

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 30th of April 2014 in the Fairfield Administration Building, Conference Room A.

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

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Berding, Mr. Hare, Mr. Heisler, Mr. Kearns & Mrs. Shorter
Absent: None

Also present: Mr. Otten, Mrs. Lane, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Wildow, Mr. Weiser & Mr. Wolterman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Items for Board Discussion

1. Fees – Lani Wildow
Approval of the new fee structure is expected at the May 15th meeting.
2. Instructional Review Cycle – Lani Wildow
This was presented for information purposes only; no approval is necessary.
3. Policy IKE update (TGRG) – Lani Wildow
Mrs. Wildow reviewed the Third Grade Reading Guarantee information for the Board.

Discussion by the Board included:

Mr. Heisler questioned how the test is structured.

Mrs. Wildow responded that students read a passage and then answer questions about the passage.

Mrs. Shorter asked if the test is directed more towards inference.

Mrs. Wildow stated that the future assessments are definitely directed towards inference.

Mr. Hare asked if anything has been brought up about cultural bias.

Mrs. Wildow responded that this concern has been mentioned to the state.

Per Mrs. Wildow, we will need a district policy to address promotions from third grade during summer and mid-term.

Policy IKE is the recommendation from a district committee. This policy must be in place before the end of this school year.

Mr. Hare stated that he is glad to see we take a team approach in reviewing the retention of students. As our policy states, "Each student learns at a particular rate". A team comprised of a "principal, teacher, counselor and/or psychologist" will make the retention decision. Since we don't have elementary counselors he assumes the school psychologist will participate.

Mr. Hare feels that if we are going to retain elementary grade level children we must strongly consider the developmental factors:

1. chronological age, whether or not the child was carried full term, any significant health issue of the mother during pregnancy.
2. gender of the child
3. when the child first walked, talked, toilet trained

Mr. Hare states that high stakes testing are a greater threat to our children than the Common Core. High stakes testing is what is here and now.

Mr. Hare stated that it is ridiculous to expect all of our third graders to perform the same because of developmental differences. He encouraged people to share their thoughts about retention of third graders with the candidates running in the primary election. Laws can be amended.

Mr. Hare stated that Mrs. Wildow and her staff have done a great job of compiling and developing this information and policy.

Mr. Martin pointed out that this requirement will make staffing in the third and fourth grades difficult depending upon how many students move up to fourth grade.

Mrs. Shorter expressed concern about the mid-year promotions and how the students would "catch-up" in the fourth grade curriculum.

Mrs. Shorter also asked if there was any thought given to the Title I schools by the state.

Mr. Martin stated that he did not think so.

- 4, Policies ING and INJ – Roger Martin
Policy ING does not cover service animals; Policy INJ covers service animals. These policies will be brought back to the May 15th meeting for approval.
5. Race to the Top update – Roger Martin
Mr. Martin pointed out that four years of work is winding down.

He stated that we have applied for an extension to utilize leftover funds during the 2014-2015 school year.

We will continue to work on standards.

We will continue to roll out the student information system.

Mr. Martin stated that some of the work of the committees is being used to inform the ongoing bargaining process.

He advised everyone that we have worked hard to implement our district's RttT plan with fidelity.

6. Staffing report – Roger Martin

Mr. Martin stated that sixty certified staff positions have been posted and twenty-five staff members are retiring. Eighteen positions have been filled with recommended candidates.

The Fairfield Academy positions have been posted.

7. Long-term substitute pay – Roger Martin

Mr. Martin explained that if a teacher is out five or more days, we must find a highly qualified substitute to fill the position.

The proposal is for long-term substitutes only. Mr. Martin proposed a rate of \$95 per day for days 1-40 and \$115 per day for days 41-60.

8. Extra-curricular placement schedule – Roger Martin

A proposal to create an Assistant Cross-Country Coach at the high school, Schedule IV and an Asian Cultural Experience Club position at the high school, Schedule I, step 0, was presented.

Approval will be requested at the May 15th meeting.

9. Other items for discussion

At the May 15th meeting, Mr. Otten will present a resolution from the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 1, 2014 – “Open Your Eyes” event, 7:30 PM, FHS Arena

May 4, 2014 – Arts Fair, 1:00-5:00 PM, FHS

May 6, 2014 – Election Day

May 15, 2014 - Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, FHS Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Berding

He congratulated the high school for the “Shrek” production. He was complimentary of every aspect of the production and invited everyone to attend future drama productions.

He reminded everyone of the upcoming bond issue and stated that it does affect every household in our school district. He has visited other schools in the area and he does not want to be in a school district that has facilities lagging behind other districts. This is a good opportunity for us to get some of the state money.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (continued)

Mr. Berding

He stated that many parents have supported the configuration for the middle school. The freshman will benefit from being part of a high school campus.

He thanked Mr. Kearns and Mrs. Shorter and the other former board members for putting this back on the ballot for May.

Mrs. Shorter

She reminded everyone that voting is important! She does not want anyone to depend on others to pass the levy. She does not want anyone to have regrets and asked everyone to make sure that they vote. She wants us to take advantage of the state money.

Mr. Heisler

He stated that he is the "lone wolf on the other side of the coin". He admits that Central is in desperate need, but he does not believe that the current proposal for the schools is in the best interest of the district or the community.

He is not in favor of adding another new school building in the district. He feels that building a new school will lead to additional overhead. He feels that we should build one large junior high to accommodate all seventh, eighth and ninth graders. We can then spread the elementary students throughout the seven buildings that we have.

He feels that we do need assistance for Central, but he does not believe the current proposal is in the best interest of the district.

Mr. Hare

The most often asked question he receives regarding the Bond Levy is related to the \$19 million state subsidy. According to the state's assessment of projected costs, a new elementary will cost \$19 million. In essence we get a new elementary school paid for by the citizens of Ohio.

His biggest concern is delivering quality education to the students. It bothers him that we must make concessions at the freshman building for science labs.

Should we not pass the Bond Levy, the State's \$19 million subsidy will go to another district and any future building project will be paid entirely by Fairfield residents.

A quote from the state memo to our Superintendent included: "the project will enhance the educational program delivery of the school district."

A quote from the Yale report on page one states: "We find strong evidence that the school construction program led to sustained gains in reading scores for elementary and middle school students."

He thinks it is irresponsible to disregard a school facility plan that was developed by 1,000 stakeholders that included, staff, parents, students and local business leaders.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (continued)

Mr. Hare

He encouraged everyone to vote and to attend the Open Your Eyes program on May 1st.

Mr. Kearns

He reminded everyone that this is the plan (configuration of schools) that our committee came up with. The committee met several years ago and spent hundreds of hours to formulate the plan. He disagrees with Mr. Heisler because this plan was based on community input. This is what the committee told the Board that they wanted the district to look like in the future.

He feels that this is an incredible opportunity for our community to capture state money to offset costs to build the new buildings.

14-42 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Hare to recess to Executive Session at 8:00 pm to discuss the following:

The appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employees 121.22 (G) (1)
Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter

Public comments: None

Board comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Berding, Mr. Hare, Mr. Heisler, Mr. Kearns & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 10:15 pm.

14-43 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Berding

Public comments: None

Board comments: None

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Berding, Mr. Hare, Mr. Heisler, Mr. Kearns & Mrs. Shorter

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

President

Attest: _____

Treasurer