

**Regular Meeting Notes  
Fairfield BoE; December 13, 2022**

## Voting Summary

### Call to order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call

Chairman Jennifer Jacobsen called the Regular meeting to order at 7:36PM. Present were members Jennifer Jacobsen, Carol Guernsey, Jessica Gerber, Christine Vitale, Nick Aysseh, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Jeff Peterson, Crissy Kelly, and Bonnie Rotelli. Others present were Superintendent Mike Testani, members of the central office leadership team, and approximately 110 members of the public.

Mrs. Jacobsen asked the Board for unanimous consent to move the Approval of Mill Hill Construction Project after Public Comment. The Board agreed.

### Old Business

#### *Approval of Mill Hill Construction Project*

Recommended Motion: "that the Board of Education approve Mill Hill Project #051-0149"

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### *Approval of Business Curriculum and Business Curriculum Resources*

Mrs. Vitale moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the Business Curriculum and Business Curriculum Resources as presented on 11-29-2022"

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### *Approval of 2023-2024 Student Calendar*

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded the recommended motion "that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Student Calendar"

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "Motion to amend the 2023-2024 proposed school calendar to make the following changes as suggested by administration on draft enclosure dated 12/13/22:

- Move the two early dismissal October conference days to 10/25 and 10/26
- Change the Election Day PD to read "1/2 day PD followed by 1/2 day conferences for pk-8 and full day PD for high school"

Mrs. Aysseh withdrew his amendment.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "to move the March 20th, 2024 early release to March 19th, 2024."

*Approved 1-10-2023*

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

Ms. Guernsey moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment "the Board of Education amend the 2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar to add April 10, 2024 as a school holiday in recognition of Eid al-Fitr and to extend the school calendar by one day."

Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, and Mr. Aysseh voted in favor. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly abstained.

Motion passed 8-0-1.

Mrs. Gerber moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "that the Board of Education amend the recommended 2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools student calendar by holding August staff PD days on the 28th, 29th and 30th, holding 6th and 9th grade orientation on Wednesday, August 30, holding the first day of school on Thursday, August 31, and extending the last day of school to Thursday, June 13, and that Wednesday, June 19 be marked as a potential day off from school (Juneteenth), should the school year be extended to then due to snow days. The Board additionally moves to amend the language regarding snow days to read "The first 5 snow days" (change in bold/underlined)."

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale voted in favor. Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Rotelli voted against. Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly abstained.

Motion failed 4-4-1.

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor of the original motion with amendments.

Motion passed 9-0.

*Approval of the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey*

Ms. Guernsey moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded the recommended motion: "that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey"

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Guernsey seconded an amendment "to amend the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey in accordance with the survey amendment submitted by Fairfield CARES."

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Gerber was opposed.

Motion passed 8-1.

*Approved 1-10-2023*

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Aysseh were opposed.

The original motion with amendments passed 7-2.

#### [Consent to Extend the Meeting](#)

At 10:55PM Mrs. Jacobsen asked the Board for unanimous consent to extend the meeting to 12:30AM and then withdrew her request. Mr. Peterson then made a request “to extend the meeting time to 1:00AM”.

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Vitale were opposed.

Motion failed 5-4.

Mrs. Jacobsen then asked the Board for unanimous consent to extend the meeting to 12:30AM.

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Gerber and Mrs. Kelly were opposed.

Motion passed 7-2.

#### *Approval of Facilities Planning Document*

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the Facilities Planning document”

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded an amendment “In Planning Principle #2 Class size, motion to add a period after “to” in the last sentence and strike the parentheses and reference language.”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Gerber, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Rotelli was not present.

Motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “ In Planning Principle #7, motion to strike the proposed “strive to maintain” and unstrike the existing language “must have a commitment of maintaining.””

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, and Mrs. Kelly voted in favor. Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Vitale, Mrs. Rotelli, Mr. Aysseh, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly were opposed.

Motion fails 4-5.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “In proposed deleted Planning Principle #8, motion to maintain a Planning Principle number 8 on Temporary Solutions (Portables) to read as follows: 8. Temporary Solutions (Portables) - The Town will not rely on temporary portable classrooms as a permanent substitute for brick and mortar

*Approved 1-10-2023*

classrooms.”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “Motion to renumber the remaining Planning Principles as follows: Renumber the first read proposed number 8 to number 9 and renumber first read proposed number 9 to number 10.”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved/Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “Motion to add a revised and adopted date below the original adoption date to read as Revised and Adopted on December 13, 2022.”

Mrs. Jacobsen withdrew this amendment.

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor of the original motion with amendments.

Motion passed 9-0.

### **New Business**

#### *Approval of Mill Hill Construction Project*

Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education approve Mill Hill Project # 051-0149”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the 11-21-2022 BoE Special meeting minutes; 11-29-2022 BoE Organizational meeting minutes; and the 11-29-2022 BoE Regular meeting minutes”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Rotelli abstained.

*Approved 1-10-2023*

Motion passed 8-0-1.

### Adjournment

Mr. Peterson moved/Mrs. Rotelli seconded the recommended motion “that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.”

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Motion passed 9-0.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:16AM.*

## Detailed Minutes

### Student Reports

Mr. Martins and Ms. Freitas reported for FLHS: The Falcon Council hosted a lunch-time gingerbread house fundraiser event with all proceeds going to the FLHS Compassion Committee; the Compassion Committee is collecting donations and gift cards for those in need in our community; former student and apparel entrepreneur Ellie Haney discussed her struggles and successes with mental health during an assembly; the Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA) won the FBLA Shaping Success Chapter Award; the Red Cross Club ran a very successful blood drive; Candlelight tickets are on sale; the Model UN team won ‘Best Delegation’ at the model UN conference held at the University of New Haven, Mr. Martins won ‘Best Delegate’ and several FLHS students won for ‘Best Position Paper;’ the mentoring program at Riverfield is very popular and will be expanded to other schools; the Bella Boutique is open for purchases; the winter pep rally will be held on Friday; the choir performed at Radio City Music Hall last week; the holiday advisory was held last week; the RAAFT club and FCYC snowman exchange is taking place.

Ms. Moczerniuk and Ms. Ryan reported for FWHS: The Chamber Choir performed at Radio City Music Hall; in-school Carillon performances will take place this week; a virtual assembly on accessing individual PSAT results was held; the class of 2025 is hosting a winter social in support of Toys for Tots; Ms. DiGiacomo will be hosting a winter athletic captain’s meeting; Mr. Kuczo from Kevin’s Afterglow and Ms. Anderson from My Friend Abby spoke of suicide prevention and mental health awareness during a recent activity period courtesy of the Youth Cares Club; 31 students from the music department made the CMEA Western Region Music Festival; all were wished a happy and healthy holiday.

### Public Comment

*Steve Bogan*, FPS Resident and member of Fairfield Cares: Read a statement from Emily Melnick, consultant to Fairfield Cares, that supported identifying sub populations in the survey.

*Wendy Bentivegna*, FPS Resident and member of Fairfield Cares: Supports demographic questions on the survey to track behavioral changes and progress of efforts.

*Dabney Bowen*, FPS Resident and Parent: Gave testimony on LGBTQ child. LGBTQ children need support.

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*Wendy McCaffery*, Bridgeport Resident: Is a lesbian, member of the queer community, parent to 2 teenagers and a licensed clinical social worker. Ample evidence exists that queer youth are at a higher risk for mental health difficulties and need specialized services.

*Jacqueline Bush*, FPS parent: Son came out as non-binary and transgender in 6<sup>th</sup> grade; tired of being forced to advocate for non-binary and transgender communities.

*Vickie Gustavson*, FPS Resident: Read a letter of support on behalf of Fairfield resident Jennifer Barahona, supporting the Fairfield Cares survey and related demographic questions.

*Katie Grady*, FPS Parent: Is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and mother of 4 and requests maintaining 3 conference days for parents.

*Sarah Hart*, FPS Resident: Overcrowded schools cause many problems; supports the maximum capacity recommendation at 85%.

*Kristen Clark*, FPS Resident: Encourages adoption of 85% capacity due to many programming needs in schools.

Mrs. Jacobsen asked the Board for unanimous consent to move the Approval of Mill Hill Construction Project after Public Comment. The Board agreed.

### Old Business

#### *Approval of Mill Hill Construction Project*

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded that the Board of Education approve Mill Hill Project #051-0149.

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor.

Mr. Li said he was pleased to announce the project completion and reviewed several highlights including HVAC for the entire school and the return of \$100K to the town. Mr. Peterson thanked Mr. Li for stepping in to the lead role and said Mr. Quinn would have been very proud of his efforts. Mrs. Gerber agreed and also thanked Mr. Morabito; the project was well-run and went smoothly.

### **Motion Passed: 9-0**

#### *Special Education Programming and Review*

Mr. Mancusi presented information on special education programming including Early Childhood Center (ECC), Complex Learner Cohort (CLC), Early Literacy Academy (ELA), Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC), The Relaxation Station (TRS), IMPACT, Walter Fitzgerald Campus (WFC), and the Community Partnership Program (CPP). Enrollment, facility needs and costs were reviewed for each program.

Mr. Mancusi responded to Board questions:

- The Relaxation Station is the new name for the CLC-S.
- The IMPACT program began in 2018-2019, replacing Effective School Solutions.
- The ECC peer ratio has not reached an ideal level of 50/50. Mrs. Rotelli said the peer ratio could improve if tuition was waived.
- Additional programming space may be needed at the elementary level due to the impact from COVID and behavioral challenges.
- The number of CLC's is impacted by the number of gen-ed classrooms; CLCs are best housed within schools.
- CLC students may need nursing care and assistance with feeding and toileting.

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- The Early Literacy Academy is expected to expand next year with an additional classroom. Over time, the ELA program is expected to reduce the number of students entering specialized programming.
- Applications for ECC peer programs are still being accepted for afternoon sessions.
- ECC teachers would prefer to be together at one site, allowing easier collaboration.
- At the middle school level, specialized programming staff include a teacher and related staff, BCBA support, ed trainers and a paraeducator.
- WFC offers credit recovery. Currently, there are no potential tuition students. One administrator manages both CPP and WFC. Mr. Testani said he is assessing the growth of both programs.
- The driver shortage is causing some delays in transporting CPP students to University of Bridgeport. CPP is the only specialized program that does not spend time in gen-ed classrooms.

Mrs. Gerber said the amount of money saved through the specialized programming should be celebrated and shared with town bodies. Ms. Kelly cautioned that the savings amount will be scrutinized by the town and she suggested using a net savings number that accounts for transportation and staffing. Mrs. Rotelli added that residential programming could be far more expensive.

Several Board members requested estimates on future programmatic and classroom space needs.

Mrs. Rotelli requested a projection for ELA.

#### *Approval of Business Curriculum and Business Curriculum Resources*

Mrs. Vitale moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the Business Curriculum and Business Curriculum Resources as presented on 11-29-2022.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly thanked staff for the memo that outlined changes; she found it helpful.

#### **Motion Passed: 9-0**

#### *Approval of 2023-2024 Student Calendar*

Mr. Aysseh moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Student Calendar.

Mr. Aysseh moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "Motion to amend the 2023-2024 proposed school calendar to make the following changes as suggested by administration on draft enclosure dated 12/13/22:

-Move the two early dismissal October conference days to 10/25 and 10/26

-Change the Election Day PD to read "1/2 day PD followed by 1/2 day conferences for pk-8 and full day PD for high school"

Mr. Aysseh withdrew his amendment.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she would be in favor of moving a March early release to a Tuesday to allow more time for conferences. Mr. Testani said moving the Wednesday conference to Tuesday is preferable.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "to move the March 20th, 2024 early release to

*Approved 1-10-2023*

March 19th, 2024.”

*Public Comment on Amendment*

*Bob Smoler*, FEA President: Moving the Wednesday conference to Tuesday is preferable because Thursday is the evening conference.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

Ms. Guernsey moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment "the Board of Education amend the 2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar to add April 10, 2024 as a school holiday in recognition of Eid al-Fitr and to extend the school calendar by one day."

Ms. Guernsey said she was moved by the numerous emails and public comment; district data shows an increase in absenteeism on the Eid holiday. Ms. Kelly said she supports the amendment.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she will abstain from the vote due to the lack of any standard or criteria for making a calendar change due to a holiday. There are many legitimate holidays including Diwali, Three Kings Day, Easter Monday, and Juneteenth. Legally, the Board should remain neutral.

Mr. Peterson said he supports the amendment, while still appreciating Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly's point. Future requests can be considered on a case by case basis. Mr. Aysseh said he will support the amendment and is cautiously optimistic on the procedural process for future instances. Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Vitale and Mrs. Jacobsen all said they supported the amendment. Mrs. Jacobsen said she is looking forward to future policy work and discussion on the school calendar.

*Public Comment*

Anwer Asad, FPS Resident: Requested confirmation of April 10 as the Eid holiday.

**Motion Passed: 8-0-1**

Favor: Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, and Mr. Aysseh  
Abstain: Ms. Maxon-Kennelly

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded an amendment "that the Board of Education amend the recommended 2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools student calendar by holding August staff PD days on the 28th, 29th and 30th, holding 6th and 9th grade orientation on Wednesday, August 30, holding the first day of school on Thursday, August 31, and extending the last day of school to Thursday, June 13, and that Wednesday, June 19 be marked as a potential day off from school (Juneteenth), should the school year be extended to then due to snow days. The Board additionally moves to amend the language regarding snow days to read "The first 5 snow days" (change in bold/underlined)."

Mrs. Gerber said she wanted to extend the August weekend for teachers, many of whom are parents in the district. In addition, the beginning of the school year has been quite hot in recent years.

Mr. Aysseh said he would not support the motion; he did not want to extend the school year that deep into June, given the potential for snow days. The move to a Monday start in previous calendars was initiated by a previous superintendent.



*Approved 1-10-2023*

Mrs. Vitale and Ms. Guernsey said they support the motion.

Mrs. Jacobsen expressed her concern with a graduation date if the 19<sup>th</sup> became a holiday and the school year was impacted by snow days. Dr. Hatzis said graduation could take place Thursday evening if that was the last day of school, but the award ceremony date, typically the night before graduation, may have to be adjusted.

Mr. Testani mentioned the possibility of an impact to the April break, given the intention to have a hard stop on June 21. There is more educational value to beginning the school year on August 28 or 29.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly and Mrs. Gerber said they did not recall any issue with absenteeism in previous years with a school start date on Thursday.

*Public Comment:*

*Annie Berkowitz*, North Cedar Road: Supports the amendment; it is better for younger children to start on a Thursday.

*Katie Flynn*, PTAC President: Supports the amendment; the beginning of the school year can be very hard for schools without air conditioning.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she is sympathetic to the amendment. Referencing Juneteenth, she said she will abstain due to the lack of a policy on making holiday changes to the calendar.

**Motion Failed: 4-4-1**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale

Oppose: Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Rotelli

Abstain: Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

**Original Main Motion with Amendments Passed: 9-0**

*Approval of the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey*

Ms. Guernsey moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Guernsey seconded to amend the 2023 Fairfield Cares Survey in accordance with the survey amendment submitted by Fairfield CARES.

Mr. Testani said the goal in FPS is to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. Language that was of concern has been either changed or omitted. FPS will gather the data necessary that is critical to the work of Fairfield Cares.

Mrs. Gerber questioned the changes and said the older surveys and language previously approved by the Board unanimously in 2020 is much different than what is being proposed.

Ms. Hazlett said she listened to the concerns of the Board at the November meeting and confirmed with the evaluation consultant and LGBTQ allies that a shorter survey is purposeful and will provide data that will actually be used. The intent is to use the data and go deeper with focus groups.

Mrs. Vitale expressed her concern over losing longitudinal data.

Mr. Peterson said he appreciated the language changes and will be voting in favor of the amendment; he does not feel it conflicts with LGBTQ guidance sent to staff over the summer. He appreciated the stronger language regarding the option to opt-out.

Mr. Testani said communication that will be sent to families will be very clear on the opt-out option.

Ms. Guernsey thanked Fairfield Cares and said their work is critical; she was uncomfortable with the amendment and didn't want to lose longitudinal data or jeopardize the survey.

Ms. Hazlett said the survey is a grant requirement. 13% of students identified as LGBTQ in a previous survey, which is a population that stood out.

Ms. Kelly said the programs would still take place even without the survey.

Mrs. Jacobsen said the survey is important to show emerging trends.

Mrs. Gerber said she hoped the changes were not the result of ugly emails with horrible inferences; she did not want to set a precedent. Ms. Hazlett made the assurance that recent emails and social media postings have had no bearing on the changes to the survey.

*Consent to Extend the Meeting*

At 10:55PM Mrs. Jacobsen asked the Board for unanimous consent to extend the meeting to 12:30AM and then withdrew her request. Mr. Peterson then made a request "to extend the meeting time to 1:00AM".

**Motion Failed: 5-4**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Vitale

Mrs. Jacobsen then asked the Board for unanimous consent to extend the meeting to 12:30AM.

**Motion Passed: 7-2**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Mrs. Gerber, Ms. Kelly

Mrs. Rotelli expressed her concern that the survey is in conflict with the LGBTQ guidance recently sent to staff. The main concern is the age of the students; not all 12 year-olds understand what some of the terms mean and merely asking the questions may not be developmentally appropriate.

Ms. Hazlett said she felt the amendment does a good job of addressing that issue.

Approved 1-10-2023

*Public Comment*

- *Erika Garvey*, FPS Parent: Parents are 150% behind LGBTQ children and staff members, but the original survey crossed a line. Parents are allowed to have concerns and ask questions.
- *Annalise Caron*, FPS Parent: Supports the survey with amended questions and understands that parents have concerns.

**Motion Passed: 8-1**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Mrs. Gerber

*Public Comment*

- *Reini Knorr*, Alberta Street: Urges support of amended survey; it is not in conflict with staff guidance.
- *Cristin McCarthy-Vahey*, State Representative: Thanked the Board and Fairfield Cares Leadership. Requested support for the survey and the \$125K grant.

**The original motion with amendments passed 7-2**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Ms. Kelly and Mr. Aysseh

*Approval of Facilities Planning Document*

Mr. Aysseh moved, Mrs. Vitale seconded that the Board of Education approve the Facilities Planning document.

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly seconded an amendment "In Planning Principle #2 Class size, motion to add a period after "to" in the last sentence and strike the parentheses and reference language."

Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Aysseh, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Rotelli, Mrs. Gerber, and Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly voted in favor. Mrs. Rotelli was not present.

**Motion Passed: 8-0** (*Mrs. Rotelli was not in the room*)

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment " In Planning Principle #7, motion to strike the proposed "strive to maintain" and unstrike the existing language "must have a commitment of maintaining.""

Mr. Peterson said he opposes the amendment and feels the word 'strive' strikes the right balance. The state has approved the Racial Imbalance Plan.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she will oppose the amendment due to the option of sending students in new developments to different schools.

Mr. Aysseh said he is comfortable with the guiding principles which are not hard and fast rules.

*Public Comment:*

- *David Krasnoff*, FPS Parent: The guidelines are diluted with the word strive.

Approved 1-10-2023

- *Katie Flynn*, PTAC President: Expressed concern that the first vote removes a commitment.

**Motion Fails: 4-5**

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Kelly

Oppose: Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Vitale, Mrs. Rotelli, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “In proposed deleted Planning Principle #8, motion to maintain a Planning Principle number 8 on Temporary Solutions (Portables) to read as follows: 8. Temporary Solutions (Portables) - The Town will not rely on temporary portable classrooms as a permanent substitute for brick and mortar classrooms.”

Mrs. Jacobsen said she wanted to retain the wording for portables for historical significance.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “Motion to renumber the remaining Planning Principles as follows: Renumber the first read proposed number 8 to number 9 and renumber first read proposed number 9 to number 10.”

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

Mrs. Jacobsen moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded an amendment “Motion to add a revised and adopted date below the original adoption date to read as Revised and Adopted on December 13, 2022.”

Mrs. Jacobsen withdrew this amendment.

Mr. Peterson said he is happy to approve the document as amended, even with some hesitation on the 85% capacity.

Mr. Aysseh said good points have been raised and variability will come into play.

*Public Comment:*

*Mary Hogue*, FPS Resident: Appreciates the sustainability portion of document and thanked Mr. Testani for coming to North Strafield’s Green Leaf certification.

**Original Motion with Amendments Passed: 9-0**

*Review of 2019 Charge to Milone and MacBroom and Discussion of Updates, Timeline and Associated Budget*

Mrs. Jacobsen requested Board comments on the 2019 charge in terms of what everyone is thinking about, without getting too detailed.

Mr. Aysseh requested the numbers on moving from 11 elementary schools to 10.

Mr. Peterson said he was interested in converting Jennings to ECC property and reclaiming 4 classrooms at Stratfield and Warde.

Ms. Kelly said she is interested in:

- Grades K-3 and 4-5 schools district-wide, or Grades K-2 and 3-5.
- Questioned the capacity to absorb students in case a school is taken down temporarily.

Ms. Guernsey said she is interested in:

- Looking at feeder patterns for both transitions.
- Grandfathering for any plan.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said she is not advocating for Dwight to be a middle school and is not sure where that idea is coming from. Mr. Peterson said he also heard about this idea, which would be more long-term and not applicable for the compressed timeframe right now.

Mrs. Vitale said she is interested in:

- Keeping ECC at Warde and moving the Stratfield ECC to Holland Hill.
- Grandfathering for any plan.

Mrs. Jacobsen said the direction to the consultant, in addition to providing scenarios, will be to look at programs. She is interested in a bilingual program and factoring in loading levels. A special meeting will be held for a first read on the charge, with a vote expected to take place at the January 10 meeting.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Aysseh moved/Mrs. Vitale seconded the recommended motion “that the Board of Education approve the 11-21-2022 BoE Special meeting minutes; 11-29-2022 BoE Organizational meeting minutes; and the 11-29-2022 BoE Regular meeting minutes”

#### Motion Passed: 8-0-1

Favor: Mrs. Jacobsen, Ms. Guernsey, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Aysseh, Mrs. Gerber, Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Abstain: Mrs. Rotelli

#### Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Rotelli reported for SEPTA: The SEPTA Social will take place on Thursday.

Mr. Peterson reported for the Finance Committee: Preliminary budget numbers were reviewed.

#### Open Board Comment

Mrs. Vitale wished all a happy holiday and New Year.

#### Public Comment

Katie Flynn, PTAC President: It is hard to get people to attend the public forum meetings the way they have been scheduled.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Peterson moved, Mrs. Rotelli seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

#### Motion Passed: 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 12:16AM.

*Approved 1-10-2023*

*Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Guernsey  
Fairfield Board of Education, Secretary*