



**BOE/CO
Friday Packet
December 4, 2020**

Upcoming Meeting Dates
Memo to BOF, 12-4-2020



Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Dates **2020**

December 8	6:00 PM	Non-Meeting, Virtual
	7:30 PM	Regular Meeting CO Board Room and Virtual 501 Kings Hwy East

[Town Meetings](#)

[12-9-2020: BOF Capital Planning Workshop, 7:00 PM \(Virtual\)](#)



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Michael Cummings
Superintendent of Schools

S u p e r i n t e n d e n t M e m o r a n d u m

To: Board of Finance
From: Michael Cummings
Date: December 4, 2020
Re: Response to Quarterly Review Questions

Please see the attached information:

- *Projected Technology Expenses*
- *Student Registration and Withdrawal Information*
- *Capital Workshop Memo*
- *Q/A Document re WFC Program and Giant Steps Property*

c: Board of Education

MC:mb

6/30/21 Projected Technology Expenses as of the 1st Quarter Report (as of Oct. 31st, 2020)

DEPARTMENT	Description	Cost	Total
COVID-SOFTWARE-INSTRUCTIONAL	Applications to support digital learning	\$ 67,808	\$ 67,808
COVID-TECH SUPPLIES	Headsets for teachers	\$ 16,738	
	Headsets for students	\$ 59,875	
	Synchronized Learning Equipment	\$ 52,062	
	Total		\$ 128,675
COVID-TECH INFRASTRUCTURE	Increase of Internet Capacity	\$ 12,016	\$ 12,016
COVID-SOFTWARE INFO MGMT	Google Enterprise and Back up	\$ 51,339	\$ 51,339
COVID-TECH CAPITAL	Synchronized Learning Equipment	\$ 124,210	
	WiFi- elementary school upgrade	\$ 296,097	
	Total		\$ 420,307
Grand Total- Technology			\$ 680,144

Fairfield Public Schools
12-4-2020

New Registrations by State July 1 - Nov 30, 2020	
Previous Location	Number
California	7
Colorado	2
Connecticut	141
District of Columbia	2
Floria	6
Georgia	1
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Montana	1
North Carolina	1
New Hampshire	1
New Jersey	10
New York	83
Pennsylvania	2
South Carolina	1
Texas	3
Virginia	4
Vermont	2
Washington	3
Different country	38
Kindergarten	18
Total	331

As of November 30, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year						
Month/Withdrawal Type	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Home school	0	4	1	2	1	8
Private - religious	2	18	1	0	0	21
Private - non-religious	1	18	0	0	3	22
Out of District - Private, non-religious	3	13	3	1	1	21
Out of District - Private, religious	1	10	1	0	0	12
Out of District - Public	24	38	3	1	6	72
Out of State - Public	19	31	9	2	0	61
Out of State - Private, non-religious	1	3	1	0	2	7
Out of State - Private, religious	0	3	0	0	0	3
Out of Country	4	10	2	1	0	17
Charter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magnet	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	55	148	21	7	13	244



Fairfield Public Schools
Angelus Papageorge
Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance

TO: Mike Cummings, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance
DATE: December 4, 2020
RE: **Capital Workshop Talking Points**

We are presenting the Capital Waterfall Chart updated on October 8, 2020 along with the 2021-2022 Capital and Non-Recurring projects during this year's capital summit.

We are not presenting the Ten-year Facilities Plan at this time because it requires updating. We recognize the following as shortfalls in the current plan.

- The plan does not show a true ten-year outlay
- Cost projections are inaccurate from 22-23 and beyond
 - No cost of living has been planned into the pricing
 - No COVID increases have been anticipated in future projects
- Building projects are missing several needs. The items listed below and others will be included in the future plan for a comprehensive list.
 - Roofs
 - Windows
 - Boilers
 - HVCA equipment

We started in the late winter of 2020 to update and rewrite the facilities plan, but due to the COVID pandemic, we could not move as quickly as anticipated. Due to the schools going to a full remote learning in the early spring and most of our vendors shutting down and not providing site visits, the meetings required could not occur. In summer, the work focus was to make the buildings safe and ready for students' return. At this time, we are in the process of scheduling meetings to resume work on the plan.

Some of the steps needed to complete the new plan are:

- Meet with building administrators;
- Meet with PM contractors;
- Meet with estimating contractor;
- Meet with the Police Department;
- Meet with the Fire Department and
- Meet with Town officials.



Fairfield Public Schools
Angelus Papageorge
Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance
(203) 255-8373

TO: Mike Cummings, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance
DATE: December 2, 2020
RE: **Giant Steps Property and WFC Program Information**

In response to questions regarding the Giant Steps property and building information, please see below.

1. What is the street address?

The street address is 309 Barberry Road [Click here to view map of property](#) (Type in the address in the 'find property by address' link.)

2. What is the lot size?

The lot size is 11.74 acres

3. What are the building sizes?

The ready to use building is approximately 17,901 sq. ft.
The abandoned building is approximately 23,717 sq. ft.

4. Does the ready to use building have central air conditioning?

The building has central air conditioning. The biggest obstacle we are seeing is access to the property.

5. Current Enrollment Projection?

The current enrollment is 28 students, plus 4 additional students pending placement in December and 9 additional students currently in the referral process.

6. Maximum Program Enrollment for Walter Fitzgerald Campus?

The maximum student enrollment is 50 students.

7. Out of town tuition cost?

The base tuition for out of town students is \$35,000. If a student receives any special education or section 504 services additional costs will be charged.

8. How many students drive themselves to school at Walter Fitzgerald Campus?

Approximately 4-5 students drive to school and park their cars each school year.

9. *What is the total staffing at Walter Fitzgerald campus?*

- 4.0 FTE General Education Teachers
- 2.0 FTE Special Education Teachers,
- 0.4 FTE Health/PE
- 1.0 FTE School psychologist
- 1.0 FTE Social Worker
- 1.0 FTE IMPACT Social Worker
- 1.0 FTE Secretary
- 1.0 FTE Administrator (shared with Community Partnership Program)
- 1.0 Para

10. *Do students at WFC receive foreign language instruction? If not, how will they meet the graduation requirement?*

Foreign language is a new graduation requirement for Freshmen this year. Currently we are analyzing FTE to fulfill this requirement and considering American Sign Language or an online program as possibilities for the WFC language program.

11. *What grade levels of currently attend? Do the majority enter as Freshmen and stay all 4 years or do they typically enter later in their high school careers?*

Students generally enter WFC in grades 10-12, and remain through graduation. Grade 9 students may be considered under certain circumstances, as many content grade 9 courses are not offered.

12. *Do students utilize full-size buses?*

Approximately 75% of students were transported to and from school by FPS transportation during the 2020-21 school year. The size of buses are determined by staff in the transportation office.

13. *What will happen if we don't purchase the building? Where would these students go? If outplaced, what would the cost of outplacement be?*

If the building is not purchased, it may be possible to rent for an additional year, subject to approval from the Diocese. We would then investigate other potential locations. The average outplacement cost for students with similar learning profiles as students who attend WFC is approximately \$72,000 depending on the specific out placement program. This cost does not include the additional cost of transportation.

Loss of the program would significantly hinder the district's ability to meet the needs of WFC students. Several students with IEPs would likely need to be placed out of district in a state-approved special education program with an average annual tuition cost of approximately \$72,000 per student. This does not include the additional cost of transportation. Additionally, some students who struggled at their home high school prior to attending WFC may drop out of school altogether.

14. *Questions about participation at FLHS and FWHS: Do they participate in music*

classes, extracurricular, sports? Students who attend school at WFC are able to participate in extra-curricular activities and athletics at their home school. Students may participate in all music, extracurricular activities and athletics at their home high school.

15. Should more Fairfield students be attending WFC but are deterred due to the condition of the building?

Fairfield families may be deterred from enrolling their children at WFC due to the condition of the school. Out of town students and families who have been referred to WFC as tuition-paying students may have been deterred based on the condition of the school. More students might attend if the building were more attractive and in better condition.

16. Who decides if a student goes to WFC?

There is an application and referral process to ensure that the student's needs can be met at WFC. There is also consultation between the home high school staff and WFC staff as well as a student/parent visit and intake at WFC, when appropriate. There is an individualized admission process for students with IEPs and those using IMPACT services.

17. Where was WFC Located prior to the current location?

Prior to the opening of WFC in 2008, the alternative high school program was split into a special education alternative program and a general education alternative program. The special education alternative program, named PAL (Program for Alternative Learning) was located in portables behind Old Field School. The general education alternative high school program, named Co-op, was located at the First Presbyterian Church on Easton Turnpike.

18. What is the average student cost for WFC?

The total staffing cost for WFC is \$1,075,544.. If WFC were at its full capacity of 50 students the average cost per student would be \$21,511. This cost would be offset if an out of town student was accepted and attended WFC at a base tuition cost of \$35,000 per student (plus additional costs for students with an IEPs or Section 504 plans).

The average annual tuition cost for an outplacement in a state-approved special education program that services students with similar learning profiles is approximately \$72,000. This does not include the additional cost of transportation.

19. What is the number of students who flow in and out of WFC throughout the year?

Generally, between 40-50 students flow in and out of WFC per year.

20. Provide the number of WFC graduates for the following years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19

- 2016-17: 11
- 2017-18: 22
- 2018-19: 9
- 2019-20: 16

21. *What is the general square footage allotment for alternative high school programs?*

The square footage of 108 Biro Street is 22,435.

22. *How long has Walter Fitzgerald been operating?*

Walter Fitzgerald Campus opened as the alternative high school program in September 2008. The Board of Education decided to name the Walter Fitzgerald Campus in October of 2013.

23. *What have the historic enrollment numbers been? Would you be able to break them down by the disability that was the driver for attendance at WFC (Speech, Autism, Emotional Disturbance)?*

The driver for enrollment referrals has been poor achievement due to disengagement in a large high school (evidenced by grades and attendance).

The total enrollment at WFC since the 2009-10 school year is as follows: [According to *Infinite Campus student Enrollment Status Reports which represents the cumulative enrollment over the course of each year for the WFC, which may differ from monthly point in time enrollment reports.]

- 2009-10: 35
- 2010-11: 50
- 2011-12: 61
- 2012-13: 63
- 2013-14: 63
- 2014-15: 52
- 2015-16: 43
- 2016-17: 42
- 2017-18: 46
- 2018-19: 39
- 2019-20: 42 (Feb 2020)
- 2020-21 (Dec. 2020) Currently enrolled: 32 (28 plus 4 starting in Dec.)PLUS
 - 9 additional students in the referrakl process

24. *Do all the children who attend WFC have an IEP or 504? Is it a requirement?*

All students enrolled at WFC are high school students. It is a general education school; students might have IEPs or Section 504 plans but neither is required.

25. *Do other neighboring towns have similar alternative high school options? If so, which ones?*

The school districts below have differing alternative high school options. However, as noted, the design and purpose of these differ from each other and from FPS. The WFC program isintended to provide high school age students a comprehensive high school experience in a general education setting whereas all listed are not designed as such. For example, some

programs provide online credit recovery options as the core experience to earn credits and exit high school.

- Bridgeport: Yes
- Darien: Yes
- Greenwich: Yes
- New Canaan: Yes
- Norwalk: Yes
- Region 9 (Easton/Redding): No
- Trumbull: Yes
- Weston: No
- Westport: Yes (Pathways Academy)
- Wilton: Yes

26. Is the alternative high school option a Federal and/or State mandate or is it something that Fairfield has elected to do on its own? If it is something we did on our own, what was the genesis?

The mandates require that we provide ‘alternative settings’ as well as a continuum of services for students. For students who have been expelled, regulations specifically require an alternative setting. The genesis was the merging of two programs, PAL and COOP in 2008.

27. What additional accommodations do the children get at WFC that they cannot get at FLHS and FWHS?

- General education in a small high school setting, with focus on relationships and support for individual needs
- Additional clinical supports for students with depression, anxiety and mental health concerns
- School-wide model for teaching social-emotional strategies
- School-wide instruction in executive function
- Project-Based Learning instructional practices to increase engagement
- Parent supports including monthly parent circles

28. For high school aged children that we pay for outplacements, what needs do they typically have above and beyond what WFC has to offer? Do we at least try WFC as an option before outplacement?

Educational placement decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Programming for high school students with disabilities within the district is always the first consideration to ensure programming within the least restrictive environment. Planning and Placement Teams consider referral to WFC for high school students who have ongoing struggles with social, emotional and/or learning challenges within the home high school, depending on the nature and severity of the student’s needs.

29. What are the paths typically taken after WFC? Do you have historical data showing where these children usually go? Community college? Trade School? Traditional 4-year college?

Feedback from former students and families indicates that WFC graduates have the same post high school outcomes as those from the larger high schools and include community college, employment, trade schools, 4-year schools and gap programs.

30. Has there ever been a consideration to start at an earlier age (perhaps middle school) to offer this type of learning environment? Could WFC be an alternative to outplacing some of our middle school students as well?

WFC serves students 15-20 years old who are working to graduate. As with all high schools, it would not serve the developmental needs of the middle school age student.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Fairfield Public Schools developed and implemented a specialized middle school program designed to meet the needs of students with more intensive social and emotional needs. This new program facilitated the return of two outplaced students and avoided outplacements of five additional students. The average annual tuition cost at a state-approved outplacement facility for students with similar learning profiles is approximately \$72,000 per student, excluding the additional cost of transportation. The total program cost of operating our in-district middle school program for the 2019-2020 school year is \$206,760.

31. Are there reasons other than space constraints that prevent WFC from operating within one of the existing high schools?

An important aspect of WFC for students and families is the separate school setting. This allows students to have a fresh start, belong to a small school community, and identify with a successful high school opportunity that was not experienced in the large traditional setting.

32. WFC enrollment includes CPP students, but it does not appear that this number was used in the past. Is there an area of the WFC site that CPP uses?

The decision was made for the WFC and CPP enrollments to be combined. Although direct services for CPP students are fully community-based during non-COVID times, WFC is used for CPP PPTs, parent and staff meetings and trainings.

c: Meg Brown