

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2008

29

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, State of Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 26th of February 2008 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

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

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

Also present: Mrs. Milligan, Mr. Amodio, & Mrs. Lane
Mr. Clemmons arrived at 6:40 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT BRIEFING

Mrs. Milligan & Mrs. Lane reviewed agenda items with the Board.

Chad Reed, Mikie Hubbard, & Craig Rhodis presented a proposal to put artificial turf on the soccer field.

Mr. Engel requested time to review the proposal and revisit the proposal at the March Work Session.

BRIEF RECESS 6:58 – 6:59 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – 7:00 pm

08-23 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Bailey to recess to Executive Session at 7:04 pm to discuss the following:
Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Employee 121.22(G) (1)

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Kearns

ROLL CALL-Ayes: Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, & Dr. Morris
Absent: Mr. Murray
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 4-0

The Board resumed the Regular Session at 7:35 pm.

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

A. Chelesa Rice, Marie Shular, and Erica Katz (FHS students) – Summer Activities & Job Fair

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. Presentations are limited to five (5) minutes each.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

08-24 RESIGNATIONS/LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT

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

A. Personnel -- Certificated

1. Resignations

- a. Beth Elias, Senior High, Varsity Head Coach, Boys Volleyball
(effective 2007-2008; for personal reasons)
- b. Carol Hallman, District, 7-12 Curriculum Coordinator
(effective at the end of the day June 30, 2008; for retirement purposes)
- c. Luther Hibbard, Middle, Computer Science
(effective July 1, 2008; for retirement purposes)
- d. Lori Mills, District, Occupational Therapist, 20% of her contract
(effective January 28, 2008, for childrearing purposes; with approval of this recommendation, this employee will be a 30% employee)
- e. Rick J. Serge, Senior High, Guidance Counselor
(effective at the end of the day June 30, 2008; for retirement purposes)

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. Angela Mangicaro, Freshman, RN
(effective 2.0 days on January 16 and 17, 2008, .25 day on January 24, 2008, .75 day on February 5, 2008, and 1.0 day on February 6, 2008; for family medical purposes)
- b. Theresa Nevin, Intermediate, Guidance Counselor
(effective .5 day on December 11, 2007, .25 day on December 12, 2007, .75 day on January 23, 2008, 2.0 days on January 24 and 25, 2008; for personal medical purposes)

- c. Mary Jennifer Stenger, District, Speech Language Pathologist
(effective November 5-23, 2007, .5 day on November 26 through December 10, 2007, and .25 day on December 11 through December 20, 2007; for personal medical purposes)

3. Employment

- a. Extracurricular 2007-2008

Mike Berkemeier, Senior High, Boys Volleyball, Varsity Head
Bryan McEldowney, Senior High, Boys Volleyball, Varsity Assistant
Jared Nissen, Middle, Track 7th/8th grade
Kristen Snyder, Senior High, Boys Volleyball, Varsity Assistant
Scott Stockum, Senior High, Tennis, Varsity Assistant

- b. Extra curricular 2008-2009

Lisa Davis, Senior High, Football, Varsity Cheer Coach
Lisa Davis, Senior High, Basketball, Varsity Cheer Coach

- c. ESL Tutors

Brewer, Colleen

(Periodically the district has students who qualify for English as a Second Language services as determined through the district's established assessment process. It is recommended that the above-noted person(s) be employed as an ESL Tutor at the rate of \$23.34 per hour, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.)

- d. Home Instructors

Wienczek, Julie

(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 \$23.34 per hour, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.)

- e. Substitute Teachers

Brandenburg, Chris
Chernovol, Tatiana
Klaber, Erika
Rose, Rhonda

(All recommendations are for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per day.)

(All recommendations are contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents)

SECOND –Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

08-25 RESIGNATION/LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT

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

B. Personnel -- Classified

1. Resignation

- a. Diana Baldwin, Middle, Educational Assistant
(effective at the end of the day February 29, 2008; for retirement purposes)

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. Wendy Clarke, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective February 8 through March 18, 2008; unpaid personal medical)
- b. Roy Garrett, East, Head Custodian
(effective January 16 through February 11, 2008; job related medical)
- c. Betty Koger, Senior High, Custodian
(effective February 6 through March 21, 2008; job related medical)
- d. Jill Taylor, Intermediate, Educational Assistant
(effective January 31 through March 27, 2008; unpaid maternity leave)

3. Employment

- a. Douglas Hall, Transportation, Chauffeur
(effective February 22, 2008; replacement position)
- b. Carl Marino, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective February 22, 2008; replacement position)
- c. Tina McMillen, Middle, Food Service Assistant
(effective February 22, 2008; replacement position)

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Engel

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

08-26 MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD ITEM 4 “TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT”

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Kearns to amend the agenda to approve an addition – Item 4 “Termination of Employment.”

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Engel

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

08-27 MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF WILLIAM H. YORK, CENTRAL HEAD CUSTODIAN, FOR NEGLECT OF DUTY & DISHONESTY, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE DAY ON 02-26-08.

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to approve the following:
Recommend the termination of employment of William H. York, Central Head Custodian, for neglect of duty and dishonesty, effective at the end of the day on 02-26-08.

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Kearns

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Policies for review – presented by Mrs. Griffel

EBC Emergency/Safety Plans

(Input from Martha Roche & David Foster was invaluable)

ECG Integrated Pest Management

ECG-R Integrated Pest Management

ECG-R-1 Integrated Pest Management (Use of Pesticides)

EEACE School Bus Idling

GBQ Criminal Record Check

IGDD Student Performance – presented by Mrs. Milligan

IGDD-E is also part of this policy.

The above listed policies will be placed on March Regular Meeting Agenda for Board vote.

2. Ohio School Facilities Commission Report – next steps – Mr. Amodio
Mr. Engel stated that the Strategic Planning Facilities Subcommittee will now be able to move forward.
3. Curriculum/Education Committee
Dr. Morris asked Mr. Murray & Mr. Kearns to serve on this committee.
4. April 17th meeting conflict (Also change of date for April Work Session)
April 17th Regular Meeting - West Elementary – 6:30 pm Superintendent Briefing
April 2nd Work Session – High School Community Room – 5:30 pm

D. Items for Board Action

08-28 APPROVAL OF CONSULTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS AND STEED HAMMOND PAUL, INC.

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to approve the following:

1. Agreement for Consulting Services between Fairfield City Schools & Steed Hammond Paul, Inc.

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Kearns

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

08-29 APPROVAL OF MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FAIRFIELD CLASSROOM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING MEMBER EXPERIENCE CREDIT ON EXTRACURRICULAR SALARY SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE THROUGH 08-31-08

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Bailey to approve the following

2. Recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fairfield Classroom Teachers' Association regarding Member Experience Credit on the Extracurricular Salary Schedule, effective through August 31, 2008. (Approval of this memorandum allows members to receive experience credit for work at the college level, and as a volunteer the year prior to a position being officially recognized on the Extracurricular Placement Schedule.)

SECOND –Seconded by Mr. Kearns

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nayes: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

08-30 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2008/APPROVAL OF 2007-2008 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS/DONATIONS

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

- A. Recommend approval of the minutes of the following meetings:
 - January 16, 2008 – Regular Meeting
 - January 26, 2008 – Special Session
 - February 6, 2008 – Special Session
 - February 7, 2008 – Work Session
- B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of January 2008.
- C. Recommend approval of the 2007-08 Amended Appropriations Resolution.
- D. Recommend approval of the disposal of the following fixed assets:

<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
SN: 134ABA1J61	Spirit GT walkie-talkie	Middle School
SN: 134TDEK269	Spirit GT walkie-talkie	Middle School
SN: 134AAG0T29	Spirit GT walkie-talkie	Middle School
15263	Spirit GT walkie-talkie	Middle School
04200	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
05650	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
05651	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
03573	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
03646	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
03602	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
03581	Mac desktop computer	Middle School
05907	PC printer	Middle School
15262	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
11071	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
11483	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
10745	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
09412	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
11482	Spirit GT walkie talkie	Middle School
14018	Television	Middle School
14026	Treadmill	Middle School
14027	Treadmill	Middle School
13249	Television	Middle School

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13250	Television	Middle School
07566	Television	Middle School
08083	G3 Apple computer	East Elementary
07962	G3 Apple computer	East Elementary
15036	Brother fax machine	East Elementary
15247	Laminator	East Elementary
12794	Sharp copier	East Elementary
10790	HP laser printer	East Elementary
SN: 011301381191	Lexmark printer	Freshman School
08276	Computer	Freshman School
03593	Computer	Freshman School
03614	Computer	Freshman School
08860	Epson Stylus printer	Business Office
02302	Overhead projector cart	Sacred Heart
12605	Fax machine	West Elementary

E. Recommend approval of the following donations:

1. A \$6000 donation of miscellaneous office supplies from Ohio Casualty to Fairfield City Schools.
2. A \$5000 donation from Lowes Charitable & Education Foundation to be used for playground equipment at Fairfield West Elementary School.
3. A \$1000 donation from the Hamilton-West Wal-Mart, a \$620 donation from the Hamilton East Wal-Mart, and a \$1522 donation from the Springdale Wal-Mart to be used for the Fairfield Intermediate School's Reading & Tutoring Center.
4. A \$3000 donation from Intermec Technologies Corporation to Fairfield Intermediate School to be used for the purchase of a SmartBoard.
5. A \$5000 donation from the Fairfield Intermediate School PTC to Fairfield Intermediate School to be used for the computer lab.
6. A snow blower valued at \$499 donated by the Fairfield West PTC to Fairfield West Elementary School.

SECOND –Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

Public Comments: None

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Butler Tech – Dan Murray - Absent

B. Student Liaison Report - William McIlwain - Absent

C. President's Report – Dr. Mark Morris

Dr. Morris has received invitations from OEA regarding HB 315. Dr. Morris will be in touch with Mrs. Milligan to discuss this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 29	Progress Reports Grades 1-12
March 6	Board Work Session 5:30 High School Community Room
March 3	Phantom tickets on sale at 8:00 am

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Bailey

She congratulated our State Qualifiers in wrestling – Coach Ron Masanek, Ian Mathews, Andrew Robinson, Thomas Torres who will compete in Columbus this weekend.

She congratulated our State Qualifiers in gymnastics – Coach Tonya Campbell, Tasha Gordon, Elise Rohr, and Danielle Soto who will also compete in Columbus this weekend.

She congratulated our State Qualifier in bowling – Coach Nick Glomb & Caroline Zager who will compete in Lancaster this weekend.

She congratulated Jeff Clark and the Show Choirs for their performances at the Hoosier Classic in Indy last weekend. The Rhythm Express, Pure Elegance, and Choraliers received numerous awards as well as individual awards. Rhythm Express are Middle School Grand Champs and the Choraliers are High School Grand Champs.

The Crystal Classic is this Saturday at Fairfield High School from 9:00 am until 11:00 pm.

Mr. Kearns

Summer Activities and Job Fair – The resources that are available through this event can make the difference in our students summer break. I encourage families and students to attend.

Tonight we approved an agreement for consulting services between the district and Steed Hammond and Paul to assist us with our next steps regarding the Ohio School Facilities Commission Report. I encourage members of our community to get involved in the process with us. We are talking about your buildings.

Tonight we approved over \$22,000 in donations from various community businesses and Fairfield City School District PTC's. It is this type of community and school support that make this district what it is today. I thank you for your continued support of our students.

From time to time it will be necessary for the board to select members to participate in ad-hoc committees. I appreciate the recommendation from Dr. Morris for me to participate in the Curriculum/Education Committee. I look forward to working with Bonnie Fitzharris our Curriculum Director.

Mr. Kearns' comments (cont.)

Butler County Children Services Levy

Current Levy

- 2 mill, five-year levy
- Expires November 2008
- Last approved (increase) in 2003
- In 2003 – cost to owner of \$100,000 home \$56.17/year
- Generates about \$15 million a year

Proposed Levy

- 2 mill, five-year replacement levy
- Cost the owner of \$100,000 home \$61.25/year—an increase of \$5.08 a year.
- Generates about \$15.7 million a year—60% of Children Services total funding

Levy supports services to children and families, including:

Taking reports of abuse, neglect and dependency

Protecting children from abuse, neglect and dependency

Support for teens leaving the foster care system

Services that help families stabilize – drug treatment, counseling, domestic violence protection, parent education, emergency assistance

Services to help abused and neglected children such as mental health treatment, educational services, etc.

Safe, stable temporary homes such as foster care for children who cannot remain safely in the home because of abuse and neglect.

Foster care and adoption recruitment

Support for Juvenile Court and Guardian Ad Litem (GALs)

The levy helps protect more than 7,000 children each year—that's 1 in every 12 children in Butler County.

Butler County Children's Services is mandated to:

Take reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency (19,486 calls in 2006)

Investigate those reports

Act to protect children

Assure that children have permanent homes

The Children's Services levy serves local children who are:

abused and neglected

in the court system, or

otherwise disadvantaged.

In 2006, the number of children active with the agency in an average month was 2,372

Mr. Engel

No comments

Dr. Morris

I want to begin my comments with congratulations to the six FHS students who were named National Merit Finalists: Russell Ault, Spencer Carran, Mindy Cimini, Ranjit Ganguly, Cathalee Soergel, and Garrett Walt. These students scored in the top 1% of all high school students taking the PSAT and SAT college admissions exams.

It is exciting for me to celebrate the academic achievements of our students, like our six national merit finalists. I am in awe of the abilities that these young minds continually show. Each of them has unlimited potential to apply their talents in the future, and we can be optimistic that they each will do great things.

Rightfully so, we expect great things from these students. However, I am concerned about our expectations for all of our students. I also wonder if we are asking enough from ourselves, the parents, leaders, and mentors of our students at this pivotal moment in time? Are we setting an example that life-long learning is critical to our individual success and our success as a nation? In a recent newspaper column, scholar and author Susan Jacoby writes, "*Americans are in serious intellectual trouble...losing to a mixture of anti-intellectualism, anti-rationalism and low expectations.*"

She says that increasingly, Americans have stopped reading books, magazines, and newspapers. According to a 2006 survey by National Geographic, nearly half of Americans between ages 18 and 24 do not think it is necessary to know the location of other countries in the world. More than a third consider it "not at all important" to know a foreign language, and according to the National Science Foundation, one in five American adults thinks that the sun revolves around the Earth. Jacoby says that not knowing a foreign language or the location of an important country is the result of a growing ignorance of the complex world we now live in; denying that such global knowledge is important makes no sense.

As some call it, this dumbing down of America is both disturbing and self-destructive. Historian Richard Hofstadter saw anti-intellectualism appearing in cycles throughout American history. I believe we are in one of these cycles today as demonstrated by much of the anti-education rhetoric used against school levies in Ohio.

Yet when we try to begin a public conversation about a complex issue like education, we are criticized. Again quoting Jacoby, "*It is almost impossible to talk about the manner in which public ignorance contributes to grave national problems without being labeled an "elitist."*" Mr. Engel used this language in his December 6th comments when he suggested that I had, "an agenda to turn the Fairfield school district into an elitist community." I do not believe that challenging our community to be knowledgeable and engaged should be considered an elitist attitude. On this matter, Mr. Engel and I will simply have to agree to disagree.

So where do we go from here? In his State of the State Address, Governor Strickland outlined six core principles to "*create learning environments that foster and nurture creativity, innovation, and global competency.*"

Dr. Morris' comments (cont.)

Strengthen our commitment to public education.
Link a modern education directly to economic prosperity.
Identify the great strengths of our schools.
Encourage our best teachers to show us what works best in the classroom.
Develop a specific, personalized education program...appropriate to each student's needs and abilities.
Continue testing and assessment to answer accountability questions.

I believe all of these core principles are essential to educating the children of Ohio. But, I also believe we must raise the bar for ourselves and for our community. We must explicitly reject this dumbing down of our society and resist the temptation to ignore our long-term common-good with short-term self-interests. Pejorative labels like "elitism" serve no useful purpose in this critical debate about our future.

We hear lots of talk about change these days. My hope is that a new day and a new commitment are coming, perhaps one where we challenge ourselves and our children to embrace and engage a world that we more fully understand and appreciate.

08-31 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Kearns to recess to Executive Session at 8:40 pm to discuss the following:

Employment and Compensation 121.22(G) (1)
Collective Bargaining 121.22 (G) (4)
Security Arrangements 121.22(G) (6)

SECOND –Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The Board resumed the Regular Session at 9:45 pm.

08-32 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - Moved by Mr. Kearns to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

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

Absent: Mr. Murray

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm by the President, Dr. Morris.

Attest: _____

President

Treasurer