

Fairfield Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.
Stevenson School - Library
15 Knoll Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004

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. B. Egan Seconded by: Mr. Pat Freda Voice Vote

II. OPEN MEETING –PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

The Board reconvened from Executive Session and the public meeting was called to order at approximately 7:47 p.m., by Mrs. Andrea Jandoli, Board President, 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 Progress Newspaper.”

Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jeffrey Didyk, Mr. Pat Freda, Mr. Brian Egan,
Vice President and Mrs. Andrea Jandoli, President

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Robert Lombardy

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Ms. Susan Ciccotelli, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Yvonne Hellwig, Business Administrator

PUBLIC AND STAFF PRESENT: Several teachers and one resident

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON:

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION: Churchill School teachers will do a presentation on Kindness Ninjas.

Guidance Counselor Janice Dawer presented the Churchill School Climate and Culture Team. The students, who meet several times per month explained some of the things that the team does. Some examples are that they performed 5000 acts of kindness in 15 days and collected items for needy children in Africa.

IV. ENROLLMENT

Grade/School	Total Students 6/30/17	Total Students 12/1/17
Preschool	41	56
K – Stevenson	73	82
1 – Stevenson	112	77
2 – Stevenson	82	111
3 – Stevenson	75	88
4 – Churchill	89	76
5 – Churchill	105	94
6 – Churchill	96	106
Total:	673	690
Out of District : #367		

V. PERSONNEL

A. Certificated

1. Maternity Leave:

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a Maternity Leave of Absence for Romina Casenta, ESL teacher. Mrs. Casenta’s due date is approximately February 21, 2018. She will utilize 2 sick days before her due date, February 14 and 15. She will use 20 sick days from February 22, 2018 through March 21, 2018. Mrs. Casenta will then use provisions of the NJ Temporary Disability Act (6 weeks) and Family Medical Leave Act (12 weeks) from approximately Thursday, March 22 through Thursday, June 21, 2018. Mrs. Casenta anticipates returning to work in September 2018.

2. Advisor Approval:

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Donna Lizza and Cheryl Malinski as homework club advisors for grade 2, at the stipend set in the current teachers’ agreement.

3. Detention Supervisor Approval:

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Michael Cardillo, as Detention Supervisor for the 2017-2018 school year at the hourly student contact rate, per contract, not to exceed the pro-rated amount of \$3,220 from December 2017 through the end of the school year.

B. Non-Certificated

1. Change in Assignment: Instructional Aide

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Brittany Barrington, as a special education instructional aide, retroactive to November 15, 2017, at \$13.00 per hour. Ms. Barrington was approved at the October 17, 2017 meeting as a playground/cafeteria aide.

2. Resignation: Instructional Aide

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the letter of resignation from Michael Araneo, effective 12/23/2017 with best wishes and appreciation for his service to the students of Fairfield.

C. Settlement Agreement

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the settlement agreement Docket # EDU 14168-2016, as discussed in Executive session.

VI. CURRICULUM/PROGRAM

A. Workshop Approval

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve attendance at the following workshops and also approve the reimbursement of registration and/or mileage, expenses, which are to be reimbursed, pending completion of the workshops and submission of the travel reports. *Lodging and meals included.

Staff	Workshop	Date	Place	Registration
Verrengia, J.	Math Conference	12/12/17	East Windsor, NJ	\$199
Sorrentino, S Singh, J.	IEP and 504 Plan Legal Workshop	12/11/17	Saddle Brook, NJ	\$708 (for both)
Cofnuk, M.	New Cooperative Activities, etc.	1/23/18	W. Orange, NJ	\$239
Dawer, J.	Anti-Bullying Specialist Training	1/17- 1/19/17	Monroe, NJ	\$150 per WS

B. Social Studies Curriculum Approval

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised Social Studies Curriculum, effective for the 2017-2018 school year, completed in conjunction with the West Essex Regional School District.

C. Good News in Our Schools

Churchill School

- Fourth grade has begun the exploration of our great State, New Jersey. They are excited to learn about state landmarks, symbols, and famous people from our Garden State. They are using the nonfiction text structure skills. In addition, they are starting to investigate the world of fractions including equal sharing, equivalencies and their specific location on a number line. They continue to stay energized in the Energy Works unit of science as the students begin creating personal experiments to wrap up the unit. They are having a blast using the new hands on science curriculum. They have enjoyed learning about energy through different investigations within the unit. By creating open and closed circuits, they developed a greater understanding of how energy really works. They even got a light bulb to shine bright from a circuit They built all on their own! By making predictions, observations, and conclusions. They think like scientists to experiment and learn new things. They are excited to see what will come next!
- Fifth Grade Students are so interested in learning about viscosity in science. They extended experiments from class to create their own Liquid Races with original liquids from home, reported the results, and shared the conclusions They drew with their classmates.
- The 6th grade class trip to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City was on October 24. The students were able to walk along the South and North Pools and visit the museum dedicated to the memories of the events of September 11, those lost on that day, and the rebuilding afterwards. Background information on 9/11 was given to students during their Social Studies classes to prepare them for the memorial. The 6th grade is very grateful to Jim Verrengia for his assistance regarding the arrangements of this trip.
- The week of November 6, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders went to Mrs. Nazarian's room, ate lunch together, and gave up their recess to learn and practice the Dance for Kindness - a national flash mob to advocate thoughtfulness, tolerance, and understanding. The dance was performed on Sunday, November 12, in Morristown, NJ.
- Churchill School competed with schools nationwide in a 15 Days of Kindness Challenge. Participating schools were asked to perform 5,000 acts of kindness in 15 days. Churchill School performed over 14,000 acts of kindness in 15 days! They collected over 100 pairs of sneakers, which are being donated to children in Africa who need shoes to go to school. There is great pride in the students who worked together to accomplish this goal.

- Students at Churchill collectively learned about the famous female modern artist, Georgia O'Keeffe. All grades critiqued various O'Keeffe paintings and then each grade recreated one of her many series. Fourth Grade recreated her famous flower paintings, Fifth Grade recreated her famous Southwestern landscape paintings, and Sixth Grade completed a multi-media piece similar to her cow skull paintings. Through the study of her art, the history behind it and her life, the Churchill students developed a deeper connection to their completed pieces. They invite you to take a look at their "Ghost Ranch" gallery set up in the hallway near the Churchill gymnasium!
- The Kindness Ninjas at Churchill worked to spread kindness throughout school by putting kindness post-it notes on the bathroom mirrors and placing kind notes in student's desks and lockers. They also wrote kind messages with chalk on the school's sidewalks to welcome students, teachers, and guests entering the building.
- Churchill School's Student Council sponsored a "Snack Sale" on Tuesday, November 21. They raised \$235.00 and would like to thank all those who baked and/or supplied the snacks, as well as those who supported the endeavor.

Stevenson School

- Each grade at Stevenson recently completed their first unit of study on a famous artist. Students listened to read-aloud stories based on each artist, wrote and discussed the works done by their assigned artist, and recreated one of his paintings. Kindergarten studied Claude Monet and his use of cool colors, First Grade studied Vincent van Gogh and his use of highlights and shadows in a still life, Second Grade studied Gustav Klimt and his art nouveau style, and Third Grade studied Henri Matisse and his use of pattern. The Stevenson artists' final products are proudly displayed in the school hallway. They encourage you to take a look!
- Kindergarten was very busy in the month of November preparing for the annual Thanksgiving play and feast. They learned all about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. The students made various projects throughout the month. They were used as decorations for their play and for their costumes. This year, they even had several of the children's parents present that were in the play many years ago when they were in Kindergarten. This is a wonderful holiday tradition so many look forward to each year.
- First grade expressed what they are most thankful for in a writing piece. The First grade continues to enjoy science, learning about light and reflection in hands-on activities. They use the first grade science notebooks to document all of the experiments.
- Second grade learned about the voting process during election day. They read House Mouse, Senate Mouse, and took a vote on their favorite cheese crackers. The children tasted two different flavored cheese crackers and used a ballot to vote inside a voting booth. The votes were counted, and Cheddar Jack was the winner. The children each had a root beer float and were able to identify the liquid, solid, and gas. They wrote about the experience and identified each stage of matter.

- Third grade really hit the ground running this year! They have finished their second novel, Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo. Third grade students enjoyed watching the movie to compare and contrast the movie and the novel. Third graders were also delving into the new science curriculum, becoming physicists while learning about Newton's Laws of Motion and magnetic fields. They even learned that force is equal to mass (the amount of matter in an object) times acceleration (rate of movement). Students in third grade have been enjoying this hands-on curriculum and are always eager to learn more.
- 2nd graders in HEP are working on coding: Debugging in a Maze. Debugging is an essential element of learning to program. In this lesson, students will encounter puzzles that have been solved incorrectly. They will need to step through the existing code to identify errors, including incorrect loops, missing blocks, extra blocks, and blocks that are out of order.
- The student council ran a collection from November 13-17 called "The Featherless Turkey." Each student was asked to purchase feathers at .25 cents each to help "dress" the featherless turkeys in the hall. The children were able to buy feathers for Mr. Porcino, Mr. Esposito, or Dr. Trabucco. The turkey that had the most feathers at the end of the week won. After a full week collection, they raised \$645.00 to put toward the student activity fund. In 3rd place with 672 feathers was Mr. John. In 2nd place with 734 feathers was Mr. E. The winner with a total of 982 feathers was Dr. Trabucco! On Tuesday, November 21 Dr. Trabucco wore a Turkey hat for the entire school day!

**All Personnel and Program/Curriculum Recommendations:
Introduced by: Mr. J. Didyk Seconded by: Mr. P. Freda
Motion Carried (Mr. B. Egan abstained from V-C) only**

VII. POLICY

A. Uniform Memorandum of Agreement Approval

Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education, re-adopt the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, as is required annually. All policies and procedures previously adopted and implemented remain consistent with the State Memorandum of Agreement revision approved by the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Education in December 2007, and updated annually since. The current Memorandum of Agreement is to be re-approved as new changes are pending for an update later in the year.

B. QSAC Statement of Assurance Submission

Recommended Motion: that the Fairfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve submission of the 2017-2018 QSAC Statement of Assurance, Declaration Page, and Board extract to the State, as is required annually.

**All Policy Recommendations:
Introduced by: Mr. P. Freda Seconded by: Mr. J. Didyk
Motion Carried**

VIII. BUSINESS OFFICE RESOLUTIONS

A. Finance

1. Minutes Approval

BE IT RESOLVED that “the following minutes be approved” from the October 17, 2017 Public & Executive Sessions.

- 2. BE IT RESOLVED to approve and accept the Report of Transfers for the month of October 2017.

3. Bills/Claims/Payrolls

BE IT RESOLVED “to approve the following Bills and Claims Lists and Payrolls”.

Bills and Claims List	\$ 568,738.27
October 15, 2017 Payroll	\$ 364,026.38
October 30, 2017 Payroll	\$ 343,339.07

4. Building Use Applications

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following Building Use Applications:

Organization or Group/Location/Purpose	Date and Time Slot
Fairfield HSA – Vendor Night	December 5, 2017
Churchill Gym	5:00pm – 10:00pm

- 5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approve and accept, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of a U-shaped table and four (4) chairs from Mrs. Traci Tango, 9 Malcolm Drive, Fairfield, NJ.
- 6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approve the additional responsibility of Transportation Liaison for Mrs. Judy Miller, Accounts Payable Clerk, retroactive to July 1, 2017. The increase in responsibility will include an additional \$2,000 increase to Mrs. Miller’s 2017-2018 annual salary.

Business Resolution Items Finance A: 1-6:

**Introduced by: Mr. P. Freda Seconded by: Mr. B. Egan
Motion Carried (Mr. B. Egan abstained from (A-1 only))**

B. Committee Reports

Mr. Egan provided an update on how the Buildings & Grounds Committee was moving along to obtain a consultant on the Feasibility Study.

C. Old Business

Mr. Egan inquired as to how the Police Department and Board of Education Agreement was going.

D. New Business

The Township of Fairfield presented a tree lighting event on December 3, 2017. Mr. Freda thanked the Fairfield Police Department on behalf of the Board and the Municipal Alliance. Mrs. Jandoli read a plaque.

E. Public Comment On: AGENDA & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

F. Next Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED that the next meeting will be the Re-Organization Meeting and will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

(The meeting was rescheduled for January 9, 2018 at 6:30PM due to inclement weather)

BE IT RESOLVED that the next Regular Meeting will be held on January 16, 2018. Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Public Session at 7:30 PM in the Library at Stevenson School.

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

Introduced by: Mr. B. Egan Seconded by: Mr. P. Freda
Motion Carried

H. Adjournment 8:09 PM

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting will be adjourned.

Introduced by: Mr. P. Freda Seconded by: Mr. J. Didyk
Motion Carried