

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 7th of May 2009 at the Fairfield High School Community Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 5:30 pm.

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

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Fairfield Choraliers – Jeff Clark, Director
Board members congratulated the Choraliers as well as their parents and the Tempo Club for all of their accomplishments this past year.

09-54 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Murray to recess to Executive Session at 5:49 pm to discuss the following:

Employment and Compensation of Personnel 121.22(G) (1)

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 6:32 pm.

Public Comments: Rick Rouse

Mr. Rouse apologized for the letter in the newspaper.

09-55 RESIGNATIONS/EMPLOYMENT

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Personnel – Certificated – Cathy Milligan

1. Resignations

- a. Randy Hambrick, Senior High, Assistant Athletic Director
(effective at the end of the day on June 10, 2009; for personal reasons)

- b. Joshua Kauffman, Senior High, Assistant Principal
(effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year; for personal reasons)
 - c. Cecile Laine, Freshman, French, 50%
(effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year; for personal reasons)
 - d. Wendy New, North, 4th grade
(effective at the end of the day on June 30, 2009; for retirement purposes)
 - e. Natalie Tobin, Senior High, Math
(effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year; for personal reasons)
2. Leaves of Absence
- a. LeeAnn Forte, Senior High, Intervention Specialist
(effective April 15, 16, and 17, 2009; for personal reasons)
 - b. Erin Young, West, 1st grade
(effective .5 on May 5, 2009, through the end of the 2008-2009 school year; for childrearing purposes)
 - c. Angela Zettler, North, 1st grade
(effective April 24, 2009 through May 8, 2009; for childrearing purposes)
3. Employment

Administrative Positions

- a. Karrie Gallo, South, Assistant Principal
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 203 days, on the certificated administrative salary range 1, for a replacement position)
- b. Mark Harden, District, Athletic Director
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 228 days on the certificated administrative salary range 3; for a replacement position)
- c. Maureen Meyer, District, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 208 days, on the certificated administrative salary range 1; for a replacement position)

Teaching Positions

- a. Bridget Hauser, Intermediate, ESL Teacher
(recommended for a new two-year limited teaching contract for the 2009-2010 school year, effective August 20, 2009; for a replacement position)
- b. Nancy McCloskey, District, Speech-Language Pathologist, 50%
(recommended for a new two-year limited teaching contract for the 2009-2010 school year, effective August 20, 2009; for a replacement position)
- c. Jennifer Meier, West, Physical Education
(recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2009-2010 school year, effective August 20, 2009; for a replacement position)
- d. Kendra Zoller, South, Title I, additional 50%
(effective with the 2009-10 school year: for a replacement position. Ms. Zoller currently holds a 50% contract with the district. Approval of this recommendation will bring her to a 100% status.)

Extracurricular Positions for the 2009-2010 school year:

- a. Senior High Football Coaches
Aaron Fitzstephens, Head Coach
Derek Ball, Varsity Assistant
Josh Erb, Varsity Assistant
Everett Hibbard, Assistant, Sophomore
Jacob Krause, Assistant, Sophomore
Kenny Powell, Assistant, Sophomore
Craig Reed, Varsity Assistant
Brady Renners, Varsity Assistant
Rod Ritzie, Varsity Assistant
Ben Zoeller, Varsity Assistant
- b. Freshman Football Coaches
John Buelt
Kevin Fletcher
Kris Hensley
- c. Middle School Football Coaches
Andrew Brinker, 8th Grade
Nathan Eigher, 7th Grade
Dustin Ferrell, 8th Grade
Tony Hibbard, 8th Grade
Keith Neumann, 7th Grade
Mike Reifenrath, 7th Grade

- d. Senior High Cross Country Coach
David Pierce, Head Coach

4. Home Instructors

Regina Williams

(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 \$23.86 per hour, effective for the 2008-2009 school year.)

5. Substitute Teachers

Janet Ritzie

(Recommendation is for the 2008-2009 school year at a rate of \$80.00 per day.)

6. Volunteer

Joel Hippert, Freshman, Football

(The above-noted person is recommended for approval as a volunteer coach 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.)

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris
Public Comments: None

Comments by Mr. Otten:

Mr. Otten thanked all of the individuals that served on the selection committee for the Athletic Director.

09- 56 AMEND AGENDA TO SEPARATE ITEMS 3 EMPLOYMENT, A-C

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Bailey to amend the agenda to separate the following:

3. Employment

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Engel

Public comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

Board comments:

Mrs. Bailey stated that she has much respect for the staff listed in the extra curricular positions.

Mr. Engel thanked the volunteers again for their support.

Dr. Morris stated that there is excitement in our community to move forward and congratulated the Staff that will be involved.

ROLL CALL: on all items except Employment of Administrative Positions

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

09- 57 APPROVAL OF TWO YEAR CONTRACT FOR KARRIE GALLO FOR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT SOUTH ELEMENTARY EFFECTIVE 07-01-2009-06-30-2011 FOR 203 DAYS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY RANGE 1

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

7. Employment of Administrative Positions

- a. Karrie Gallo, South, Assistant Principal
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 203 days, on the certificated administrative salary range 1, for a replacement position)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Engel

Public comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

09- 58 APPROVAL OF TWO YEAR CONTRACT FOR MARK HARDEN FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE 06-01-2009-06-30-2011 FOR 228 DAYS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY RANGE 3

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

- b. Mark Harden, District, Athletic Director
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 228 days on the certificated administrative salary range 3; for a replacement position)

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris

Public comments: None

Board comments:

Mrs. Bailey stated that she respects the people who made the decision in District Office. She has not met Mr. Harden and this does not reflect her decision here.

Mr. Engel stated that his no vote has nothing to do with Mr. Harden's ability. His reasons are the ones he stated publicly in the newspaper.

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Kearns, Dr. Morris, & Mr. Murray
Nays: Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Engel
Motion Carried: 3-2

09- 59 APPROVAL OF TWO YEAR CONTRACT FOR MAUREEN MEYER FOR ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE 07-01-2009-06-30-2011 FOR 208 DAYS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY RANGE 1

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

- c. Maureen Meyer, District, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
(recommended for a two-year administrative contract, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for 208 days, on the certificated administrative salary range 1; for a replacement position)

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

Public comments: None

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

09- 60 RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

B. Personnel -- Classified

1. Resignations

- a. Kapi Compston, Transportation, Safety Coordinator
(effective at the end of the day on June 30, 2009; for retirement purposes)
- b. Margie Shelley, Middle, Educational Assistant
(effective at the end of the day on June 30, 2009; for retirement purposes)

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. Karen Brumley, Intermediate, Custodian, 1st shift
(effective May 1, 2009; for unpaid personal medical)

- b. Marianne Green, District, Confidential Secretary III
(effective April 17 through June 1, 2009; for unpaid personal medical)

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

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Youth Commission – Will McIlwain

Communication between schools (such as videos created of high school students modeling positive behaviors and good character for younger students)

Will spoke about the many activities available at Fairfield City Schools.

He spoke about the transitions among schools.

Gayle Niehaus, Principal of the Intermediate School, presented a DVD about the Intermediate School that will be sent home to all fourth graders

- B. Proposed new courses of study, effective with the 2009-2010 school year – Presented by Bonnie Fitzharris

Keyboarding, 5th grade, Intermediate (required for all students)

English/Math, 10th grade OGT pilot, Senior High

- C. Proposed new administrative position in response to board retreat discussion about positive school climate needs.

Mrs. Milligan presented and would like feedback from the Board.

- D. Proposed increase of Latchkey fees for 2009-2010, as well as the continued elimination of daily discounts for two or more children per family.

Mrs. Vogt presented. Session fees will increase by \$1 per session attended.

Registration fees will be \$35.

Mr. Kearns stated that the state latchkey fees are higher.

Mrs. Bailey is concerned about the family discounts.

- E. Proposed changes in the FCTA Extracurricular Placement Schedule as a result of the negotiated annual review process.

Mr. Otten presented.

Mrs. Bailey asked for an explanation of item #16 (Varsity Soccer) and how the schedule is determined.

F. Possible rescheduling of June board meetings:

June 4 to suggested date of June 10 - 5:30 pm

June 18 to suggested date of June 29 – 6:30 pm

Changes in meeting times will be discussed at the May 21st meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 8 - Progress Reports, Grades 1-12

May 12 - "All Boards" meeting, Butler Tech, 6:00 PM

May 16 - FHS Prom/After Prom, 9:00 PM – 4:00 AM on May 17

May 20 - Spring Sports Awards Night, FHS, 6:30 PM

May 21 - Board meeting, 6:30 PM, FHS Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Engel

At our last board meeting my fellow board members voted to award a 1.5 million dollar bus maintenance contract to Burer's Garage without bidding it out.

They ignored the public outcry at our last meeting. They ignored the vendor who told them he could save the district at \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year if given a chance to bid. They are ignoring you the majority of our community who are opposed to this colossal waste of your tax dollars. They ignored my message from the attorney generals office that the district could very well be sued by any vendor who was refused a chance to bid.

They ignored the gentlemen from the ODE transportation department, who I'm told is a national expert on pupil transportation, who said "I agree with AAG Roberts' position that in an expenditure of public funds, especially one of this size, it would be a best practice to use a competitive bid process and advertise for bids for this service. Although it has been some time since I resided and worked in the tri-state area, it certainly seems to me that there must be a number of mechanical service providers in the Fairfield area that are equipped to provide service for the Fairfield City Schools."

In a recent article from the Ohio School Board Association "According to Law" Holly F. Reedy states the following. "As elected representatives of a political subdivision of the state of Ohio, you (*school board members*) have a fiduciary responsibility to represent the best interest of the school district. Your responsibility cannot be delegated or assigned."

Our board flushed at least \$240,000 down the drain by not bidding this contract. They then voted to approve the contract with Bruer's Garage without even having a final contract to review and then delegated their responsibility to the administration, allowing them to fill in the blanks later. In regard to this contract your 4 board members violated their fiduciary responsibility to represent the best interest of the school district and they delegated their responsibility to approve the final contract to the administration.

Mr. Engel's comments (cont.)

I will remind the community, it was just a few months ago that my fellow board members voted to freeze spending on new buses, books, technology and planned building maintenance and they just flushed at least \$240,000 down the drain. That is equivalent to 2,400 books or 4 new school buses for our kids.

You may ask why our board would let out a 1.5 million dollar contract without a bid? They always say follow the money. One reason could be because three of the board members took thousands of dollars in contributions from this vendors family and his associates, for their various political campaigns. When asked by the press about the donations there were no denials just lame excuses. Board member Murray said "I didn't know the Burer's gave money to the campaign." Board president Kearns said about Martha Tipton's \$500 contribution "Martha Tipton is not an owner or an employee of the Burer's garage." But Martha Tipton and Tom Burer delivered the proposed contract to the district in a meeting held with the two of them in February. Mr. Kearns must have forgotten about the Burer's in-kind contribution for "sign labor" I would assume this was to erect campaign signs for his 2005 school board campaign. Only Mr. Kearns could explain exactly what that contribution was for. Board member Bailey claims she couldn't tell us what their contributions were. She received a \$1,157 of in-kind contribution for "printing" from the Rout 4 Business Coalition. The top contributors to the Rout 4 Business Coalition include, members of the Burer family and Martha Tipton. Mrs. Bailey also received an in-kind contribution, from Tom Burer, for "Sign erection". I would expect this was to put up her campaign signs in 2005. You know what they say if it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck.

The community should also be appalled at the actions of our school attorney John Clemmons. He was hired by the city and paid with your tax dollars to represent the board and you the taxpayers. Not only did he violate his duty to act in the best interest of you the taxpayer he was actually soliciting for the bus vendor. He made many outlandish claims and comments that included the following.

- 1) He explained that the board could reject a bid if, the bid was not a responsible bid. He then went on to suggest anyone who would bid would be rejected as a non responsible bidder. Mr. Clemmons is an attorney. He nor the BOE are experts on bus maintenance. They can not determine who is or isn't a responsible bidder.
- 2) His claim that Mr. Lewis clearly demonstrated that the cost being paid is in line with what other districts are paying was not a representation of true fact. First, by Mr. Lewis's own admission the data he looked at had no district that farmed out their bus maintenance. All the districts he used to compare were districts who did their own maintenance. Bottom line there was not an apples to apples comparison. Second, Mr. Lewis omitted the state average bus maintenance report that was brought to my attention by a national expert on pupil transportation (Pete Japikse from the Ohio Department of Education, transportation department) Mr. Japikse used the same reports that Mr. Lewis used and came to the following conclusion "a maintenance cost per bus that is significantly higher than other districts would indicate the need for a careful analysis of spending and procedures in this area." According to Mr. Japikse's numbers, we are spending close to \$2,000 per bus more than the state average.
- 3) He suggested anyone who would expand their business, to accommodate the schools contract, would not be a responsible bidder and would be rejected. Once again Mr. Clemmons is not an expert on bus maintenance nor do I believe he is expert on running a garage.

Mr. Engel's comments (cont.)

4) He told the board about a vendor who won the contract years ago and supposedly failed to perform suggesting all perspective bidders would succumb to the same failure. He had no facts or data to prove anything he said. He cautioned the board to not make the same mistake that was made previously and he finished this line of nonsense by telling the board that they are "Not legally required (to bid) nor is it good business practice in my opinion to do so." Not good business practice to bid out a 1.5 million dollar contract?? If you believe that I'm sure you would believe there is no water in the ocean or no sand in the desert.

5) He told the board the current vendor had the contract for 70 years and claimed that if there were any financial problems the state auditor would have cited the district many times over as a failure to comply with legal requirements. Talk about bait and switch. Mr. Clemmons knows the state auditor does not concern their self with conservative spending. We could pay a million dollars for a new bus and the auditors only concern would be if it were reported and accounted for properly.

6) He is supposed to be representing the board and yet he said I was not being truthful. In his words "Mr. Engel raised the point about it had vast opportunities for extra charges I think that with the e-mail that Ms. Lane sent out that has been proven false." "So another falsehood that has been scattered around here that, that contract has terrible loopholes in it that would be abused, is not true Mr. Engel not true" "I'm a little aggravated with some of the falsehoods that are being scattered around." "I'm aggregated at some of the falsehoods that have been stated." "I'm addressing some of the comments that have been made about extra charges that have not happened." I don't know where this man came up with his fantasy that I, in some way, said there were terrible loopholes that provided vast opportunities for extra charges. It is obvious, however, that his intent was to sling mud at me in an attempt to damage my credibility with the community.

7) Even though the contract was on the agenda for discussion only Mr. Clemmons convinced the board they could vote on the contract and fill in the blanks later. Could you imagine buying a car and allowing the sales rep. to fill in the blanks later? I believe his true intention was to put this issue to bed and stop the public outcry for conservative spending.

What this board did was morally, ethically and fiscally wrong. This issue is not yet over and I will be calling on you the public to stand with me to stop this colossal waste of your tax dollars. You may or may not have stood with me in the past on various issues but on this one I think we can all agree. We must stand united and stop, what one citizen claimed was Chicago style politics.

They say your enemies always fight you the hardest when they know you are about to be successful. The battle to bring responsible spending to our district just got a lot harder. In the past few months our board has wasted million of your tax dollars on bad decisions. Their bad decisions resulted in the elimination Of the purchase of new buses, books, computers and planed building maintenance for our kids and they will result in new tax levies sooner than anyone would like to see.

Unlike my detractors who make open ended, mud slinging unsubstantiated comments about me, these comments were based on facts, quotes, good conservative views and common sense reasoning.

Mr. Kearns

He welcomed the new administrators.

He thinks the Intermediate School DVD will be a great asset.

He stated that the district has taken great steps to ensure the safety of our students.

He can not comprehend how a person can say that they can save us money without seeing the specifications.

He stands behind the decision to move forward with the bus contracts.

Dr. Morris

He asked for volunteers on May 16th to help decorate for the after prom.

The "Arts" signing is on Monday, May 11th, at 2:30.

He stated that the Academic signing was very exciting and that a former teacher, Diane Callahan, attended the signing for her 15 former students that had been in her program.

Mrs. Bailey

She congratulated Jill Wilhelm and the Wind Ensemble.

She reminded everyone of the annual fishing trip next Tuesday for the special needs students at the Fairfield Optimist Club.

She thanked the boys' volleyball team for organizing a fundraiser for pediatric cancer patients.

Mr. Murray

He stated that there was discussion at the Tempo Club meeting of putting the summer school schedule on the district calendar so that families may plan.

He congratulated Mark and Aaron. He stated that they have the board's full support.

He stated that the Arts Fair was a great event.

He stated that the annual fishing trip is another great event.

He referred to the Fairfield Echo for his editorial on May 7th regarding campaign contributions.

It is time to focus on the positive things. We are not enemies.

09-61 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Kearns to recess to Executive Session at 8:27 pm to discuss the following:

- Employment and Compensation of Personnel 121.22(G) (1)
- Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation
- Security Arrangements 121.22 (G) (6)

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
MAY 7, 2009

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Bailey

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

Diana Bailey left the meeting at 9:25 pm.

The Board resumed the meeting at 9:35 pm.

09-62 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Dr. Morris

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

President

Attest: _____