

Fairfield Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Attachment A

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education finds it necessary to meet in Executive Session (Closed to the Public) to discuss attorney/client privileged information, which is exempt from the Open Public Meetings Act.

Introduced by: Mr. Pat Freda

Seconded by: Mr. Anthony DePascale

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

Mr. Didyk: Aye Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries

II. OPEN MEETING – PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING SESSION

The Board reconvened from Executive Session and Mr. Brian Egan, President, presided and voiced the call to order at 7:43 p.m. by reading the following announcement to those present:

The public has been duly informed of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by posting, at least 48 hours in advance, a notice on the bulletin boards in Stevenson and Churchill Schools, a notice to the Township Clerk, and a notice to The Herald and The Progress Newspaper.

Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jeffrey Didyk; Mr. Anthony DePascale;
Dr. Michael Sapienza, Mr. Pat Freda, Vice-President;
Mr. Brian Egan, President

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Susan Ciccotelli, Superintendent of Schools and
Ms. Lyanna Rios, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Guidelines in Accordance with Policy #0164:

1. *This is not a question and answer session, but an opportunity to hear comments from the public, directed to the Fairfield Board of Education President.*
2. *Each person who wishes to make a statement must state their name and address to Ms. Lyanna Rios.*
3. *If it appears this portion of the meeting will last longer than 30 minutes, comments may be limited to 3 minutes each until all others have been heard. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic.*
4. *District staff members may make a statement, except when the issue addressed is subject to remediation by an existing alternate method and/or the administrative chain of command has been previously utilized.*
5. *Please be respectful of the Board, Administration, Staff, and audience members in attendance.*

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES: JANUARY 21, 2021-Page 2

IV. ENROLLMENT: January 15, 2021

Grade/School	Total Students 9/8/2020	Total Students 1/15/2021
Preschool	38	37
MD: K-3 and Home Instruction	6	8
K – Stevenson	77	75
1 – Stevenson	100	93
2 – Stevenson	96	95
3 – Stevenson	86	86
Total Stevenson School	403	394
4 – Churchill	82	83
5 – Churchill	121	120
6 – Churchill	96	96
Total Churchill School	299	299
District Total	702	693

V. SSDS INVESTIGATIONS/HIB REPORT PERIOD #1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Investigations Report and the HIB Trainings and Programs Report, for Period #1, September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

SSDS/HIB Report 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. PERSONNEL

A. Certificated Staff

1. Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a 12-week unpaid medical FMLA leave of absence for employee #100519 retroactively from December 21, 2020 through March 19, 2021.

B. Non-Certificated Staff

1. Resignations

a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of Mary Jo Foti, effective retroactively to December 18, 2020 with regret, best wishes, and appreciation for her service to the children of Fairfield.

- b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of Nancy DePasquale, effective retroactively to January 15, 2021 with regret, best wishes, and appreciation for her service to the children of Fairfield.

2. Leaves of Absence

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a 12-week unpaid medical FMLA leave of absence for employee #100070 retroactively from January 11, 2021 through April 2, 2021.
- b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a 12-week unpaid medical leave of absence for employee #100553 retroactively from January 4, 2021 through March 26, 2021.

3. Substitute Approval

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Lisa Giuffre as a teacher/aide substitute for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation.

Personnel Recommendations:

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

VII. PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar

Attachment A

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar for the Fairfield Public Schools.

Program and Curriculum Recommendations:

Introduced by: Mr. Pat Freda Seconded by: Dr. Michael Sapienza
Mr. Egan: Aye Mr. Freda: Aye Dr. Sapienza: Aye
Mr. Didyk: Aye Mr. DePascale: Aye
Motion Carries

VIII. BUSINESS/FINANCE OFFICE RESOLUTIONS

A. Minutes Approval

Attachment B

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the attached minutes from the December 10, 2020 and January 6, 2021 Public & Executive Sessions.

B. Bills/Claims/Payrolls

Attachment C

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

Bills and Claims List	\$800,146.00
January 15, 2021 Payroll	\$437,154.79

C. Secretary/Treasurer Report

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education acknowledges and accepts the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the period of December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

I hereby certify that for the period ending December 2020 no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(a).



Lyanna Rios
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)(4), the Fairfield Board of Education hereby certifies that as of December 31, 2020 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report for December 2020 (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a) and those sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations.

D. Related Service Provider

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the following Related Service Provider retroactively for the period of January 19, 2021 through June 30, 2021:

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Kaleidoscope	Speech Therapy	1 Hour: \$87

Business/Finance Office Resolutions Items A-D:

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

Mr. Brian Egan commented that the meeting started late due to new board member training.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

An update was provided on the January 13, 2021 survey that was sent to parents regarding In person versus remote instructions, the results were 79% for in-person and 21% for all remote. Out of the 79% who want in person instruction, 30% have transportation issues. There were 182 comments that will be shared during the administration meeting. 100 of these comments requested an increase in instruction. Parents are asked to log into Genesis for marking period 3 and indicate whether their child/children will be attending in-person or remotely.

Michael Sapienza asked if there were any indications of restrictions being lifted. Susan Ciccotelli stated there is no indication of any changes to restrictions.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brian Egan reported on the Finance Committee meeting and how the budget is currently being worked for the 2021-2022 school year.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Maria Lomuscio, 31 Fox Hill Road- asked why transportation was part of the parent survey. Ms. Lomuscio commented on maintaining social distance on busses. She asked if there would be a lottery for students who decide to attend in-person. Via Chat: Maria Lomuscio asked if we would get rid of busses completely or would some kids get bussed and some not? Ms. Lomuscio commented on outside instruction. She said we have been working for years to keep the kids safe indoors with lockdowns, now you want to put them outside?

Michele Picarelli, 42 Fairfield Road- asked if the chat feature is a necessity for the children during instruction. Via Chat: Ms. Picarelli asked why some districts are allowed to have all A/B students go in-person beginning February 1st, including where she works. She said that she can send pictures of her classroom set up and any other information needed.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES: JANUARY 21, 2021-Page 6

Lisa Cerbone, 3 Shaw Court- inquired about the progress on the new cohort being added with First Grade. Ms. Cerbone asked if we looked into getting trailers since most of the parents want in-person instruction according to the survey. Susan Ciccotelli will follow up. Lisa Cerbone further commented on the new cohort and parent notification. She inquired about what kind of assessment or tools are being used and how are the children being selected to determine who will be phased in? She suggested a committee be formed to assist. Lisa Cerbone asked why there isn't any space in Churchill for this new cohort that will be taking place at Stevenson? She finds it hard to believe and unfair to our other students who will need this. Susan Ciccotelli stated that Stevenson is starting with First Grade and will re-access other grade levels. She also mentioned, at this time, Churchill does not have room to allow more in-person instruction.

Via Chat: Karen Loucas or Marc Recasino (Ava Recasino), 250 Horseneck Road- asked why we have a bus issue all of a sudden. If there was no pandemic, would it still be an issue? Why can't we afford transportation? Why do we have to take something away to have our children back in school? Via Chat: asked if the new cohort is referring to First Grade struggling students only. Or the entire district of struggling students?

Via Chat: Danielle Tauthong, 8 Boxwood Drive- asked if there is a way to fill out the COVID form monthly that parents will be responsible to monitor their student's health on their in-person days in the same manner as West Essex is now doing, as opposed to filling them out daily.

Via Chat: Robert Ivers, 16 John Street- asked if it is possible to resubmit the district plan with less than 6 feet spacing if using plexi glass on desks and face masks? Other schools submitted their plan this way. Mr. Ivers mentioned that he believes Stevenson has a private chat open with teachers but the group chat is closed. He also asked if the price for the trailers was for purchase or rental? Mr. Ivers suggested that the COVID form blasts be sent to those attending for that day, not every day. He also commented on the 6-foot spacing. He would like clarification about the Health department not allowing any changes. They made it clear that they do not make the plan, they just approve it. Our district would need to submit a new plan for approval to the state. Mr. Ivers recommends submitting the plan with the caveat to approve when circumstance allows. That would be a good use of the district's time.

Melissa Fiore, 90 Hollywood Avenue- stated that the children are silently suffering mentally and have no support offered outside of the home. She stated that the counselors are not helping and asked what the district is doing to address this issue. Dr. Ciccotelli stated that there are resources available on the district website.

Tatiana Sikorskyj, 20 Cheri Lane, is a mother of a kindergarten student and a pediatric nurse practitioner. She stated that there are too many children and parents that do not know how to ask for help. Ms. Sikorskyj suggested designating a mental health COVID week for the children to discuss their feelings to someone other than their parents.

Via Chat: Michelle Giampapa, 47 Addison Drive- asked what was the district's stance, or directive, if any, regarding talking about or addressing the inauguration? Parents were not happy that it was not even mentioned. She stated, politics aside, this is a major event that occurs every 4 years, historically significant this year with the first woman being sworn in as Vice-President, and feel it should have been addressed.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES: JANUARY 21, 2021-Page 7

Via Chat: Pat Russo, 351 Old Country Road- stated that the governor opened up indoor recreation. He asked if our district is willing to open up the gyms for our Recreation program? He also stated that West Essex Middle school started indoor sports. Mr. Russo asked why is our town different and why do we have to wait until March?

Via Chat: Tara DelRusso, 22 Phyllis Lane- inquired about outdoor tents once it gets warmer, March or after. She is a teacher and that is what they have on her campus, as well as heat. Ms. DelRusso would like clarification on the Health department isn't allowing any lift of restrictions. Our district would need to resubmit a plan to the state asking for less than 6-foot distancing. Then the Health department approves that you are following that plan. The Health department made it clear that they do not make the plan, they just ensure the districts are following the plan.

Liana Anderson, 42 John Street- commented on the marking period survey. For the small population of students that are all virtual, it was disappointing to see the call out to "commit" to all virtual for an entire marketing period versus the current two-week hold period if a change is required. Given the ever changing environment, some flexibility for consideration, if needed, would be appreciated.

Marlo Inglez, 5 Crescent Drive- asked if there is any thought to allow all First Graders to go 5 days, as they were all robbed of a full kindergarten year?

Len Schettino, 3 Ramkay Drive- asked if the Churchill gyms are currently being used for any functions? If not, why can't space be allocated there for additional kids to use? What about the recreation center for kids who need special attention. Please do not say there is no space anywhere in this town. It's time to start getting creative. There are still 5 months left to this school year.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED that the next meeting will be held on February 23, 2021. Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Public Session at 7:30 p.m. to be held virtually until further notice.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Adjournment from Public Session to Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education finds it necessary to meet in Executive Session (Closed to the Public) to discuss attorney/client privileged information, which is exempt from the Open Public Meetings Act.

Introduced by: Mr. Anthony DePascale Seconded by: Mr. Pat Freda

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

Mr. Didyk: Aye Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the executive session adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Introduced by: Mr. Anthony DePascale Seconded by: Mr. Pat Freda

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

Mr. Didyk: Aye Mr. DePascale: Aye

Motion Carries