-20 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.)

Mrs. O'Neal stated that it is great to have all of these volunteers, especially Mr. Laflin.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Begley

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O'Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

19-121 RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT/PROMOTIONS –  
Mr. Penney

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. O’Neal to approve the following:

B. Personnel – Support

1. Resignations

- a. Anthony Agoston, Transportation, Bus Driver  
(effective the end of the day November 26, 2019; for personal reasons)
- b. Nicole Price, East, Educational Assistant  
(effective the end of the day November 18, 2019; for personal reasons)
- c. Ray Rains, Transportation, Bus Driver  
(effective the end of the day May 31, 2020; for retirement purposes)

2. Unpaid Leave of Absence

- a. Debbie Fehrenbach, Compass, Educational Assistant  
(effective December 11, 2019 through January 7, 2020; extension of unpaid leave for personal reasons)
- b. Ray Frybarger, District, Maintenance  
(effective November 22, 2019 through January 6, 2020; extension of unpaid leave for personal reasons)
- c. Brittany Thompson, West, Educational Assistant  
(effective .50 day on November 15, 2019 through November 26, 2019; for personal reasons)

3. Employment

- a. Tara Bridge, Senior High, Educational Assistant  
(effective November 25, 2019; for a replacement position)
- b. Macy Hamblin, Central, Educational Assistant  
(effective December 2, 2019; for a replacement position)
- c. Kerri Miller, East, Educational Assistant  
(effective December 2, 2019; for a replacement position)
- d. Sreevani Damarla Subbarayalu, Central, Educational Assistant  
(effective December 2, 2019; for a replacement position)

4. Promotions

- a. Lisa Fields, Compass, Cook, promoted to Compass, Head Cook (effective November 18, 2019; for a replacement position)
- b. Miranda Miller, Crossroads, Cook, promoted to Crossroads, Head Cook (effective January 6, 2020; for a replacement position)

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Gundrum

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O’Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Book Study - Billy Smith

The Board shared comments regarding the book, Dare to Lead by Brene Brown.

2. Board Policy

- a. KJA - Distribution of Materials in the Schools - Gina Gentry-Fletcher

This policy will be brought back at the next board meeting for approval.

3. Electricity Supplier Update - Joe Penney

Constellation Energy Company will supply electricity for three years effective May 20<sup>th</sup>. The savings will be \$144,000 over a three year period.

4. Additional School Psychologist for 2020-2021 - Roger Martin

This position will be paid from grant money.

5. EdChoice Scholarship (Voucher) Program Resolution - Billy Smith and Nancy Lane

Mr. Smith read the draft resolution that was provided to the Board.

The Board discussed the draft resolution that was provided and made revisions with input from Board Attorney, John Clemmons. The revisions were read by Mr. Clemmons to the Board before the vote was cast.

Mr. Berding stated that the legislators did not realize the ramifications of the EdChoice program. He appreciates the due diligence of Fairfield School District in responding quickly to the legislators with concerns.

19-122 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO EdCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (VOUCHER) PROGRAM (as revised)

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

D. Other Items for Board Action

1. Recommend approval of a Resolution opposing the State of Ohio EdChoice Scholarship (Voucher) Program (as revised).

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO EdCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (VOUCHER) PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has recently made amendments which greatly increase the number and availability of vouchers for students to attend private/parochial schools at public tax expense, and

WHEREAS, such vouchers will be available to numerous families and students who have never attended Fairfield or any other public schools and for whom state funding has never been provided to Fairfield or any other public schools, and

WHEREAS, Fairfield's state funding will be unjustly decreased by the amount of the vouchers provided to such families and students who have not and will not attend public schools and others who transfer to private/parochial schools, and

WHEREAS, the estimated loss of revenue to the Fairfield City School District over the next four (4) years is \$14,530,950 which would devastate the District's finances, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial school students are not subject to the testing standards required of public school students so that the actual performance of private/parochial schools subsidized with public tax dollars will not be known, relative to equivalent public school evaluation standards, and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the EdChoice voucher program as it currently exists presents serious constitutional issues regarding the separation of church and state and the funding of religious institutions with public tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, and

WHEREAS, the EdChoice voucher program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense and to the detriment of public schools and their students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Fairfield City School District Board of Education that this Board reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the repeal of the ill-conceived EdChoice voucher program of the State of Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board opposes any funding programs, vouchers or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to all Ohio state legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor of the State of Ohio.

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. O’Neal

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O’Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

19-123 APPROVAL FOR THE DATE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2020, AT 6:30 PM IN THE CATHERINE D. MILLIGAN COMMUNITY ROOM AT FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL & TO APPROVE MICHAEL BERDING TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT PRO-TEM FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING/APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

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

2. Recommend approval for the date of the Organizational Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 6:30 pm in the Catherine D. Milligan Community Room at Fairfield High School and to approve Michael Berding to serve as President Pro-Tem for the beginning of the meeting.
3. Recommend the approval of the following Board policies:
  - a. CD - Management Team
  - b. EEA - Student Transportation Services
  - c. FL - Retirement of Facilities
  - d. IF - Curriculum Development

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Begley

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O’Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

19-124 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019/ APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/ DONATIONS/DISPOSALS/APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION IN LIEU OF STUDENTS RESOLUTION/APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE TREASURER TO PAY INVOICES AGAINST PURCHASE ORDERS THAT WERE NOT PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5705.41(D)/APPROVAL OF FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFER/ESTABLISH THE DATE OF THE TAX BUDGET HEARING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2020, AT 1:00 PM AT THE FAIRFIELD ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 4641 BACH LANE

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

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

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

November 21, 2019 – Regular Meeting

B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of November 2019.

C. Recommend approval of the 2019-2020 Amended Appropriations Resolution.

D. Recommend approval of the following donations:

1. A donation of classroom supplies valued at \$135 from Ruthie Back to Fairfield North Elementary School.
2. A donation of \$250 from Belcan LLC to Fairfield High School for the STEM Careers Lunch and Learn Series.
3. A donation of \$300 from Balena Shorter to Fairfield High School for the STEM Careers Lunch and Learn Series.
4. A donation of \$150 from Envision Partnerships to Fairfield City Schools to be used for the Mental Health Series.

**Total donations for 2019: \$88,175.92**

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

<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
16397	Camera-Canon2R80	Technology
97100120	1996 GMC Truck #12	Transportation
97100121	1996 GMC Truck #13	Transportation

F. Recommend that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution for declaring transportation to be impractical:

WHEREAS the student(s) identified below have been determined to be residents of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and



WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for these student(s) to their selected school(s); and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code 3327.02 have been considered:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment-in-lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Fairfield City School District Board of Education hereby approves the declaration that it is impractical to transport the students identified herein and offers the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the following, payment-in-lieu of transportation.

<u>Student Names</u>	<u>Schools Selected &amp; Grades</u>	<u>Parents/Guardians</u>
Brittany Bill	Bishop Fenwick High School, 10	Melinda Bill
Emma Hurley	Mother Teresa Catholic, Kdg,	Jennifer Hurley
Evan Land	Central Montessori Academy, 5	Jennifer Combs

G. Recommend approval to authorize the Treasurer to pay invoices against the following purchase orders that have not been processed in accordance with Section 5705.41(D):

1. Purchase order #2002851 – RBC Capital Markets - \$557,427.41  
(Closing memorandum of issuance costs dated before purchase order was put into place)
2. Purchase order #2003110 - Blust Sales & Service, Inc. - \$4,725.97  
(Purchase order not in place before invoice was received)

H. Recommend approval of the following fund-to-fund transfer:

\$306,288.50

From: 001-911A

To: 003-911A

Purpose: Cooling Project Bond Payment

I. Establish the date of the Tax Budget Hearing to be held on January 9, 2020, at 1:00 pm at the Fairfield Administration Building, 4641 Bach Lane.

Mr. Berding thanked Mrs. Shorter for her donation.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Begley

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O’Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nayes: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Legislative Update – Balena Shorter

EdChoice Expansion and HB166. The changes are listed below.

#### Impacts our State Funding Share

There is not really a cap on the amount of EdChoice vouchers as there was before.

HB 166 expanded the EdChoice Scholarship program in multiple ways. The bill requires ODE to increase the cap on the number of EdChoice vouchers available (increase the cap by 5 percent each time 90 percent of available vouchers are claimed) this increase applies to the **original EdChoice** program where students are eligible based on so-called ‘**failing schools.**’ This program is funded through deductions from school district state payments.

Students never had to attend a public school in order to qualify for a voucher.

Generally, students wishing to claim a voucher under the **original EdChoice** voucher program must have attended a public school in the previous school year. However, HB 166 codifies in law the current practice where students going into grades 9 through 12 need not first attend a public school. In other words, high school students already attending a private school can obtain a voucher.

#### Does not Impact our Funding Share

The income-based EdChoice voucher program was expanded in HB 166 to include all grade levels.

The income-based EdChoice voucher program is expanded in HB 166 to include all grade levels (rather than phasing in grade levels year by year). In FY 2019, students in grades K through 5 were eligible. Students need not first attend a public school to be eligible for this voucher; the qualifier for the income-based voucher is families at or below 200 percent of poverty. The voucher amount is prorated according to income. This program is funded directly by the state and not deducted from school districts’ payments.

### B. Butler Tech – Michael Berding – No report

### C. Planning Commission – Brian Begley – No report

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 23, 2019 - Conference Exchange Day (No school)

December 24, 2019 - Winter Break Begins (No school)

January 6, 2020 - School Resumes After Winter Break

January 8, 2020 - District Community Diversity Alliance Meeting, 6:00PM, Fairfield Administration Building, 4641 Bach Lane, Conference Room A  
January 9, 2020 - Tax Budget Hearing, 1:00PM, Fairfield Administration Building  
January 9, 2020 - Board Meeting (Organizational Meeting), 6:30PM, FHS Catherine D. Milligan Community Room  
January 13, 2020 - End of 1st Semester Grades 9-12; End of 2nd Quarter (Grades K-8)

## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

### Mrs. Gundrum

She thanked Mr. Clemmons, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Shorter for their work on the EdChoice program.

### Mrs. Shorter

Mrs. Shorter read the following statement:

I'm a believer, supporter and product of public schools. There is a special trust engendered between the citizenry and public schools in general. The charter of most public schools is to educate all within its geographical boundaries regardless of income or abilities. This is a sacred compact that keeps this country great. I also support parental school choice, but not at the expense of financial stability and the well-being of public schools. Right now, in our great state of Ohio, many public schools are under severe threat because of legislation that was tucked away in a recent bill that was signed into law by Governor DeWine. This provision escaped the disinfectant of legislative and public scrutiny it so richly deserved.

The Expansion terms of the EdChoice program threatens many districts with the possible elimination of millions of state allocated dollars. Fairfield City Schools receives roughly 33.9 million dollars in state funds per year. With our predictions of EdChoice Expansion voucher usage, our district could lose over \$3.4 million in state dollars in one year. That's 10% in the first full year of the program. Unfortunately, it does not end there. In 5 years, EdChoice Expansion vouchers could spell the loss of over \$14 million for Fairfield City Schools. No state politician would stand openly for cutting the education budget by 10%! They would incur the wrath of the voting public. Instead, public school monies are being siphoned away through an opaque process designed to help lawmakers avoid accountability. It's simply not what democracy is about.

I'm asking all who support public education in the state of Ohio to reach out to your individual State Representative and Senator and encourage them to address/correct this problem. Call Governor DeWine and tell him to support and protect public schools by making funding for public schools whole.

### Mrs. O'Neal

She thanked the Equity Leadership Team and stated that she values their work. She believes that their work makes a difference to everyone in our community and that progress has been made.

She thanked Mrs. Shorter for her eloquent words.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (continued)

Mr. Begley

He thanked Mrs. Shorter for her comments.  
He wished all students and staff a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Berding

He thanked Mrs. Shorter for her comments and mentioned that the Board had a lesson in civics with the discussion regarding the wording of the EdChoice resolution.  
He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes that everyone has time to spend with family or to connect with family by phone, including military families.

19-125 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. O’Neal to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Begley

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mr. Berding, Mrs. Gundrum, Mrs. O’Neal & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm by the President, Mr. Berding.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_