

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, State of Ohio, held a Special Board Meeting on the 14th day of January 2006 at the Fairfield Operations Building.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Morris at 1:01 pm.

ROLL CALL – Mr. Engel, Mr. Morris, Mr. Murray, Mr. Senger & Mrs. Wenning

Also present: Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Lane & Mr. Clemmons

Mr. Amodio arrived at 2:05 pm.

Jack Niehaus, Facilitator, presented the outline and goals of the meeting. The goals of the meeting were as follows:

1. Establish a climate of mutual respect and trust enabling the group to become an efficient working group which can resolve conflict and maintain effective communications.
2. To develop a protocol for the format of Board Meetings.
3. To review and revise existing committees and establish new committees as agreed.
4. To develop a protocol to guide Board Members and district personnel and interacting with one another.

The board members were asked to answer the following question: What do you think this group needs to do to maintain a feeling of mutual respect and trust?

- Don't prejudge
- Be open about asking questions
- Start new--put the past in the past
- Contact other members--Communicate
- Listening
- Do what is best for the children
- Don't personalize
- Trust is earned--must be worked at as a group--Trust is easily lost
- Rules of protocol
- No surprises

Mrs. Wenning stated that she was concerned on how the group was going to move forward.

Mr. Engel stated that his original apprehension towards being a part of the group is gone. He feels that the group will get along fine even if they don't agree on certain issues.

Mr. Morris stated that he would like to maintain personal respect among board members and felt results will be the test of the group.

Mr. Murray stated that he doesn't want to rehash the past. He wants to move forward.

Mr. Senger stated that he was optimistic about the group working together.

Discussion also took place regarding how board meetings are to be structured.

Mrs. Wenning stated that she would like to see more communication from the community.

Mr. Engel suggested that the public be able to give input after every motion is made. He feels that this will help to include the public in the meetings.

Mr. Murray stated that he would like to see the board agendas posted on the website early enough for the public to ask questions at the board meeting.

Mr. Morris suggested that the board agendas be posted on the first page of the website. He also suggested limiting the public comments after each motion to two minutes per speaker with a maximum of ten minutes per motion for public comment.

Discussion also took place regarding items from board members to be put on the board agendas. All items should be given to Mr. Morris and he will contact Dr. Farrell the Wednesday before a board meeting to add the items to the board agendas.

Board Committees were discussed. The Board identified the following committees:

- Finance/Staffing-Mr. Engel (Chair) and Mr. Senger
- Educational Planning/Policy-Mr. Senger (Chair) and Mrs. Wenning
- Audit-Mrs. Wenning
- Facilities-Mr. Murray (Chair) and Mr. Engel
- Communication-Mr. Morris (Chair) and Mr. Senger
- Strategic Planning-Mrs. Wenning (Chair) and Mr. Morris
- Extra-Curriculars (Ad Hoc)-Mr. Morris and Mr. Murray

Discussion followed regarding the committees. It was suggested that each committee meet by the March work session. It was also suggested to create a purpose statement for each committee. Mr. Morris reminded the group to be realistic and try to keep in mind specific things to get done.

The topic of board members interacting with the district was discussed.

Mr. Engel stated that if individuals come to him with complaints he will refer them to Dr. Farrell first.

Mr. Morris encouraged the board members to attend events.

Mrs. Wenning shared how informative her building visits have been during her time spent on the Board.

Mrs. Wenning also reminded the board members that requests made by individual board members should go through the whole Board before a request is made to the Administrative Team. The Board would then decide whether an individual board member's request should be researched by the Administrative Team.

Discussion took place regarding the legal issues with board members conversing via email. Mr. Clemmons spoke to the Board and offered them suggestions on the proper uses of email among board members.

Discussion also took place regarding the Sunshine Law and reasons to hold executive sessions.

06-06 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Senger to adjourn meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:00 pm by the board President, Mr. Morris.

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President

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