

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2008

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The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, State of Ohio held an Organizational Meeting and Work Session on the 3rd of January 2008 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

President Pro Tem – Dr. Mark Morris

The meeting was called to order by the President Pro Tem at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Oath of Office for new Board Members

Dr. Morris gave the Oath of Office to the new members, Mr. Kearns and Mrs. Bailey.

ROLL CALL: - Present: Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, & Mr. Murray
Absent: None

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

08-01 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR 2008
(ORC 3313.14)

A. Nominations

(If more than one person is nominated, the President Pro Tem shall publicly call the roll of the Board and ask the members to vote their choice. If only one person is nominated, a motion to close nominations, a second, and a vote by acclamation will elect the President.)

Mr. Kearns nominated Dr. Morris for President.

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to close the nominations.

SECOND– Seconded by Mr. Kearns

Public comments: None

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

Nays: Mr. Engel

Motion Carried: 4-1

President Pro Tem, Dr. Morris, declares himself as the elected President of the Fairfield Board of Education for 2008

(President presides from this point forward)

08-02 ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF
EDUCATION FOR 2008 (ORC 3313.14)

A. Nominations (same procedure applies)

Mrs. Bailey nominated Mr. Murray for Vice President.

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to close the nominations.

SECOND– Seconded by Mr. Kearns

Public comments: None

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

Nays: Mr. Engel

Motion Carried: 4-1

President declares Mr. Murray as the elected Vice President of the Fairfield Board of Education for 2008.

08-03 ESTABLISH 2008 MEETING DATES/ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD SERVICE
FUND/APPROVE STANDING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR 2008/APPOINTMENTS TO
OSBA AND CITY COMMITTEES

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

NEW BUSINESS/BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Establish 2008 meeting dates, times and places (ORC 3313.15)

1. Date: Work Sessions 1st Thursday of the month; Regular Meeting 3rd
Thursday
of the month

2. Time: Work Session 5:30 pm
Regular Meeting – 6:30 Superintendent’s Briefing
7:00 pm Regular Meeting

3. Place: Meetings to be held in the Fairfield High School Community Room

Board discussion concerning the parameters of the Work Session:

Dr. Morris suggested that the Work Session would be limited to an hour and contain 2-3 items that do not involve a vote. He suggested a starting time of 5:30 pm.

Mrs. Bailey suggested that the Board should have a real Work Session.

Mr. Murray would appreciate the 5:30 starting time.

Mr. Engel would like to see the Work Session stay focused.

Board discussion concerning the Regular Session:

The Superintendent's Briefing should only cover the items that have been added to the agenda since the draft agenda came out.

Dr. Morris suggested that the Board Packet be electronic. Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Kearns were supportive of the concept. The next Board Packet will be issued electronically and on paper for a test run.

- B. Consider establishment of a Board service fund for 2008 in the amount of \$18,000 (ORC 3315.15).
- C. Recommend renewal and/or purchase of Position/Performance Bonds for Treasurer as required by Ohio Law in the amount of \$20,000 (ORC 3313.25).
- D. Recommend approval of the following standing authorizations for 2008:
 - 1. Authorize the Treasurer to secure advances from the Auditor when funds are available and payable to the district.
 - 2. Authorize the Treasurer to invest inactive funds whenever funds are available.
 - 3. Authorize the Treasurer to modify appropriations and advance money from fund to fund as needed. Modifications must then be presented to the Board for approval.
 - 4. Authorize the Treasurer to pay all bills within the limits of the appropriation resolution as bills are received and when the merchandise has been received in good condition.
 - 5. Authorize the Superintendent or Designee during periods when this Board is not in session, to make offers of employment directly to candidates for either teaching or non-teaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to a subsequent vote of ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer.

Nothing in this resolution shall require the Board of Education to employ or continue to employ an individual who has not provided a criminal records check satisfactory to the Board or who has not satisfied any other prerequisite to employment created by law or Board policy.

- 6. Authorize the Superintendent or Designee, on behalf of this Board, to accept resignations which have been submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session, subject to ratification by this Board; provided however,

that upon ratification by this Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance.

7. Authorize Superintendent or Designee to act as purchasing agent for the district to make purchases of supplies and/or services within the limits of the appropriation measure.
8. Authorize the Treasurer to borrow short-term funds as needed for cash flow purposes.
9. Authorize the Treasurer to utilize the legal firm of Peck, Shaffer, and Williams when fiscal legal opinions are required.
10. Authorize the Interim Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum to approve professional day requests for certificated and classified employees for state meetings, workshops, and events in an amount not to exceed the limits in the Annual Appropriation, Board Policy, and negotiated contracts.
11. Authorize members of the Board to attend workshops, seminars and meetings for Professional Development to benefit the academic and financial status of district.
12. Recommend that in accordance with Section 3313.26, ORC that the Board waive the reading of minutes from previous meetings.

E. Appointments to OSBA and City Committees

1. Butler Tech Board of Education: Mr. Murray
2. Legislative Liaison to OSBA/Federal Relations Network: Mr. Engel
3. Parks and Recreation Board: Mr. Preston Johnson
4. Planning Commission: Mrs. Bailey
5. Student Achievement Liaison/Youth Commission: Mr. Kearns

(Any of items "A" through "E" may be voted upon separately at the request of any Board member)

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

Mrs. Kesselring presented Mr. Murray with information from Butler Tech.

WORK SESSION

A. Board Retreat

The Board Retreat was scheduled for January 26, 2008, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Fairfield Operations Building.

B. Grand Opening for Athletic Training Complex

Mr. Amodio presented an overview of the new complex to the Board. A formal public opening of the complex is being planned for a weekend in February.

08-04 APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2009 TAX BUDGET/DONATION

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

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2009 Tax Budget that will be submitted to the Butler County Auditor’s Office.

Mrs. Lane presented the Tax Budget to the Board.

B. Recommend approval of the following donation:

1. \$20,000 from the Hatton Foundation to the Fairfield High School Athletic Department.

SECOND - Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

Public comments: None

Mr. Engel stated that he will vote to approve the budget, but he does not agree with spending 4 million dollars more than we are taking in for FY 2009.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 21	Martin Luther King Day	No school
January 22 & 23	1 st term exams gr. 9-12	
January 23	End of 1 st term – one-hour early dismissal	

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Bailey

She stated that she is happy to be here. She is ready to get started and looking forward to a great year.

Mr. Kearns

He thanked his wife and family, friends and the community for the support during his campaign. The support from the entire community during his campaign was at times overwhelming – but most importantly reaffirmed his commitment to excellence for our students.

The voters on November 6th sent a message to this school board that they want to move forward and want to support an excellent school district.

His campaign priorities were to continue the excellence in our school district, advocate for a conservative fiscal approach, and strengthen the district's connection with the community.

The Board has a lot of work ahead of them to move in the right direction. One of his goals is to establish clear measurable priorities yearly for our superintendent and let her lead the district.

He would like to promote common interest with FCSD Employees and the Board.

He would like to immediately begin discussions with the community that will enable the board to present a financial plan that will meet the needs of an excellent district.

He would like to engage community members in discussions as a result of the upcoming Ohio School Facilities Commission report.

He would like to promote representation in Fairfield Township Government similar to what is established with the city.

He is looking forward to working with fellow board members, administrators, staff, teachers, parents, kids and community members as they continue the excellence.

Mr. Engel

He welcomed Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Kearns aboard.

Mr. Murray

He congratulated Diana Bailey & Jerome Kearns and welcomed them aboard. He thanked them for their support and stated that he looks forward to working with them. He knows that they will do a great job.

He stated his 2008 priorities as re-energizing our facilities based on the facilities assessment and the OSFC study. The results of the study are the key to the long term success of our students and the foundation for learning. We need to complete the report as soon as possible.

He would like to see a special focus on technology in the 3-5 year plan including communication/networking/education. Cooperation with Butler Tech is very important and he will take on the new role as the Butler Tech representative.

He will request a science lab assessment integration into the facilities assessment. He wants to be sure that the new science curriculum requirements can be supported.

He wants to see us build on the initiatives of the Strategic Plan.

He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Dr. Morris

Before I talk about 2008, let me briefly talk about 2007. Any time you make significant changes in leadership, you can expect a period of transition. Under Mrs. Milligan's leadership, we have moved smoothly through this period with confidence and consistency. I want to thank her for her willingness to serve as our Superintendent and for the great job she is doing.

In 2007, we saw our students excel both in and outside the classroom. We celebrated the class of '07 at the Cintas Center in June. We kicked off the school year with another wonderful back to school parade in August. A dozen former homecoming queens took part in the Homecoming parade which debuted a new route through the city. And we participated in the most fundamental of democratic processes in November, the election of new members to this board. It was a year to remember and celebrate. But now it is time to look forward to the opportunities of 2008.

As we sit here on January 3rd, 2008 is a blank canvas. We each bring our hopes, ambitions, and dreams to what this new year may become. My question is are we willing to seize the moment and turn our hopes, ambitions, and dreams into reality? The opportunity is here, and I believe we must act decisively or watch it slip away.

I will challenge this board to focus on two primary opportunities this year: to define student success, and to determine the financial future of our district. I believe these two opportunities are inextricably linked together. We cannot do one without the other.

We must begin by defining student success. What is a successful student? In the broadest sense, student success must be defined:

- in the classroom...academic achievement
- outside the classroom...extra-curriculars and community engagement
- transition to adulthood...preparation for college, career, or military service

The challenge for this Board is to identify specific variables for student success with quantifiable measures of results. All of our decisions should then flow from assessing the impacts on student success.

As we move through the process of defining student success, I would add this cautionary note from W. Edwards Demming, *“It is important that an aim never be defined in terms of activity or methods. It must always relate directly to how life is better for everyone...The aim of the system must be clear to everyone in the system. The aim must include plans for the future. The aim is a value judgment.”* Student success is the aim not the process.

Once we have clearly articulated what we need to do to achieve student success, we can then turn to our financial future. We must look at all of our functions and processes to ensure they support student success. We can then build upon those things that support student success and eliminate those things that don't. More importantly, we can provide our community with the information they will need to assess the job we are doing and the value they are receiving from their tax dollars. I will never ask this community for additional tax monies without fully understanding how those monies are essential to student success.

In order to review the functions and processes of the district, I will ask this Board to create an ad hoc citizen committee. This committee will be given a specific charter to review and assess the major functions, processes, and structures of our school district. If the Board agrees, this committee will be given wide access to our staff and buildings as they complete this task. My hope is that we can create this committee quickly and put them to work with a 60-day deadline.

As I stated earlier, 2008 is a year of opportunity. I believe this Board has become too administratively focused and must return to its function of providing vision and direction. We must empower our Superintendent to act and evaluate her results. Are we up to the challenge, I believe we are. However, let me clearly say that **I do not have the answers**. But, I am willing to look, listen, and do whatever it takes to find them. No matter what effort is put forth, this Board cannot do this alone. We can only be successful if the community is actively involved and engaged in this process.

Let me conclude with one final thought. Management consultant Lawrence Miller writes, *“Excellence is not an accomplishment. It is a spirit, a never-ending process.”* I believe that this spirit is alive and well in our district.

08-05 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to recess to Executive Session at 7:10 pm to discuss the following:

Employment and Compensation 121.22(G) (1)

Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation

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SECOND - Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 -0

At 8:32 pm, Mrs. Milligan and Mr. Amodio left the Executive Session.

The Board resumed the Work Session at 9:03 pm.

08-06 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - Moved by Mrs. Bailey to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm by the President, Dr. Morris.

President

Attest: _____

Treasurer