



**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES: FEBRUARY 23, 2021-Page 2**

IV. ENROLLMENT: February 19, 2021

Grade/School	Total Students 9/8/2020	Total Students 2/19/2021
Preschool	38	37
MD: K-3 and Home Instruction	6	8
K – Stevenson	77	76
1 – Stevenson	100	92
2 – Stevenson	96	93
3 – Stevenson	86	85
Total Stevenson School	403	391
4 – Churchill	82	83
5 – Churchill	121	119
6 – Churchill	96	95
Total Churchill School	299	297
District Total	702	688

V. PERSONNEL

A. Certificated

1. New Hires

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the employment of Pamela Gaccione as a Maternity Leave of Absence Replacement Teacher from approximately March 15, 2021 through the end of the school year, salary based on B.A., Step 1 on the current teachers’ salary guide. Additionally, approves Ms. Gaccione as a substitute teacher, pending receipt of all required documentation.
- b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the employment of Megan Gallery as a Speech Therapist from approximately March 24, 2021 through the end of the school year, salary based on M.A., Step 10 on the current teachers’ salary guide, pending receipt of all required documentation.

B. Non-Certificated

1. Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of Maria Agostini, Playground/Cafeteria Aide, effective retroactively to February 3, 2021 with regrets, best wishes, and appreciation for her service to the children of the Fairfield Public Schools.

2. Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an unpaid 12-week FMLA leave of absence for employee #100027 retroactively to February 22, 2021 through May 21, 2021.

3. Contract Amendment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the contract amendment for John Porcino effective retroactively to July 1, 2020.

C. Substitute Approval

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the additional assignment of Teacher Substitute for Christina Cammarata, pending receipt of all required documentation.

**Personnel Recommendations:**

**Introduced by: Dr. Michael Sapienza**

**Seconded by: Mr. Anthony DePascale**

Mr. Egan: Aye    Mr. Freda: Aye    Dr. Sapienza: Aye

Mr. Didyk: Aye    Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries

VI. CURRICULUM/PROGRAM

A. Semi Program Waiver

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3(b)1 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects Fairfield will not meet the minimum number of Medicaid eligible classified students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in the County of Essex, an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(b)1 for the 2021-2022 school year.

B. Professional Development Workshops

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves attendance at the following workshops and approves the reimbursement of registration and/or mileage, to be made, pending completion of the workshops and submission of the travel reports. \*Lodging will be noted separately if applicable.

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Staff	Workshop	Date	Registration*
Healy, Sue	Practical Strategies to Increase Mindfulness, Virtual	4/19/2021	\$279.00
Bowers, Lisa	Guiding Pre-K and K Students to Better Behavior and Increased Learning, Virtual	3/25, 3/26, 4/5, 4/6/2021	\$279.00 IDEA
Diaz, Adriana	ABA Teaching Strategies, Virtual	3/15-17/2021	\$250.00 IDEA
13 Teachers Churchill School	Making the Best Use of Google Classroom to Strengthen your Instruction, Virtual	2/16/2021	\$259.00 per attendee Title II
Bowers, Lisa Diaz, Adriana Healy, Sue McDermott, Taylor Salant, Lisa	BER Distance Lng. for Special Needs and Purposeful Play to Increase Social/Emotional, Virtual	2/16/2021	\$267.00 per attendee IDEA

**Curriculum/Program Recommendations:**

**Introduced by: Mr. Jeffrey Didyk**

**Seconded by: Mr. Anthony DePascale**

Mr. Egan: Aye    Mr. Freda: Aye    Dr. Sapienza: Aye  
 Mr. Didyk: Aye    Mr. DePascale: Aye  
 Motion Carries

**VII. BUSINESS/FINANCE OFFICE RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Minutes Approval**

**Attachment A**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the attached minutes from the January 21, 2021 Public & Executive Sessions.

**B. Bills/Claims/Payrolls**

**Attachment B**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the following Bills and Claims List and Payroll:

Bills and Claims List	\$784,235.96
January 29, 2021 Payroll	\$370,838.44
February 12, 2021 Payroll	\$373,983.06

**C. Request for Proposal - Speech Therapy (Virtual)**

WHEREAS, the Board advertised for Request for Proposals for Speech Therapy (Virtual); and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2021, the Board received the following bids:

<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Price/Hour</u></b>
AMN Allied Services, LLC	\$75-\$80/Hour
United Therapy Solutions	\$88/Hour
General Healthcare Resources, LLC	\$84/Hour
Advance Education Advisement Corp	\$82/Hour
Presence Learning	\$85/Hour
The Stepping Stones Group, LLC	\$82/Hour

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(c), a board of education may reject all bids when the board of education abandons the project for provision or performance of the goods or services; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Board of Education wishes to abandon the project for performance of services set forth in the Request for Proposals for Speech Therapy (Virtual); and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the rejection of all bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to notify the above contractors in writing of the rejection of all bids.

**D. Request for Proposal - Speech and Occupational Therapy (In-Person)**

WHEREAS, the Board advertised for Request for Proposals for Speech and Occupational Therapy (In-Person); and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2021, the Board received the following bids:

<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Price/Hour</u></b>
United Therapy Solutions	\$88/Hour
General Healthcare Resources, LLC	\$84/Hour
Advance Education Advisement Corp	\$88/Hour
AMN Allied Services, LLC	\$70-75/Hour
The Stepping Stones Group, LLC	\$80-\$82/Hour

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WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(c), a board of education may reject all bids when the board of education abandons the project for provision or performance of the goods or services; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Board of Education wishes to abandon the project for performance of services set forth in the Request for Proposals for Speech and Occupational Therapy (In-Person); and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the rejection of all bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to notify the above contractors in writing of the rejection of all bids.

E. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. Mini Grant

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the application and accepts the award in the amount of \$7,000 from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. to implement a Social and Emotional Learning project.

F. Referendum Resolution

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Fairfield in the County of Essex, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) had authorized a referendum to be conducted on January 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order of the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the January 26, 2021 date for a referendum was cancelled and, pursuant to such executive order, the next available date for such referendum is April 20, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Education of the Township of Fairfield in the County of Essex, New Jersey (not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) that the Board seeks to conduct the referendum previously planned for January 26, 2021 on April 20, 2021.

**Business/Finance Office Resolutions Items A-F:**

**Introduced by: Mr. Anthony DePascale**

**Seconded by: Dr. Michael Sapienza**

Mr. Egan: Aye Mr. Freda: Aye Dr. Sapienza: Aye

Mr. Didyk: Aye Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Pat Freda reported that due to the lack of participation, the Recreation Department will not be using the gymnasium at Churchill School.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Michael Sapienza discussed the re-opening committee's plan for in-person instruction 5 half days per week once our region hits a yellow classification, per the Department of Health's COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI).

For the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Brian Egan discussed class sizes per grade level and how this impacts social distancing in the classroom.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Antoinette Kerstner, 187 Sand Road- asked for details regarding the plan to get the students in and will a presentation be done or posted anywhere? Brian Egan responded that more information will go out and another survey will be done. Ms. Kerstner commented that she preferred full-time, in-person instruction. She asked that we reconsider how the Board interacts with the parents during meetings. Ms. Kerstner wants the students in school full time and cannot understand why we are not in sync with the other districts.

Maria Lomuscio, 31 Fox Hill Road- commented on her daughter being quarantined due to exposure on Bus 8 and how she strongly opposed it. Mrs. Lomuscio expressed her frustration with all the back and forth emails and asked if Fairfield has their own set of rules as opposed to the CDC?

Stephanie Cheff, 4 Bates Drive- expressed her concern regarding exposure on Bus 8. She also asked about 5 half days in-person being done now as opposed to before. Mr. Egan explained that the difference now is that in the future the risk/exposure decreases which puts us in a safer category.

Dena Lacara, 22 Liberty Court- suggested we need physician representation in the re-opening committee. She also explained that she has offered her services in the past. Dr. Lacara requested that we send her contact information for the Board to be contacted. She stated that a physician is needed to interpret information because the knowledge base is not there.

Lisa Cerbone, 3 Shaw Court- asked for clarification as to whether both schools are following CDC guidelines or just one school. Mrs. Cerbone asked who the school physician was and if they participated in the phase-in conversations. Mrs. Cerbone commented that the public was not informed of the re-opening committee.

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Michael Olszak, 23 Campbell Road- asked about a report that identifies the COVID Activity Levels.

Joe Busciglio, 9 Crescent Drive- asked why we cannot go back to 5 full days of in-person instruction. He also asked about the basketball program and how the number of students registered was not enough because the cohorts had to remain separated. Mr. Busciglio commented on the amount of supplies the students carry in their backpacks. He also stated that the basketball mandate to keep the kids in the same cohort was a Fairfield requirement. Mr. Busciglio felt that the parents should have that decision.

Robert Ivers, 16 John Street- asked about the school budget and if the taxpayers can get money back in their taxes. Lyanna Rios stated that the district has contractual obligations such as salaries and benefits which do not change when virtual instruction is provided. Mr. Ivers offered his engineering services to assist with appropriate classroom spacing. He provided clarification that his frustration is not directed to the teachers and he apologized if anyone misunderstood. Mr. Ivers asked about the re-opening committee and how it was formed. He also asked if he could participate in the committee and questioned how committee members were selected.

Nicole Sudol, 28 Alan Drive- asked about the email regarding reconfiguration of classrooms. She also suggested that a health official be present at the Board meetings. Brian Egan explained that the Superintendent has been in contact with the health officials and information provided by the health officials have not changed.

Brian Penkoski, 16 Long Acres Road- commented on the Board being dismissive. Mr. Egan explained that is not the case. The Board's intention is to give everyone a chance to speak.

Olympia Penkoski, 16 Long Acres Road- asked how the process works with regards to the chain of command when a parent has an issue with their child, she also stated that the CDC and Fairfield rules are different.

Karl Lodgek, 10 Campbell Road- felt that it is reasonable for the community to ask how decisions are made and how they're revised. He also asked if we work with a specific physician. Mr. Lodgek commented on the committee and asked who the members were.

Mena Farinhas, 1 Nell Court- thanked the teachers for all of their planning and the Board members who volunteer. She also commented on a letter that was sent on February 19, 2021.

Len Schettino, 3 Ramkay Drive- felt that the re-opening committee should send parents an introductory email along with updates. He also asked us to reconsider quarantine strategies especially if we return to 5 half days in-person instruction. He also states that the decision to restrict basketball participants to cohorts was not a good idea and asked that the district reconsider that decision. Mr. Schettino commented on what a great job Mr. Santana is doing.

Michelle Picarelli, 42 Fairfield Road- commented on how she has been fighting to get help for her child. She asked why does she have to fight for her child to receive the services needed? She stated that she needs an advocate because she feels the District is failing her child.



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Denise Maglione, 91 Sand Road- wanted to make it public that she is on the re-opening committee. She commented on how hours have been spent in these meetings and if she felt that something was being done improperly she will voice her opinion.

Angela Altaai, 11 Jocine Drive- asked if and when cohorts are combined, will this increase the kindergarten session?

Rose Laprus, 12 Bates Drive- asked if it's the region or county that has to be in yellow or is it Fairfield?

Paula Didyk, 45 Hollywood Avenue- commented on the Board's transparency. She also commented on the importance of getting kids in for in-person instruction. Mrs. Didyk suggested getting additional help from the public, for example Dena Lacara who is a physician.

Anthony DePascale commented on transparency and how the community needs to understand the Board's position and that everyone should focus on the positive.

Susan Ciccotelli addressed some of the public comments.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

BE IT RESOLVED that the next meeting will be held on March 16, 2021. Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Public Session at 7:30 p.m. to be held virtually until further notice.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

**Introduced by: Mr. Jeffrey Didyk                      Seconded by: Mr. Anthony DePascale**

Mr. Egan: Aye    Mr. Freda: Aye    Dr. Sapienza: Aye

Mr. Didyk: Aye    Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries