



**BOE/CO  
Friday Packet  
February 26, 2021**

Upcoming Meeting Dates

3/2/2021 Policy Committee Agenda

3/3/2021 Finance & Budget Committee Agenda

2/3/2021 Finance & Budget Committee Draft Minutes

UCLA Brief COVID-19 Screen



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BoE/CO Only:

Staff Changes: January 2021



Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Dates **2021**

<b>March 2</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	Policy Committee CO Board Room 501 Kings Hwy East
<b>March 3</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Finance & Budget Committee Virtual
<b>March 9</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	Regular Meeting CO Board Room and Virtual 501 Kings Hwy East
<b>April 6</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	Policy Committee CO Board Room 501 Kings Hwy East
<b>April 7</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Finance & Budget Committee Virtual
<b>April 20</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	Regular Meeting CO Board Room and Virtual 501 Kings Hwy East

Town Meetings:

3/2/2021, 10:00 AM BoE Budget Presentation to BoS

3/8/2021, 10:00 AM BoS Budget Deliberations and Vote

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**  
5:00 PM  
501 Kings Highway East  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of February 2, 2021 minutes
- III. Policy
  - a. Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal (C-19.8)
- IV. Future Items
  - a. Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness)
  - b. Grading Policy
  - c. School Calendar
  - d. Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs
  - e. Students with Special Health Care Needs
  - f. Homework Policy
  - g. Cell Phone Use in Schools
- V. Open Discussion/Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

Future Meetings: April 6, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, August 31, September 21, October 5, October 19, November 23, December 7.

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Conference Room unless otherwise noted.



3-3-2021 BOE Finance Committee Regular Meeting Agenda  
**3:30 PM (Virtual)**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

**IN LIGHT OF COVID-19, AND PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 7B, THE TOWN IS CONDUCTING THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY.**

The best way to participate is to listen to:

1. Call 408-418-9388, and use Meeting Number (access code): 129 693 2689

Please Note:

- ✓ If you call in, you will not be heard by the board members and there is no public comment.
- ✓ To view all agendas, minutes and enclosures, please click [here](#).

Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting Agenda  
**Wednesday, March 3, 2021 (Virtual)**  
3:30 PM

1. Call to Order of the Meeting of the Finance Committee and Roll Call
2. Vote to Approve Minutes from February 3, 2021
3. Business Items
  - A. Discussion of Current Budget Deficit and Mitigation Efforts
  - B. Structural Change Brainstorming: Concepts, Process, Timeline
  - C. Look-Back at 2011 Operational Audit
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Open Committee and Public Comment
6. Adjournment

*The Fairfield Public Schools System provides services to ensure students, parents and other persons have access to meetings, programs and activities. The School System will relocate programs in order to ensure accessibility of programs and activities to disabled persons. To make arrangements, please contact the office of Special Education, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825, Telephone: (203) 255- 8379.*

Enclosures available at <http://www.fairfieldschools.org/>

Fairfield BoE Finance Committee Minutes  
February 3, 2021  
3:30pm  
Virtual Meeting held via WEBEX

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Jeff Peterson at 3:30pm
- II. **Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2021.** Mrs. Vitale moved to approve minutes. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. Minutes approved 3-0.

BoE Present: Nick Aysseh, Jeff Peterson, Christine Vitale

Staff Present: Mike Cummings, Doreen Munsell, Angelus Papageorge

III. **Business Items**

- A. **Discussion of East Lyme Budget:** Superintendent Cummings shared the East Lyme Public Schools Budget Process Model with the committee. Mr. Cummings attended a presentation by the East Lyme Superintendent and Board of Education at the 2019 CAFE Convention and thought the model was worth exploring. The budget formulation process would run on an earlier timeline. Budget presentations to the BoE would begin in November and be completed by the December holiday break. The committee agreed that beginning the budget process earlier would allow for more meaningful discussion about program initiatives, but also questioned if school principals and department heads would be able to provide the same level of accuracy as much of the work would need to be done over the summer. Mr. Cummings shared that doing this work over the summer could be advantageous in that students would not be in school; principals would have more time to complete this work. The committee acknowledged that the new District Improvement Plan would also help guide future budgets as the timing and potential costs of new initiatives would be included in the DIP. Mr. Papageorge shared that he is developing a similar timeline for future maintenance projects. The committee agreed to explore the East Lyme model further with the full Board.
- B. **BOE 2021-2022 Budget Adoption Post Mortem:** The committee discussed the 2021-2022 budget process. Mr. Cummings acknowledged that COVID and reopening planning took time away from budget discussions. All agreed that it would have been helpful to have a more in-depth discussion about program initiatives prior to January. Moving forward, it might be helpful to have some documents proactively posted to the budget page to reduce the number of questions posed to staff. The list of Tier 1, 2, 3 maintenance projects, AON reports, and athletic waterfall could all be included as backup to the budget. The committee discussed the need to properly define structural change. Mrs. Vitale asked for the committee's feedback on putting a discussion of structural change on the February 9 agenda; after some discussion the committee thought it best to

wait. The committee agreed that addressing possible structural changes should remain a focus of the Finance Committee.

- C. Look-Back at 2011 Operational Audit:** There was a brief discussion of the audit and actions taken by past Superintendents; many of the suggestions made by Prismatic have been implemented or evaluated. Some suggestions outlined in the audit were not implemented because they would have had a negative impact on programming, or in some instances, would have required additional funding. The committee agreed that there is still value in continuing to review existing practices not only to identify potential efficiencies, but also to improve student achievement and the overall operation of the school district. The work surrounding the District Improvement Plan would provide an opportunity to conduct a program review.

- IV. **Superintendent's Report.** Mr. Cummings had nothing further to report, but asked Mrs. Munsell to give an update on ESSR funding. Fairfield is slated to receive \$1,270,000. This funding is being made available to help districts address learning loss, but might also be used for other COVID related expenses. It is accessible for expenses incurred from March 2020 through 2023. There is an application process and the district is awaiting more information on how to apply, what is eligible for reimbursement, and when funding might become available. This supplemental funding is not meant to supplant local funding sources.

Mrs. Munsell also reported that the USDA have allowed school districts to request a waiver to go out to bid for food service providers. FPS would like to take advantage of the waiver as selecting a vendor is a long and intense process which typically includes site visits and presentations. Due to the restrictions posed by COVID, there is concern about giving the process the justice it deserves. The committee agreed that the Superintendent should notify the full Board and barring any objections move forward. Mr. Aysseh also asked that the town purchasing department also be notified as a one-year extension on the current contract would be needed.

- V. **Open Committee and Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

- VI. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved, 3-0 at 4:49pm.

## UCLA Brief COVID-19 Screen – Fairfield Public Schools

### Summary

In order to address the social and emotional well-being of children and youth in the Fairfield Public Schools amid the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, students in grades three through twelve were surveyed/screened via self-report in November/December 2020. Core components of the UCLA Brief COVID-19 Screen for Child/Adolescent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), developed by the Regents of the University of California, were utilized. The following is a summary of results for each targeted level (e.g., elementary vs. middle vs. high school).

Level	Grades	Total # Students	% Students WNL	% Students Mildly Elevated	% Students Elevated	% Elevated Overall at Level	% Elevated Overall at District Level
Elementary	3-5	1796	74%	14%	12%	26%	28.3%
Middle	6-8	1787	75 %	13%	12%	25%	28.3%
High	9-12+	1232	62%	23%	15%	38%	28.3%

### *Guidance Provided to Building Level Administration for Follow-Up*

- 1) Cross reference any flagged students with students who are already serviced by a mental health professional (e.g., psych/SW/counselor) and/or receive IEP based supports, and have a case manager.
- 2) Identify any students who are not currently known to your team as requiring additional social-emotional support that flagged.
  - a. Follow up with his/her classroom teacher and/or parents to gain updated information about functioning.
  - b. Consider need for further assessment and/or short-term supports.
- 3) As the numbers suggest that many of our students (and staff) have been impacted by our experiences in the last 10 months, continue any building wide initiatives and/or consider what additional supports might benefit your community (e.g., parent workshops, student support groups, etc.).



*Examples of feedback garnered qualitatively*

LEVEL	What are three things that have benefited you (your family) during the last 8 months?	What are three things that would help you (your family) moving forward?
Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowing that we can get through covid, Knowing we could go back to school but hybrid, My mom taking care of all of us</li> <li>that my family is not sick and I get to see my friends.</li> <li>.getting to see my friends and famliy.</li> <li>having play dates</li> <li>spending time with my famliy.</li> <li>The fact that my family and I stay safe and are able to go to stores without serious caution.</li> <li>The election was putting a weight on our shoulders, but now that it is over, we feel we have a whole new year to look up to.</li> <li>Facing timing with my family is mandatory for us, so it is great that we still have our devices to talk to our family in different states!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I need a faster computer, I would like a little more help with my online work, I wish I could spend more time with my friends at school</li> <li>Some fun school work on Fridays spending more time as a family and doing whatever works best for us</li> <li>working hard trying are best never give up</li> <li>It would help me to go full school because digital school is boring</li> <li>More mindful breaks from the amount of work that I have to do, and I want my parents to let me play with my friend s and let me play more sports</li> <li>stop thinking about covid-19, try not to spread germs, and put hand sanitizer when your not around anywhere to wash your hands.</li> </ul>
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We've had more time together, me and my mom and stepdad are rather introverted so we don't have to spend as much time around people, and my parents no longer have to commute 2 hours to work each day.</li> <li>we've gotten closer even though we are not together as much</li> <li>we are all mentally stronger</li> <li>we know how to use more technology i guess</li> <li>i learned how to cook bake and ride a dirt bike</li> <li>We get to be together more, we talk with one another more, and we know more about one another now.</li> <li>Three things that have benefited me during the last eight months is I have been able to talk to my friends more often. I have been able to read more often and I have had a bit more free time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to not be taking the ability to go anywhere for granted, Being to travel anywhere, seeing my friends</li> <li>Well the vaccine to covid-19 so me and my family are sure that we safe. Better WIFI so my chromebook actually loads while we at home. More games in our house so we don't get super bored again.</li> <li>Not yelling at each other so much.</li> <li>a vaccine and for it to go away</li> <li>not stressing</li> <li>be more positive</li> <li>wear masks like we already do</li> <li>Full time school</li> <li>Vaccine, schools fully reopening, not having to wear masks</li> <li>for me to be more active</li> <li>spend more time with family</li> <li>for me to not be on my phone all the time</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the spring me and a few of my friends would go on zoom meets everyday and we would play video games after school or on weekends.</li> <li>• We have had more family dinners, we have had more family time, my Mom got a teaching job.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fridays become part of the weekend</li> </ul>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have a kind and caring family, so I can have fun with my brother. I also have a lot of games and things to keep me busy. I am also glad that I haven't been around with anyone who has the virus, and none of my family members have it either.</li> <li>• My parents have been doing well at work, I hang with my siblings often, I now realize to not take my friends for granted and I'm glad we can hangout again.</li> <li>• Became closer w family Became closer with good friend Better grades</li> <li>• Video games</li> <li>• Me and my family have gotten closer, I found my true friends and I had more time to take care of myself and get more exercise</li> <li>• To accept whats going on and just moving forward.</li> <li>• both of my parents are working from home. Another thing is that my family has become even closer than before</li> <li>• Communicating, staying active, and trying to be positive</li> <li>• None of our family members have died</li> <li>• I still am connected to my friends</li> <li>• We are all still able to do most of our regular activities</li> <li>• My parents still being able to work from home, outdoor sports for my siblings, and socially distanced School of Rock rehearsals for me.</li> <li>• More time together</li> <li>• My dog has separation anxiety so us always being home with him makes him happy which makes me happy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• less stress</li> <li>• lighter workload</li> <li>• more free time</li> <li>• If people chose to stay away from things that would cause them to get sick</li> <li>• Wearing masks</li> <li>• Less stressful homework nights</li> <li>• Lessen the work load- it's too much and unnecessary during a time like this- it's definitely the target of most of my stress, make online learning less strict- I think people believe that by making it more strict, students will do more, but I think it has the opposite effect. Making online learning more strict, and therefore more stressful makes people less motivated. Those are the only things I can think of</li> <li>• more explanations or details about classes or scheduls</li> <li>• I think that in my personal opinion, all of my classes are giving a lot of homework, to the point sometimes where I have no personal time. I think that personal time is extremely important, especially right now. I think less busy work, so that people could have personal time, would be perfect.</li> <li>• leniency in deadlines, lighter workload, less google meets</li> <li>• Comfort, less work, relaxation</li> <li>• Creating a less stressful environment</li> <li>• Reminding ourselves that it's ok to be upset and just have patience</li> <li>• Try to stop the unnecessary arguing between siblings</li> <li>• personal goals like becoming less stressed and less procrastination, understanding teachers</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My sister is home from college even though it sucks for her I'm happy she's home</li> <li>• College acceptances, no family positive cases, closer to home</li> <li>• I've been seeing friends while social distancing, I've been using art as a coping mechanism, and I've been watching my mental health.</li> <li>• Nothing really but I guess Me getting out of the house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staying positive, try and understand each other, understand this hasn't happened in 100 years, and it's not normal</li> <li>• A vaccine, but I think that would help everyone, and just getting back to normal</li> <li>• Going on small trips together, socially distancing with my friends, FaceTimeing my loved ones who are sick</li> </ul>
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**See attached:**

- **Tier 2-3 Supports Available to FPS Students PreK-21**
- **Additional Supports in Place Since March 2020**



## *Tier 2 – 3 Supports Available to FPS Students PreK-21*

- **Consultation with mental health staff (e.g. school psychologist/social worker) and school counselors (parents and teachers)**
- **Short-term supports/intervention to address life experiences (e.g., death in family, divorce, etc.)**
- **Small group work with targeted SEL focus, utilizing a variety of therapeutic orientations (e.g., CBT, DBT, etc.)**
- **Individual counseling**
- **Behavioral consultation with BCBA staff**
- **Goal setting plans with reinforcement**
- **IEP-based supports**

Psych/SW and school counseling departments continue to refine practices and identify more specific supports for target demographics, including school refusal/anxiety, virtual/technology addictions, DBT, trauma-sensitive practices, human trafficking, and Anti-Racism.





## *Additional Supports in Place Since March 2020*

- Just for Fun Friday SEL activities for elementary students from March-June 2020 during closure, including mindfulness, movement, self awareness and meaningful connections with others
- Mental health resources website that is updated regularly (since Mar. 2020)
- Parent/community workshops facilitated approximately two times per month with a variety of topics, including resiliency, trauma informed care, support through uncertain times, safety, restoring sanctuary in the home, response to death in community
- School-staff workshops regarding self-care/wellness, trauma-informed care for students, SEL, etc. at all levels
- Wellness Wednesday offering for school-based staff weekly (since Nov. 2020), including virtual meetings, yoga, newsletters, etc.
- Two separate virtual drop in student support groups for HS level (since Nov. 2020)
- Pending self-care workshop for clerical staff in March