

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 17th of December 2009 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

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

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

Also present: Mrs. Milligan, Mr. Otten, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Lane & Mr. Clemmons

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

- A. National Merit Semifinalists – Nina Kosaric and Jonathan Stupak
- B. Butler County Auditor's Office – Reappraisal/Update Information – Joe Statzer

COMMUNICATION

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.

Keith Davis spoke.

09-145 RESIGNATIONS/LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

- A. Personnel – Certified
 - 1. Resignations
 - a. Andrew Brinker, Middle, Wrestling Assistant 7th/8th
(effective with the 2009-10 school year; to accept another position)
 - b. Shawn Starkey, Middle, Wrestling, 7th/8th
(effective with the 2009-10 school year; to accept another position)
 - c. Blair Willcocks, Middle, Wrestling, 7th/8th
(effective with the 2009-10 school year; to accept another position)
 - 2. Leaves of Absence
 - a. Jennifer Carroll, Senior High, Science
(effective January 4, 2010 through January 19, 2010; for childrearing purposes)

3. Employment

a. Extracurricular 2009-10

Senior

Emily Breitholle, Softball, Varsity Assistant

Middle

Dan Beck, Basketball, Boys, 7th/8th

Andrew Brinker, Wrestling, 7th/8th

Ian Lubbers, Chess, 75%

Jared Olson, Wrestling 7th/8th

Blair Willcocks, Wrestling Assistant, 7th/8th

West

Mary Ellen Menzer, Intramurals

Laura Griffin, Elementary Drama Club Advisor

Sarah Preda, After School Reading Club, 75%

b. ESL Tutors

Kathryn Urmston

(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 \$24.34 per hour, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.)

c. Home Instructors

Michael Browning

Joanna Lutes

Laura Winans

(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 \$24.34 per hour, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.)

d. Substitute Teachers

Anna Bianco

Tonia Bryant

Lisa McKinney

Katie Mellman

Jill Mignery

Clarisa Shouse

Anthony Shupp

Alissa Williams
Laura Winans

(All recommendations are for the 2009-2010 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per day.)

e. Volunteers

Dave Barden, Senior High, Wrestling
John Jacobs, Middle, Wrestling
CJ Link, Freshman, Girls Basketball
Shawn Starkey, Senior High, Wrestling
Brad Wright, Senior High, Wrestling

(The above-noted persons are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2009-2010 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 recommendations are contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

09-146 RESIGNATIONS/LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT

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

B. Personnel -- Classified

1. Resignations

- a. Susan Bultman, Middle, Educational Assistant
(effective November 1, 2009; for retirement purposes – deceased)

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. Debbie Barnett, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective January 1, 2010 through April 5, 2010; for extension of unpaid personal medical leave)
- b. Betty Koger, Sr. High, Custodian
(effective December 7, 2009 through January 25, 2010; for job-related medical)

- c. Nancy Lipton, Central, Educational Assistant
(effective January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010; for extension of unpaid personal leave)
- d. Jill Taylor, Middle, Educational Assistant
(effective January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010; for extension of unpaid childrearing purposes)

3. Employment

- a. Darlene Britton, South, Educational Assistant
(effective January 4, 2010; for a replacement position)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Community engagement proposals

The Board reviewed the proposals that were presented at the December 2nd work session.

Mr. Kearns stated that the Board is looking for a community engagement process, not for an architect in the process.

Mr. Kearns would like to bring some action to the next board meeting regarding the proposals.

2. Proposed school calendar, 2010-2011 – Mr. Otten presented

The state has limited our calamity days to 3 for next school year.

09-147 APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

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

D. Other Items for Board Action

- 1. Recommend approval of the school calendar for the 2010-2011 school year.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

Public comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

09-148 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2009/
APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS/DISPOSALS/DONATIONS/
APPROVAL OF IRS MILEAGE RATE OF 50 CENTS PER MILE EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2010/ESTABLISH DATE OF TAX BUDGET HEARING OF
JANUARY 6, 2010/APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION IN LIEU OF PAYMENTS

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

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

- A. Recommend approval of the minutes of the following meetings:
November 19, 2009 – Regular Meeting
December 3, 2009 – Work Session
- B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of November 2009.
- C. Recommend approval of the 2009-10 Amended Appropriations Resolution.
- D. Recommend approval of the disposal of the following fixed assets:

<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
10320	Printer	Central Elementary
10357	Computer	Central Elementary
10358	Monitor	Central Elementary
15116	Computer	Central Elementary
15118	Computer	Central Elementary
15456	Computer	Central Elementary
16048	Computer	Central Elementary
16644	Computer	Central Elementary
02812	Printer	Central Elementary
07991	Computer	Central Elementary
08004	Computer	Central Elementary
08012	Computer	Central Elementary
08014	Computer	Central Elementary
08296	Computer	Central Elementary
08297	Computer	Central Elementary
08299	Computer	Central Elementary
08300	Computer	Central Elementary
08305	Computer	Central Elementary
08312	Computer	Central Elementary
08751	Computer	Central Elementary

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2009

09752	Computer	Central Elementary
09760	Printer	Central Elementary
09761	Printer	Central Elementary
YM1121G0KLX	Computer	Central Elementary
15085	Health Meter devices	Intermediate School
20444	Cell phone	Intermediate School
08635	Overhead projector	Kindergarten Center
07781	Overhead projector	Kindergarten Center
12166	Overhead projector	Kindergarten Center
17750	Overhead projector	Kindergarten Center
10021	Overhead projector	Kindergarten Center
16648	Computer	South Elementary
09292	Boombox	West Elementary
02480	Overhead projector	West Elementary

E. Recommend approval of the following donations:

1. A donation of \$3,196 from Chipotle Mexican Grill to the Fairfield City Schools Athletic Department.
2. A donation of 790 dictionaries valued at \$3,115 from the Fairfield Rotary Club to the Fairfield City School District.
3. A donation of four musical instruments valued at \$2,175 from John Blaechle to the Fairfield City School District.
4. A donation of 20 boxes of hanging file folders valued at \$400 from General Electric to Fairfield High School.
5. A donation of \$2,000 from the Fairfield Champions Foundation to the Fairfield High School girls' soccer program.
6. A donation of \$70 from Lois and Robert Harrison to the Fairfield High School Drama Club.

Total donations for 2009: \$225,355.05

F. Recommend approval of the new IRS mileage rate of 50 cents effective January 1, 2010.

G. Establish the date of the Tax Budget Hearing to be held on January 6, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Operations Building.

H. Recommend approval of the resolution determining that transportation for certain pupils is impractical and that payment in lieu of transportation be made:

WHEREAS, Section 3327.01, Revised Code, permits a Board of Education to make payment in lieu of transportation to a parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a student where the Board of Education determined that it is impractical to transport a pupil by school conveyance, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the State of Ohio has issued certain procedures for Boards of Education to utilize in making such determination of impracticability, and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has fully considered Steps 2.1 through 2.6 of the State Board of Education Procedures and has determined that transportation is impractical and that payment in lieu of transportation should be made to the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of said student, and

WHEREAS, the names and addresses of the students have been provided to the Board

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, after full consideration of all the criteria set forth by the State Board of Education determines that pupil transportation is impractical and that payment in lieu of transportation by school conveyance is necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the failure of a parent, guardian, or other person in charge of students to consent to the determination that transportation is impractical shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for fact finding and mediation.

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter
Public comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Butler Tech – Mark Morris and Dan Murray

Mr. Murray stated that last Tuesday's monthly meeting was Dr. Morris' final meeting as the additional Butler Tech representative from Fairfield.

He thanked Dr. Morris for his assistance with the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Sommers is a finalist for the Middletown City Schools Superintendent.

Dr. Morris thanked the Fairfield City School District Board for allowing him to serve on the Butler Tech Board of Education.

B. Fairfield Planning Commission – Dan Murray

The Senior Housing Project on Patterson Boulevard was discussed at the last meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 18 - Winter Break begins at end of day
January 4 - School resumes
January 7 - Organizational Board meeting, 6:30 P.M., FHS Community Room, with a reception for Mrs. Ko and Mrs. Shorter at 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Shorter

She thanked Ellie Jordan of the Fairfield City Schools Pre-School for inviting her to her classroom to read to the students. She enjoyed the experience.

Mr. Murray

He congratulated Nina Kosaric and Jonathan Stupak for their achievements.

He congratulated Cathy Milligan and the district as the Fairfield Senior High School received national recognition on Thursday, being listed among the nation's top public high schools in a ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

He stated that the state budget crisis may be over. He cautioned the community to stay tuned to events happening in education.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and stated that he is looking forward to the new year.

Dr. Morris

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mr. Kearns

We received some great news last week, when Fairfield Senior High School was listed among the nation's top public schools in a ranking by U.S. News & World Report. The magazine assessed more than 21,000 schools across the country, and our high school was one of six in Greater Cincinnati to earn a bronze medal in their rankings. So I want to congratulate all of our students, our staff, and our students' parents on this accomplishment.

If you look at the story in the magazine...there's a link on our website to it...and look at the methodology they used, a key reason why Fairfield is highly ranked is because of the way it serves all students, and creates a setting where everyone can achieve to the fullest extent of his or her ability and willingness to work. Not every school does that as well as we do, and that's what these rankings reflect, that we're doing what it takes to make sure every student can succeed.

So again, I'd like to offer my congratulations to everyone at the high school, and thank them for all of the hard work that they do every day that earned them this kind of recognition.

Finances

I did want to take a minute to make a few comments about what's going on in Columbus with the budget, specifically the part of it that relates to school funding and our own district. We have a committee of this board that meets regularly with Mrs. Milligan and her staff and with Mrs. Lane to look at where we can cut costs, and when we sat down yesterday the situation in Columbus had us looking at possibly having to cut \$2.4 million out of the budget not *next* school year, but *this* school year. That would have been very difficult, but it would also have been required. Fortunately, this morning it looks like the legislators in Columbus have fashioned a compromise that avoids those kinds of cuts, at least for now.

Mr. Kearns' comments (cont.)

But we still have some very challenging times ahead. We know the state is mandating all day kindergarten, and though we don't know yet whether it will start next year or not, it's going to cost a lot of money. Our funding from the state is going down next year... we already know that. Our entire administration staff is going without any pay raises, of even nominal amounts, this year. Our employees are paying for more of their health insurance. There will be still more cuts, reductions and savings to come.

I'm aware that Mr. Engel, when he was interviewed on Election Day, said that residents in our school district should expect levies in the future. He is absolutely right. There will be levies in the future. They'll be as few, and as small, as we can make them, but levies are how schools are funded in Ohio. Mr. Engel offered to lead this school district on a pledge of no more operating levies – ever – and the community clearly sent a message on Election Day that they know that's too good to be true, and that they understand you get what you pay for.

So we will continue working to find every way we can to save money, but at the same time, we're going to comply with state laws. We have very, very good schools right now, and that's been accomplished while spending far less than what most other districts spend. The challenge is to keep doing that.

As you know, tonight is Mr. Engel's last official meeting as a school board member, though his term doesn't end until December 31st. We want to recognize him tonight for his four years of service on this board. I know that he wants to take some time this evening to review his years on the board, and I think it's appropriate that we let him have the final speaking spot this evening to do that.

But I do want to thank him for his service. Everyone knows that we have very different ideas about the best ways to accomplish our district's goals. I think he deserves to be commended for being willing to get involved instead of just sitting home and criticizing, for being willing to do the hard work of running for office and then serving in that elected position. He's worked hard... I don't think he's missed more than two meetings in four years...and he's been part of the ongoing conversation about how we can provide the best education possible while also keeping the tax burden on residents as low as possible.

Earlier tonight, before our meeting began, we had an informal reception for Mr. Engel to recognize his service on this board. At this time I'd like to make a more formal presentation to him, also to recognize that service.

Mr. Engel

With this being my last meeting as a member of this board, I thought it was only fitting for me to share a few words with the community. First and foremost I will say that it has been a privilege to serve my community for the last 4 years. I also feel my tenure on this board was a productive one.

Mr. Engel's comments (cont.)

Considering the fact that I was the only conservative sitting on the board it was very hard to get many of my conservative ideas implemented. Not that any of my fellow board members would ever give me any credit, this board has however implemented or has plans to implement 7 of my 34 ideas on how to save money in our district. I'm also proud of the fact that it was my idea to build a new stadium with private funds. That idea turned into a new \$400,000 weight training facility. That facility has recently been paid off and I'm sure a new stadium will soon be in the works. Last but not least I'm most proud of heading off what I felt was going to be the wrong decision for our superintendent back in 2007.

I do not envy anyone sitting on this board because they have a financial nightmare to deal with. The new board will have to deal with all day kindergarten, that will cost an additional 1.5 million dollars to implement, a 15 to 1 student to teacher ratio in grades k-3 that will cost millions not to mention the need for additional classrooms. We are now in our second year of deficit spending that will require a new operating levy to be passed by no later than November of 2011. There are union contracts to be negotiated this spring. We have a permanent improvement levy that failed in November of 2008 that left no money for planned building maintenance, new books, buses or new technology. And the board will soon engage the community to see if you will support a bond issue to build as much as 230 million dollars worth of new schools.

I wish the board the best of luck in dealing with the districts finances and at the same time improving our children's education.

In closing I would like to assure this community that the CARE group and I will still be here acting at the watchdog for our community and as always, I will continue to offer my advice and support to the parents and staff who find themselves at odds with the district.

09-149 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to recess to Executive Session at 7:42 pm to discuss the following:

- Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Demotion, and/or Compensation of Personnel 121.22(G) (1)
- Purchase or Sale of Real Estate 121.22 (G) (2)
- Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation
- Collective Bargaining 121.22 (G) (4)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

Public comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 8:47 pm.

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2009

09-150 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Dr. Morris to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Murray

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Engel, Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, Mr. Murray & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

President

Attest: _____