

The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, August 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the District boardroom with these members in attendance: Mr. Mark Greathouse, presiding; Mrs. Pamela Mikesell, Mr. Bruce Lefeber, Mr. Brad Rigler, Mr. Mickey Barlow, Mr. Chuck Hatter, and Mrs. Marcy Van Metre. Mr. Lonny Whitcomb, Jr. arrived at 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Agatha Foscatto was absent. Also present were Mr. William Chain, Superintendent; Ms. Karen Kugler, Director of Curriculum and Special Programs; Ms. Caroline Dean, Business Manager and Board Recording Secretary; Ms. Barb Richwine, E.S. Principal; Ms. Patti Weber, M.S. Principal; and Ms. Brooke Say, Solicitor. Mr. Brian McDowell, H.S. Principal arrived at 7:20 p.m.

### **Minutes Approved**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting on a motion by Mrs. Mikesell and a second by Mr. Lefeber.

### **Presentations:**

Ms. Lisa Sturges and Ms. Frances Bassett presented information to the Board regarding our Third Grade Biography Projects. Ms. Sturges also told the Board that our 14-15 year is off to a great start with good technology and positive attitudes. Our Social Studies and Language Arts Departments combined to introduce standards into the project. The standards require teachers to plan time very wisely. Teachers want to motivate students and this project allowed the students to choose multiple resources, read, write, and present. The topic was centered on individuals who have impacted PA in one way or another. Both the librarian and the art teacher were involved as well showing a true collaborative effort among our professional staff. The project was differentiated for differing levels of learning among students.

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Bob Stanley addressed the Board concerning the rising cost of college debt and the employment levels of college graduates. He passed out information that explained how this trend is affecting the economy tremendously.

**Student Representatives:**

Mr. Greathouse told the Board we will have our student representatives present on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Consent Agenda:**

There were several questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Mr. Lefebber wanted some help understanding the bill list, Mr. Hatter questioned the certification of Mr. Leahy and hopes that this individual will pursue additional certifications, and he questioned the job responsibilities of an IDEA aide. Mr. Hatter requested schedules to ascertain staffing levels prior to approving any staffing changes. Ms. Kugler explained the law and IEP requirements. We currently have 126 students with IEP's and we will either hire an aide with an Associate's Degree or we will need a full-time Special Education teacher.

On a motion made by Mrs. Mikesell and seconded by Mrs. Van Metre, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Barlow, Mr. Greathouse, Mr. Hatter, Mr. Rigler, Mr. Lefebber, Mrs. Mikesell, and Mrs. Van Metre casting assenting votes.

- Budget**
- A. Approved the general fund bill list in the amount of \$710,678.18.
  - B. Approved the food service fund bill list in the amount of \$569.27.
  - C. Approved the journal entries and budget adjustments as presented.
- Personnel**
- D. Accepted the resignation of Ms. Brenna DeShong, full-time high school Math teacher effective August 15, 2014.
  - E. Ratified the Superintendent's approval of Mr. Ryan Leahy, Math, to the Professional Staff Substitute List K-12 effective August 18, 2014.
  - F. Approved the employment of Mr. Ryan P. Leahy as a full-time high school Math teacher effective August 18, 2014 with salary and benefits per the FEA Collective Bargaining Agreement pending all certification and paperwork is complete.

Background: Ryan Leahy is a 2014 Graduate of Shippensburg University

- G. Approved the addition of Ms. Georgie Cool to the Support Staff Substitute List K-12.
- H. Approved the addition of Ms. Diana Zimmerman to the Support Staff Substitute List K-4 Only.
- I. Approved supplemental contracts for the following individuals as coaches/advisors for the 2014-2015 school year with salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. John Ridge HS Ass't Baseball Coach	\$3099
Mr. Sharon Tuckey Elem Drama Co-Director	\$1665
Ms. Heidi Reinecker Elem Drama Co-Director	\$1665
Mr. Dane Murray HS Golf Co-Coach	\$2066
Mr. Joe Macharsky HS Varsity Ass't Football Coach	\$2284

- J. Approved the addition of Ms. Monica Naylor, Elementary, to the Professional Staff Substitute List K-12.
- K. Granted permission for the administration to recertify all guest substitute teachers for the 2014-2015 school year, pending all emergency certification is complete.

Ms. Katie Myers                      Ms. Marcia Roan  
Ms. Patricia Ostermann      Ms. Bridget Walston

- L. Accepted the resignation of Ms. Amanda Compton, part-time high school IDEA special education aide effective immediately.
- M. Granted permission for the administration to advertise and recommend for hire a part-time high school IDEA special education aide for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Other Action Items:**

On a motion made by Mr. Hatter and seconded by Mr. Barlow, Item A was accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Barlow, Mr. Greathouse, Mr. Hatter, Mr. Rigler, Mr. Lefeber, Mrs. Mikesell, and Mrs. Van Metre casting assenting votes.

- A. Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Bernadette McClain as the middle school part-time building aide effective August 13, 2014.

Mr. Chain explained the aide's job duties as supporting the MS Office and the busiest entrance for the Middle/High Schools. He also stressed the importance of the position for student safety. Several Board members are still requesting schedules and more information before entertaining any placements. On a motion made by Mrs. Mikesell and seconded by Mrs. Van Metre Item B, as presented, was not approved. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Barlow, Mr. Hatter, Mr. Lefeber, and Mr. Rigler casting dissenting votes and Mr. Greathouse, Mrs. Mikesell, and Mrs. Van Metre casting assenting votes.

- B. Did not grant permission for the administration to advertise and recommend for hire a middle school part-time building aide for the 2014-2015 school year.

After the vote, more discussion was held regarding the ability to have a substitute in a position that the Board did not vote to fill. Mr. Whitcomb questioned if the position had anything to do with the schedules and enrollment numbers being requested and if it did not, then why not hire? A motion to allow a substitute to fill the position temporarily was made by Mr. Hatter and seconded by Mr. Rigler. It was rescinded as not necessary and it was decided to keep a substitute in the position until information is obtained by the Board.

Much discussion was held regarding Item C. Again, Mr. Hatter is requesting more information before filling a position. Enrollment was discussed as was job duties and Ms. Richwine gave the Board a spreadsheet outlining positions. A motion was made by Mr.

Hatter and seconded by Mr. Lefeber to table Item C which was already tabled at a prior meeting. Ms. Say attempted to review Robert's Rules of Order regarding tabling of items and public discussion. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Barlow, Mr. Hatter, Mr. Lefeber, and Mr. Rigler casting assenting votes and Mr. Greathouse, Mrs. Mikesell, Mrs. Van Metre, and Mr. Whitcomb casting dissenting votes. The item was not tabled. Based on a new motion the public was allowed to comment. Ms. Bennett questioned the Board's apparent inability to make a decision. Ms. Sturges told the Board she is still receiving new students and is concerned about the Board's decisions and the effects on our students. Ms. Bequette spoke about the Board's inability to mention the students and that we have needs for aides for both gifted and special need students. She said the aides allow the teachers the time they need to work on an individualized basis. Mr. Matthews applauded the Board's efforts to determine what we truly need. Mr. Rigler expressed concern because although the Board does not have schedule information, clearly there is a need for the position. Mr. Chain told the Board that enrollment numbers continue to change and that decisions on staffing were made when the Board approved the 14-15 budget. He also discussed the need to group children in small groups to ensure they are all learning at full capacity. Ms. Mikesell expressed concern at the lack of trust displayed by some members to allow administration to make decisions and that our entire Board process is flawed. On a motion made by Mr. Whitcomb and seconded by Ms. Mikesell, Item C, as presented was not granted. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Barlow, Mr. Hatter, Mr. Lefeber, and Mr. Rigler casting dissenting votes and Mr. Greathouse, Mrs. Mikesell, Mrs. Van Metre, and Mr. Whitcomb casting assenting votes.

- C. Did not grant permission for the administration to advertise and recommend for hire an elementary part-time classroom aide K-4 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Background: This was tabled at the August 11, 2014 board meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Lefeber and seconded by Mr. Barlow, Item D was amended to reflect the need for the sign to meet the ordinance requirements of Hamiltonban Township. This amendment and Item D was unanimously approved by the Board.

- D. The Administration recommends approval of a request from the Fairfield Borough to allow installation of a "Welcome to Fairfield" sign on the east end of the School District property along Fairfield Road. *The sign must meet the requirements of any Hamiltonban ordinances.*

Background: Pippinfest 'Welcome to Fairfield' Sign Information – The sign is currently spec'd at approximately 60" x 30", to be made of cast vinyl, similar to the product used for vehicle wraps, on a .5" solid PVC. Per the proposed manufacturer, Graphcom, these materials have a long life cycle and are maintenance free. They use only premium products and maintenance free PVC posts. The width of the PVC sign will also increase durability and wind resistance. The sign is proposed to be installed with the posts at least 30" below grade and filled with concrete to within 3-4" from the surface including the post core, providing a very solid base for the sign. See attached.

**X. Other Discussion Items:**

- A. Cursive Writing

Ms. Kugler explained to the Board, based on their requests, that we are going to be building cursive writing skills within our curriculum. Second grade students will be able to recognize and write letters, third grade will be able to write first and last names and simple sentences. Fourth graders will write first and last name on all papers and write simple sentences, fifth graders will do as above and write 2-3 sentence paragraphs while sixth grade will write 4-5 sentence paragraphs. Our teachers have already been building this into the curriculum.

- B. Transportation

Mr. Barlow questioned the length of time students are spending on buses and thought perhaps our school day should begin later. Mr. Chain explained the practice of allowing students to be on the bus for no longer than an hour and that our attempts to continue to save money may result in diminished service. Ms. Mikesell agrees with a later start time but the problem is athletics and continuity with other districts.

**XI. Adjourment**

On a motion made by Mr. Hatter, seconded by Mrs. Van Metre, and unanimously approved by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mr. Mark Greathouse  
Board President

Ms. Caroline Dean, Business Manager  
Board Recording Secretary

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