

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session on the 3rd of December 2015 in the Fairfield Administration Building Conference Room A.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:31 pm.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

1. Spotlight on Fairfield Intermediate School – Todd Hartman, Donna Kimmel & Becky Jones presented information regarding the Heritage Festival.
2. School Naming Options – Teresa Sunderman

Over 500 responses were received for name suggestions for the school district buildings.

Final choices for the new elementary building:
Fairfield Compass or Fairfield Hillside

Final choices for the 2 middle schools:
Fairfield Stockton (old Intermediate School) and
Fairfield Symmes (old Middle School)
OR
Fairfield Crossroads (old Intermediate) and
Fairfield Creekside (old Middle School)

Survey will be available on Monday, December 7th.

Board discussion:

Mr. Hare stated that he appreciated the fact that Mrs. Sunderman started the presentation with the Board policy. He agrees that the buildings should not be named after individuals. He can live with any of the names presented. He commended Mrs. Sunderman for her work on this project.

Mr. Begley likes the idea of having the students cast ballots.

Mr. Berding asked how the information was presented to the public. Twitter, Facebook,

the district website, parent announcements and local newspapers were utilized.

Mr. Berding asked if all names suggested could be viewed by the Board. The information will be placed in the Board Conference. He asked if acronyms were discussed and was told that they were discussed.

Mrs. Shorter suggested that the information be put in the township and city newsletters.

Mr. Berding asked about setting up a table at Kroger or Jungle Jim's to get more opinions. Mr. Hare stated that he would be against the idea as most people that shop at Jungle Jim's may not be residents of the school district.

Mrs. Wildow arrived at 7:24 pm.

A. Items for Board Discussion

1. Entrance Age (Board Policy JEB) – Lani Wildow

Proposal to change the entrance age for kindergarten. The student must be 5 years old on or before August 1st instead of September 30th as defined in proposal.

Parents may ask to have their child tested to make the decision for early entrance. There would be no cost to the parents for testing.

Butler County school districts were contacted and are strongly considering moving to the August 1st date. Many districts may already be at the August 1st timeframe.

Board Discussion:

Mrs. Shorter is concerned that parents may take their children somewhere else. She pointed out that there is a financial impact for parents.

Mr. Begley is concerned about the students caught in the August-September time frame. He agrees with the proposal as there is an option for parents to request testing for those students who may be ready to enter kindergarten early.

Mr. Berding requested additional information from Mrs. Wildow.

2. Upcoming Approval of Design Development for Phase Submission (OFCC Building Project)

The Board will be asked to approve this at the next meeting.

3. Other Items for Discussion

Mr. Begley requested an update on the Student Health Center.

Mr. Weiser reported that the framing is complete, the plumbing is almost complete, and the cable has been installed.

The drywall may be installed next week.

Floors are being prepared for the new flooring.

The overhead door has been blocked up.

The plan is to have the clinic completed by December 31st.

15-105 APPROVAL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 14, 2016, AT THE FAIRFIELD ACADEMY

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

B. Item for Board Action

1. Organizational Meeting – Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 6:30 PM Fairfield Academy, 211 Donald Drive

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Shorter

Board comments: None

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Board Meeting – December 17, 2015 - 6:30 PM, FHS Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

East Elementary Santa Breakfast and Vendor Craft Show – December 5, 2015

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 6711 Morris Road

Santa Breakfast with Pure Elegance – December 5, 2015 – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

FHS Cafeteria

Conference Exchange Day (No School) – December 23, 2015

Winter Break Begins – December 24, 2015

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Berding

He thanked Mr. Madden and all of the principals that presented the information addressing how bullying is being handled across the school district. He was able to view the last board meeting on the district website and felt that the staff did a tremendous job in conveying the information. He is proud to be a board member of this district where students are directed in the right direction as some of our students do not get that direction at home. He is impressed with the presentation.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Continued)

Mr. Berding

He thanked Mr. Hare for dropping off his packet for the last board meeting as he had been absent. He appreciated staying up to date on what he missed.

He thanked the intermediate school families and students for displaying the diversity in our school district. He is honored to witness the activities.

He enjoyed the swim meet and was glad to see that FHS did so well in the competition with Ross Local School District.

Mrs. Shorter

She thanked the staff at the intermediate school and the families that came tonight. She commented on the delicious food that was sampled.

She stated that our diversity is one of the jewels of this district!

Mr. Hare

He read the following statement:

1. Recently I provided testimony on a bill that would prohibit school districts from charging fees for participation in extra-curricular activities. When I arrived I also found out they were taking testimony regarding school calendars, which I will mention later. The hearing was hosted by Senators Lerner and Hite. The main purpose behind the bill seems to be to prohibit a student missing out on activities because the family's inability to pay the fee.
2. Here are my thoughts on the proposal to prohibit districts from charging fees for participation in extra-curricular activities:
 - A. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege. Not all students are selected for every activity and there are age, residency, and academic requirements for some of our activities, some activities require auditions, which are prohibiting factors.
 - B. My first question is how many students across the state do not participate in activities because they cannot afford the fees? What does the data show?
 - C. My second question is how many students across the state have fees waived or alternative sources of payment available to them in order to participate? In Fairfield we waive the fees if the student is on Free lunch and applies for the waiver. We also have payment plans.
 - D. Shifting the cost of extra-curricular activities to the "General Fund" places a financial burden on districts. To prohibit fees for participation in extra-curricular activities is essentially another UNFUNDED MANDATE. I wonder what the next restriction the State will place on districts in paying for services.
 - E. Mrs. Lane provided me with figures on what that means to Fairfield: we collect about \$12,700 in fees for clubs, \$26,186 in fees for music and \$143,000 in fees for sports or about \$182,000 in fees per year. If that cost comes from the General Fund that is about 2.5 teachers.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Continued)

Mr. Hare

- F. Another concern I have is that if we can't charge fees we will probably see less student participation. For example at the Middle School we offer multiple teams for boys' basketball, which in effect increases the numbers of participants. Without fees, I am not sure we can sustain that level of support. We have many activities that have nominal fees; without fee support we may not be able to offer the activities at all.
- G. We waive fees for students who request a waiver and qualify for Free lunch; a number that grows annually.
- H. Our booster groups, community organizations and faith organizations provide assistance to students who might not be able to afford fees or supplies.
- I. Any community that would have exorbitant fees with no method to provide relief is one in which I would not reside.
- J. While the intended consequences of said legislation might be to ensure that no student is denied the privilege to participate in extra-curricular activities, I predict the unintended consequences would have the opposite impact.
- K. I suggest we draft a letter to our legislators regarding this matter.

3. Start of School Year

There are two reasons for an early start to school year:

- A. An early start to a school year provides more time for instruction in preparation for the State-testing program. Several years ago Middletown City Schools moved to an early start date for the purpose of having more days for instruction prior to the disruption of calamity days.
- B. School building construction is another reason for early/late starting dates. In Fairfield we have three schools due to open in 2017. Like many other districts, we are having an early start date one year and a later start date in a subsequent year to provide the opportunity for more construction days.

5-106 AMEND AGENDA TO INCLUDE PENDING & IMMINENT LITIGATION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Kearns to add the following to the Executive Session:

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Berding

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Berding, Mr. Hare, Mr. Heisler, Mr. Kearns & Mrs. Shorter
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

15-107 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Hare to recess to Executive Session at 8:10 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 Mr. Berding

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 9:30 pm.

15-108 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Kearns

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm by the President, Mr. Kearns.

President

Attest: _____

Treasurer