

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Board of Education Special Meeting Agenda

ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

**March 16, 2017
6:45 PM**

1. Call to Order of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Hearing: Racial Imbalance Plan – Timeline
4. Business Items
 - A. First Reading of Racial Imbalance Timeline
(Enclosure No. 1)
 - B. First Reading of Policies
 - i. Policy 5145.15, Students – Directory Information
(Enclosure No. 2)
 - ii. Policy 6111, Instruction – Schedules – Student Calendar
(Enclosure No. 3)
 - C. Discussion of 2017-2018 Budget Changes
 - D. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2017
Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2017”
(Enclosure No. 4)
 - E. Superintendent’s Report
 - F. Committee/Liaison Reports
 - G. Open Board Comment
 - H. Public Comment*
 - I. Superintendent Evaluation
Recommended Motion: “that the Board of Education hereby moves into Executive Session to discuss superintendent employment and performance in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(A)”
5. Adjournment
Recommended Motion: “that this Special Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn”

**During this period the Board will accept public comment on items pertaining to this meeting's agenda* from any citizen present at the meeting (*per BOE By-Law, Article V, Section 6). Those wishing to videotape or take photographs must abide by CGS §1-226.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 6, 2017	Board of Education Regular Meeting	501 Kings Hwy East 2 nd Floor Board Conference Room
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RELOCATION POLICY NOTICE

The Fairfield Public Schools System provides services to ensure students, parents and other persons have access to meetings, programs and activities. The School System will relocate programs in order to ensure accessibility of programs and activities to disabled persons. To make arrangements please contact Pupil & Special Education Services, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825, Telephone: (203) 255-8379



Amendment to Racial Imbalance Plan Fairfield Public Schools

*Approved with Addition of Benchmark Timelines (p. 7 - 12)
April xxxx, 2017*

*Initial Fairfield Board of Education Approval of Plan:
November 15, 2016*

April 2017 Update

On January 4th, 2016 the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) approved this plan with the condition that a benchmark timeline would be added and address all Amendments and Additional Steps listed on pages 4-7. The Fairfield Board of Education approved the addition of Section VI, Benchmark Planning, on pages 7-12.

I. Background

In May of 2015, the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) notified the Fairfield Public Schools that McKinley School continued to be racially imbalanced. During the 2015-2016 school year, the Fairfield Board of Education (Board) studied the possibility of redistricting the student population to remedy this issue. The district engaged the consulting firm of Milone & MacBroom to study demographic patterns within the district and to recommend possible courses of action to reduce racial imbalance among the district's elementary schools. Milone & MacBroom presented its finding to the Fairfield Board of Education on February 16, 2016. The consultants concluded that, even with redistricting, no substantial improvement to the racial imbalance problem could occur until the renovations and additions to the Holland Hill and Mill Hill schools are complete. Specifically, the consultants stated that:

1. Racial Imbalance at McKinley and overcrowding at Holland Hill, Mill Hill and Sherman cannot be solved without school construction projects.
2. Pocket redistricting can mitigate racial imbalances at McKinley after the Holland Hill Construction Project is completed. However, it would result in Holland Hill becoming impending imbalanced (between 15% and 18% higher than district).

3. Following the completion of the Holland Hill and Mill Hill Construction Projects, the district can achieve racial imbalance objectives at McKinley.

On May 4, 2016, the Superintendent of Schools and Chairman of the Fairfield Board of Education presented this information to the State Board of Education. The CSBE, while pleased with the Board’s efforts to address the matter, requested that the Board present an amendment to its Racial Imbalance Plan at its December 7, 2016 meeting.

II. History of Racial Imbalance at McKinley

The CSBE has set a standard by which to judge whether or not a school district is in compliance with the statute. All schools must be within 25 percentage points of the district average of minority students at the same grade span. Chart 1 summarizes McKinley’s data for the past six years.

Chart 1:
History of Racial Imbalance at McKinley

Year	McKinley % Minority	District % Minority	Absolute Imbalance
2010-11	43.47%	17.58%	25.89%
2011-12	45.70%	18.89%	26.81%
2012-13	43.41%	19.00%	24.41%
2013-14	45.85%	19.37%	26.48%
2014-15	49.10%	20.53%	28.57%
2015-16	47.90%	20.70%	27.20%

This chart indicates that McKinley School has exceeded the 25% standard in all but one of the last six years. Therefore, the Board is required to propose revisions to the district’s current Racial Imbalance Plan that will move McKinley School under the 25 percentage point differential.

III. Current Arrangements

The following are the features of the current Plan, as approved by the CSBE in October of 2007 and amended in September of 2010:

1) Opt In to McKinley:

Students from other elementary schools in Fairfield may “opt in” to attend McKinley School. Once the opt-in students complete their elementary years, they attend middle and high school based on the feeder patterns that pertain to their place of residence. Currently, 24 students from elsewhere in Fairfield attend school at McKinley under this arrangement. However, thirteen of these students are minority children. Although the Opt In program has not contributed to greater racial balance among our elementary schools, participation in the program signals the interest of these families in taking advantage of the quality instruction and the cultural diversity available at the McKinley School.

2) Opt Out from McKinley:

For a few years, students who resided in the McKinley attendance zone were offered the choice of “opting out” to other Fairfield elementary schools. However, the “opt out” arrangement did not have a positive impact on racial balance and was therefore terminated following the 2012-13 academic year.

3) Pre-School Options:

Students who reside in the McKinley attendance area have the option of attending pre-school at either the Burr or Dwight elementary schools. These students have the option of continuing at either Burr or Dwight for their K-5 education. Once the pre-school children reach kindergarten, their siblings are able to enroll at Burr or Dwight as well. Once they complete their elementary years, these students attend middle and high school according to the feeder patterns that pertain to their place of residence. Enrollment in the pre-school programs is as follows in 2016-17:

Chart 2:
Pre-kindergarten Programs, 2016-17

<u>Pre-Kindergarten Program</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>McKinley Minority Enrollment</u>
Burr (AM and PM)	36	30	6
<u>Dwight (AM and PM)</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	72	54	7

- a. Tuition of \$3,500 is charged for pre-kindergarten students. However, families unable to afford the tuition have the tuition either waived or reduced to 50 percent, depending on income.
- b. Transportation is provided for families in the pre-kindergarten programs only if they qualify for the tuition waiver or the tuition reduction. Families paying full tuition must provide their own transportation for the pre-kindergartens.

As a result of the pre-kindergarten program, 17 minority students who would otherwise have attended McKinley School are currently enrolled in grades K-5 at either Dwight School or Burr School. This includes the siblings of former McKinley preschoolers who attend Dwight or Burr as the result of the program.

4) Open Choice:

Seventy-two students who reside in Bridgeport attend the Fairfield Public Schools under the Open Choice Program, under arrangements with Cooperative Education Services (CES). Of these, 51 are minority students enrolled in grades K through 5.

IV. Amendments

1) Pre-Kindergarten:

The district intends to modify the pre-kindergarten aspect of the Board's existing plan, as follows:

- a. While the pre-kindergarten programs have helped to address the racial imbalance issue, the Burr program has been the main contributor. Enrollment in the Dwight pre-kindergarten has been consistently lower than that at Burr. In addition, families electing the Dwight pre-kindergarten, and remaining there, are generally not having a positive impact on the racial imbalance issue. Thus the district will eliminate the Dwight pre-kindergarten program at the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year and instead offer a new location at Stratfield School. We believe that, with space available at nearby Stratfield School, we can attract more McKinley families to attend pre-kindergarten and remain at Stratfield.
- b. In an effort to further enhance the impact of the pre-K program on racial balance, McKinley students will be given priority in the enrollment process.

- c. The district will open a third pre-kindergarten at either Stratfield or Burr for the 2018-19 school year, if demand is demonstrated and space is available. This would raise the capacity of the pre-kindergarten programs to 108 slots.
- d. Pre-kindergarten tuition has not been increased from the \$3,500 level for the past five years. Based on a market survey of comparable programs, we recommend raising the tuition to \$4,250 per year, with an annual increase of 3 percent each year thereafter. Tuition waivers would remain in place.

Chart 4:
Pre-kindergarten Programs, 2017-2018 through 2018-2019

<i>Proposed 2017-18</i>		
<u>Pre-K Program</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Projected McKinley Minority Enrollment</u>
Burr (AM and PM)	36	6
Stratfield (AM and PM)	36	8
Totals:	<u>72</u>	<u>14</u>

<i>Proposed 2018-19</i>		
<u>Pre-K Program</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Projected McKinley Minority Enrollment</u>
Burr (AM and PM)	36	6
Stratfield (AM and PM)	36	8
Site TBD* (AM and PM)	36	7
Totals:	<u>108</u>	<u>21</u>

**Based on demand, with site subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Could be added to Burr or Stratfield.*

2) Open Choice:

In an effort to increase the percentage of minority students in the elementary schools other than McKinley, we will increase the total number of Open Choice students enrolled in the Fairfield Public Schools from the current level of 72 to a total of 100 by the start of the 2018-2019 school year. This will be accomplished by adding 18 Open Choice students to the elementary grades in the fall of 2017, with an emphasis on kindergarten and grade 1. An additional 18 students will be added to the elementary grades in the fall of 2018. Assuming attrition of four Open Choice

students each year, this would mean a net increase of 14 students per year, bringing the district's total Open Choice enrollment to 100 by 2018-19.

We project that 60 out of the district's 86 Open Choice students would be enrolled in the elementary grades in 2017-18, and 73 out of 100 in 2018-19. Because virtually all Open Choice students are minority students, the expansion of the Open Choice program would raise the overall minority student population at the elementary level by approximately ½ percent by 2018-19, thus reducing the difference between the proportion of minority students in the district and the proportion at McKinley School.

3) Projected Impact of Proposed Changes:

The district projects that the steps outlined above would have the following impact on racial balance among the district's elementary schools:

Pre-School Option:

We estimate that the number of K-5 McKinley minority students attending other schools as a result of the expanded pre-school option will increase by 25, from the current 17 to 42 (including former Pre-K students as well as siblings) by 2019-20. All else being equal, this would reduce McKinley's minority student population by about 3 percent below what it would otherwise be, and increase the minority proportion of the district's remaining elementary schools slightly.

Expanded Open Choice:

Increasing the number of K-5 Open Choice students from the current 51 to 73 is expected to increase the percentage of minority students in the district's elementary schools by approximately ½ percentage point over what it would have been by 2018-19.

V. Additional Steps

If the previous five years are a guide, we can expect the proportion of minority students at McKinley to increase at a higher rate than the proportion of minority students at the district's other ten elementary schools. Therefore, additional action will be required to address the issue of racial imbalance among our elementary schools over the long term. The following steps will be considered in that regard:

1. Magnet Program at McKinley School

Creation of a "magnet" program at McKinley School that would attract students from elsewhere in the district and thereby reduce the percentage of minority students at the school. Based on the building's current capacity, a magnet program could accommodate approximately fifty additional students without new construction. We estimate that a magnet program at McKinley would reduce the school's minority population by two to three percentage points.

2. Redistricting

A \$15 million renovation and expansion project is scheduled at the Holland Hill School, with completion expected by the fall of 2018. Also, a \$15 million renovation and expansion project is proposed the Mill Hill School between 2018 and 2020. These projects will expand capacity at these schools by approximately 120 students. At that point, according to the Milone & MacBroom consultants, we will be able to revise school attendance areas to balance enrollments and to reduce significantly the extent of the minority student disparity between the McKinley School and our other elementary schools.

VI. Benchmark Planning

Focus Tasks and Timelines

1.0 Community Engagement

- 1.1 Community Meeting with PTA on Relocating Preschool
- 1.2 Public Hearing on Racial Imbalance Plan
- 1.3 Present First Draft of Amended Plan to Fairfield BoE
BoE Public Discussion
- 1.4 Present Final Version of Amended Plan to Fairfield BoE
BoE Public Discussion
- 1.5 Site Visit to McKinley for State Officials
- 1.6 McKinley PTA Visit to gather feedback and share information
- 1.7 Exploring Options with a Town-wide Community Visioning Meeting
- 1.8 Community Survey of Program Options
- 1.9 BoE Town Hall Meeting April 2017
- 1.10 Site Visits to explore program models
- 1.11 Seek guidance from outside expert agencies on guidance for civil rights of children (i.e. ACLU, NAACP, Greater Bridgeport Latino Network, Ct. Hispanic Bar Association, Ct. Immigrant Rights Alliance...)
- 1.12 Conduct a Community Forum on Racial Imbalance updates to information, and recommendations for 2019-2020

2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus

- 2.1 Begin Enrollment for 2017-2018 Year
- 2.2 Move program from Dwight Elementary to Stratfield to make it more accessible for McKinley families
- 2.3 Evaluate status of enrollment for shifts or changes which support the program move from Dwight to Stratfield
- 2.4 Evaluate impact to Racial Imbalance
- 2.5 Evaluate financial impact for non-mandated Preschool

3.0 Open Choice

- 3.1 Identify Open Choice Placements Based on Zero Immediate Financial Impact
- 3.2 Conduct a cost analysis over the past ten years
- 3.3 Update Open Choice enrollment information
- 3.4 Analyze impact to Racial Imbalance

4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options

- 4.1 Technical Assistance from the Ct. State Department of Education
- 4.2 Study other communities and varied approaches to resolving the Racial Imbalance percentage
- 4.3 Research Intra-district magnet or other program options
- 4.4 Present Intra-district analysis information to the BoE and make recommendations for 2018-2019
- 4.5 Conduct cost analysis for Intra-district magnet and projections for minority enrollment shifts at McKinley
- 4.6 Conduct program review of McKinley Elementary student achievement, specifically minority achievement, as compared to other Fairfield elementary schools
- 4.7 Review unique program status in terms of resources, access, and equity for student achievement. Make recommendations to BoE in terms of resource allocations

5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield

- 5.1 Review Milone and McBroom redistricting study for additional follow-up questions
- 5.2 Seek approval for Holland Hill Construction, June 2017
- 5.3 Review building capacity and enrollment options PK-5- including unique programs which may impact building capacity in and around the district
- 5.4 Survey the community on redistricting options
- 5.5 Conduct a district public forum on redistricting
- 5.6 Update the current construction and renovation timelines
- 5.7 Planning for Mill Hill construction
- 5.8 Make a recommendation to the BoE on future redistricting options or alternate planning

Integrated Timeline of Action Steps

Focus	Task	Expected Target Completion Date	Completed Check
2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus	2.1 Begin PK Enrollment for 2017-2018 Year	January, 2017	X
1.0 Community Engagement	1.1 Community Meeting with PTA on Relocating Preschool 1.2 Public Hearing on Racial Imbalance Plan	March 2017	X
1.0 Community Engagement	1.3 Present First Draft of Amended Plan to Fairfield BoE BoE Public Discussion	March 2017	X
1.0 Community Engagement	1.6 McKinley PTA Visit to gather feedback and share information	March 2017	X
1.0 Community Engagement	1.4 Present Final Version of Amended Plan to Fairfield BoE BoE Public Discussion	April 2017	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.9 BoE Town Hall Meeting	April 2017	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.5 Site Visit to McKinley for State Officials	June 2017	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.2 Seek approval for Holland Hill Construction	June 2017	
2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus	2.2 Move program from Dwight Elementary to Stratfield to make it more accessible for McKinley families	June 2017	X
3.0 Open Choice	3.1 Identify Open Choice Placements Based on Zero Immediate Financial Impact	On or Before June, 2017	

Focus	Task	Expected Target Completion Date	Completed Check
1.0 Community Engagement	1.7 Exploring Options with a Town-wide Community Visioning Meeting	October 2017	
3.0 Open Choice	3.3 Update Open Choice enrollment information	October 2017	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.8 Community Survey of Program Options	December 2017	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.1 Review Milone and McBroom redistricting study for additional follow up questions.	December 2017	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.3 Review building capacity and enrollment options PK-5- including unique programs which may impact building capacity in and around the district.	December 2017	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.3 Research Intra-district programmatic options	December 2017	
2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus	2.3 Evaluate status of enrollment for shifts or changes which support the program move from Dwight to Stratfield	January 2018	
2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus	2.4 Evaluate impact to Racial Imbalance	January 2018	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.4 Present Intra-district analysis information to the BoE and make recommendations for 2018-2019	February 2018	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.5 Conduct cost analysis for Intra-district magnet and projections for minority enrollment shifts at McKinley	February 2018	

Focus	Task	Expected Target Completion Date	Completed Check
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.6 Conduct program review of McKinley Elementary student achievement, specifically minority achievement, as compared to other Fairfield elementary schools	February 2018	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.7 Review unique program status in terms of resources, access, and equity for student achievement. Make recommendations to BoE in terms of resource allocations	February 2018	
3.0 Open Choice	3.2 Conduct a cost analysis over the past ten years	March 2018	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.2 Study other communities and varied approaches to resolving the Racial Imbalance percentage	May, 2018	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.10 Site Visits to explore program models	May 2018	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.11 Seek guidance from outside expert agencies on guidance for civil rights of children (ie...ACLU, NAACP, Greater Bridgeport Latino Network, Ct. Hispanic Bar Association, Ct. Immigrant Rights Alliance...)	May 2018	
3.0 Open Choice	3.4 Analyze impact to Racial Imbalance	June 2018	
2.0 Pre-Kindergarten Focus	2.5 Evaluate financial impact for non-mandated Preschool	June 2018 Budget FY18 Preparations	

Focus	Task	Expected Target Completion Date	Completed Check
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.3 Survey the community on redistricting options.	June 2018	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.4 Conduct a district public forum on redistricting.	June 2018	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.5 Update the current construction and renovation timelines	June 2018	
1.0 Community Engagement	1.12 Conduct a Community Forum on Racial Imbalance updates to information, and recommendations for 2019-2020	May 2019	
5.0 Redistricting Elementary Schools in Fairfield	5.8 Make a recommendation to the BoE on future redistricting options or alternate planning	June 2019	
4.0 Magnet or Other Program Options	4.1 Technical Assistance from the Ct. State Department of Education	June 2019	Periodic Checks 1. Phone Conference December 2017 2. Phone Conference January 2017 3. 4. 5.

Students

5145.15 (a)

Directory Information

Directory information means those items of personally identifiable information contained in a student education record which is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. The following categories are designated as directory information. The following directory information may be released to the public through appropriate procedures:

1. Student's name;
2. Student's address;
3. Student's telephone listing;
4. Parent's /Guardian's electronic address.

Public Notice

The District will give annual public notice to parents of students in attendance and students eighteen years of age or emancipated. The notice shall identify the types of information considered to be directory information, the District's option to release such information and the requirement that the District must, by law, release secondary students' names, addresses and telephone numbers to military recruiters and/or institutions of high education, unless parents or eligible students request the District withhold this information and requiring written consent to release such information. Such notice will be given prior to release of directory information.

Exclusions

Exclusions from any or all directory categories named as directory information or release of secondary students' information to military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education must be submitted in writing to the Headmaster by the parent/guardian, student of eighteen years of age or emancipated student with fifteen days of the annual public notice.

Directory information shall be released only with administrative direction.

Directory information considered by the District to be detrimental will not be released.

Directory Information will not be released by the District if a parent or eligible student has requested the district withhold this information.

Information will not be given over the telephone except in health and safety emergencies.

At no point will a student's Social Security Number or student identification number be considered directory information.

(CREF. 5125 - Student Records: Confidentiality)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-210 (11) Access to public records. Exempt records.

5145.15 (b)

10-221b Boards of education to establish written uniform policy re treatment of recruiters.

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g and Final Rule 34 CFR Part 99, December 9, 2008 and December 2, 2011)

P.L. 106-398, 2000 H.R. 4205: The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001.

P.L. 114-95 “The Every Student Succeeds Act” Section 8025

Existing policy #6110 adopted 8/27/04, recodified with required revisions and updated legal references.

Instruction

Schedules

Student Calendar

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall recommend school calendars meeting all statutory requirements to the Board of Education for its review, modification, as it believes appropriate, and approval.

The calendars recommended to the Board may include the operation of schools on State holidays, except for those holidays that occur in December and January (Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day).

The school calendar shall show school days in each school month, the number of school days in each month, legal and local holidays, staff development days, early closing days, academic breaks, report card periods, contingency make-up dates for possible emergency closings, and other pertinent dates, including the date of graduation for students in grade twelve (12).

The Board, in establishing a graduation date, may establish for any school year a firm graduation date which is no earlier than the one-hundred eighty-fifth day in the adopted school calendar. The graduation date may be modified, if necessary, after April first in any school year by the Board establishing a firm graduation date which, at the time of such establishment, provides for at least 180 days of school.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-4 Days designated as legal holidays.

10-15 Towns to maintain schools, as amended by PA 11-85, An Act Concerning the Achievement Gap.

10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of proclamations.

10-261 Definitions.

10-16l Establishment of graduation date.

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunication devices.

PA 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government, Sections 321-324.

PA 14-38, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Uniform
Regional School Calendar Task Force.

Policy adopted: August 27, 2004
Policy revised:

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Fairfield, Connecticut

DRAFT

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Fairfield BoE, February 14, 2017**

NOTICE: A full meeting recording can be obtained from Fairfield Public Schools. Please call 203-255-8371 for more information and/or see the FPS website (under Board Meeting Minutes) for a link to FAIRTV.

Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Roll Call

Chairman Philip Dwyer called the Regular meeting to order at 7:36PM. Present were members Eileen Liu-McCormack (arrived 7:40PM), Marc Patten, Donna Karnal (arrived 7:40PM), Jessica Gerber, Philip Dwyer, Anthony Calabrese, Trisha Pytko, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly and John Llewellyn. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, members of the central office leadership team, student representatives Catherine Behjati, Ashley Agrello and Brittany Shuster, and approximately 10 members of the public.

Student Reports

Ms. Behjati reported for Fairfield Ludlowe High School: Warde and Ludlowe culinary students served a Valentine's Day Luncheon at the Senior Center, paid for by a PTAC grant; this week is Random Acts of Kindness Week with each day featuring a different theme; 17-18 course selection is underway.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked how students will participate in day 5 of the Random Acts of Kindness week, as school is not in session. Ms. Behjati said students can thank staff each day.

Ms. Agrello and Ms. Shuster reported for Fairfield Warde High School: course selection is taking place; the LMC re-design project has 5 teams competing; Black History Month is being celebrated with a special daily bulletin, bulletin board and morning announcements; the Debate Team had a great match with three 1st place wins for Varsity and one first place for the Individual Speaker category; 173 students participated in the American Mathematics exam; student council is planning a Warde "Can You Do It" day.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked if there were any reports on sports. The students mentioned the combined hockey team senior night and the Warde dance team competition.

Mrs. Gerber added that the FLHS Boys 4x800 Indoor Relay won Class L Championship.

Mr. Calabrese said the Warde Boys and Girls Basketball teams will be in FCIACs.

New Business

Approval of Holland Hill Ed-Specs

Mr. Dwyer said the intent of having revised ed-specs was to match the current Holland Hill (HH) plan in a clear format. He asked Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly to discuss her technical changes.

Mrs. Gerber moved, Mr. Patten seconded that the Board of Education approve the Holland Hill Ed-Specs as enclosed.

Mrs. Maxon Kennelly referenced Enclosure 1a, page 4 – Why was the bullet with the replacement/installation of lockers removed? Mr. Morabito said that was crossed out in error.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded to add back the deleted bullet point on page 4 – "replacement/addition of lockers to accommodate increasing enrollment.

Mr. Llewellyn asked if all the lockers are being replaced and whether the lockers were actually used. Mr. Cullen said lockers are used; they are rusting inside and must be replaced.

Motion Passed: 6-3

Favor: Mr. Patten, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Mrs. Liu-McCormack, Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, page 2 – should the reference to the dedicated science room be removed? Mr. Cullen said the issue came up for McKinley and Burr to have a science room/lab but the idea didn't really take off. The science rooms are not used as specific science rooms. The science/lab classroom is difficult to use as a general classroom with all the extra equipment, such as an eye-wash station. This reference should be removed.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded, to delete the word "science" on page 2.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack – are we certain that we won't need it? Why was this originally included? How much is being saved by doing away with this? Could we use the science rooms as regular classrooms? Concerned with consistency; would like some flexibility in ed-specs to keep this. Dr. Jones said she would not recommend having a lab – this is more suited for high school students; elementary schools shouldn't be using any chemicals that would require a fume hood; fume hoods are not less than \$10K. Mr. Cullen said he can get the exact savings amount. Mr. Dwyer said the MGT report may have identified it as a deficiency and was therefore included in the ed-specs.

Mr. Llewellyn – If this was in the ed-specs but not built, were ed-specs amended and forwarded to the state? Mr. Morabito said no, this was not required in the process. Mr. Quinn added that the science room was listed in Riverfield's ed-specs, but central office determined that it was not needed.

Motion Passed: 9-0

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- Page 7 – under the Common/Core Spaces – will the two staff workrooms include a copy room? Mr. Morabito said yes; one is a faculty dining area and one is a copy room; this was not a change. Mr. Quinn had a similar question and said he was satisfied with this explanation.
- Page 4 – where in the document is the reference to the secure entry vestibule? Mr. Morabito said it was erroneously crossed out and should be added back in.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly moved, Mrs. Gerber seconded to add back the deleted bullet point on page 4 – "Addition of secure entry vestibule and increased security measures."

Ms. Karnal questioned about items being added back in – she felt she should be looking at a proper document without cross-outs and said the process was a fiasco.

Mr. Dwyer said the quick-turn-around of the document resulted in a few missed points; the BOF will review this on February 23rd. Dr. Jones added that she feels confident that we are on the same page; she would like to see these approved to avoid delay. Amendments are part of the normal process.

Motion Passed: 8-0-1

Favor: Mr. Patten, Ms. Karnal, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, Mr. Llewellyn

Abstain: Mrs. Liu-McCormack

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- Page 4 – uncomfortable with the final blue bullet - much of what is listed is already present. Dr. Jones said that while rooms may exist, they may be moved – this is still in concept.
- Page 5 – Should sinks only be for new classrooms? Mr. Morabito said existing general classrooms already have sinks and no change is required.
- Page 6 – Why are there 2 LA rooms, thought some rooms were for shared space? Mr. Morabito said shared space is at the discretion of the principal.

Mr. Llewellyn asked the square footage of the following offices; answers (in square feet) are from Mr. Morabito; approximately 750-800 square feet is a normal size classroom. Dr. Jones said these spaces are all used as work areas and shouldn't be labeled as offices.

IIT Office – 120

Psychologist Office – 288

Social Worker's Office – 125

Gifted Teacher Room – 323. This is also a teaching space for up to 5 students.

Language Arts – 281. Combined with Speech.

Spanish Office - 164

Mr. Dwyer added that these are flexible work spaces and may be used differently each year. Dr. Jones agreed. Mr. Quinn noted that Riverfield has 15 resource rooms that vary by size. The committee's job is to provide the space; the staff decides on its use.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly, page 7 – why a 6-bus queue? Mrs. Cretella said this will be needed for 3 large and 3 small buses. In the afternoon, 1 bus goes to Wakeman.

Mr. Llewellyn confirmed with Mrs. Cretella that there is no change in enrollment that is driving the bus queue.

Mr. Dwyer – How many parking spaces? Mr. Quinn said 92-100 parking spaces.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

- Why isn't solar included in this work? Mr. Morabito said the state grant for solar is a competition that takes place in March and April; he anticipates participating next year.
- How to ensure that we meet the June 30 deadline? Can you walk the steps backward? Mr. Morabito said the filing by June 30 will include three standard resolutions, ed-specs, and full-funding for the project. The building committee brings forward the funding request which goes to the BOS, the BOF and the RTM before June 30.

Mr. Llewellyn

- Questioned the reimbursement rate and said the Board should consider that it might be zero; he referenced a document that outlined a new state procedure. Mr. Morabito said the reimbursement rate is based on the submission date of June 2017. The rate for 2017 has already been established and is published.
- What was the reimbursement rate for Riverfield? Mr. Morabito said 26.79; repairs are usually not reimbursable.

DRAFT

- What is the current budget, and what will be the true number and reimbursement rate? Mr. Quinn said the project is currently at \$18.553M and is expected to go down further. Reimbursed monies go back to the Town. Mr. Dwyer added that the average reimbursement is 20-21%, but hard to tell until filings are complete. Mr. Quinn said the preferred timeline is May 3 - BOS, May 4 - BOF and May 22 - RTM, but if that is not possible, then May 31 - BOS, June 6 - BOF and June 26 - RTM.

Mrs. Liu-McCormack said the renovation has to happen but she is concerned with the expansion. Would like the Building Committee to make reductions and wants the 504 to be reconsidered.

Mr. Dwyer said the majority of the Board feels it should be built to a 504 and should last 30-50 years.

Mr. Patten

- What is a resource room? Mr. Quinn said resource rooms encompass all support services. Mrs. Cretella added that resource rooms are for students and small groups.
- Thought the Board voted to include page 9 definitions from the previous meeting packet? Mrs. Gerber checked Mr. Calabrese's handwritten motion and said page 9 was not included.

Mr. Dwyer

- Should the size of the KDG classroom be changed from 1000 +/- square feet? Mr. Cullen said no; some KDG classrooms are 800 sq. feet.
- What is the number of computer seats referencing? Mr. Morabito said it was reduced from 28 to 25, matching the maximum classroom size.
- Is the staff dining room described in 2 different ways? Mr. Morabito said yes, it is a faculty working room and dining area.
- What is the large office supply space? Does it meet the spec? Mr. Morabito said yes; it is the custodial supply storage space and office.
- Funding of the KDG playground repair/replacement was discussed – the ed-specs as they are would make the playground part of the plan. Mr. Cullen said initially the playground was to be repaired and moved to accommodate construction. After it was determined that the playground would be in the way of the construction and due to it being rusty – the decision was made to demolish and replace it at a cost of approximately \$100K-\$120K.

Mr. Calabrese asked what KDG students are currently using in lieu of the playground. Mrs. Cretella reiterated that the KDG playground that was demolished was not safe and not up to code. Currently, the KDG students are using the lower playground.

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board if the playground should be part of the ed-specs or put into the operating budget.

Mr. Patten – Thinks it should be in the ed-specs. How old was the playground? Mr. Cullen said one piece of equipment was from 1959. Mr. Quinn said if the Board wishes, the building committee will put it back in.

Mr. Calabrese agreed.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked for clarification of the language – regarding the area being disturbed by construction. Mr. Quinn said there are 2 separate things – the area is being used for construction, and the equipment needed to be replaced.

Ms. Karnal

- Asked about the number of bathrooms. Mr. Morabito said 4 staff bathrooms, 2 large gang bathrooms, 2 smaller gang bathrooms, 8 classroom bathrooms/single toilets, the nurse's office bathroom, and the kitchen staff bathroom, which is not for public use.

DRAFT

- Are any marked as transgender bathrooms per CT law? Mr. Quinn said that they will do that – while these are schematic drawings, the bathrooms will be marked appropriately.

Mr. Dwyer asked if all of Mr. Quinn’s requests for clarification had been addressed and was told yes.

Vote on the motion “that the Board of Education approve the Holland Hill Ed-Specs as enclosed, and amended on pages 2 and 4” passed: 6-2

Favor: Mr. Patten, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack was not present.)

Mr. Llewellyn asked if the project could be bid with a non-state vendor. Mr. Quinn said that it must be bid with a prevailing wage, which means union, to get any type of reimbursement. If he could get cheaper vendors with the same quality – he would.

<i>Approval of Minutes</i>

Approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2017 Special Meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Special Meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the January 26, 2017 Regular Meeting

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to vote on all three sets of minutes at one time; the Board agreed.

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 17, the Special Meeting of January 24 and the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2017.

Motion Passed: 6-2

Favor: Mr. Patten, Mrs. Gerber, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Calabrese, Ms. Pytko, Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly

Oppose: Ms. Karnal, Mr. Llewellyn

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack was not present.)

<i>Superintendent Report</i>

Dr. Jones thanked Mr. Quinn for his work on the Holland Hill project. The district had its first snow day on Thursday; the roads on Friday were not as clear as expected. She thanked the PTA for the wonderful Riverfield assembly with Tom Chapman; she also attended the ice-hockey game. The Racial Imbalance Plan work continues with the timeline task. On the budget-side at the state level, the district must stay engaged - the impact to Fairfield is enormous. The retirement numbers being discussed are equivalent to 122 teachers over a 2-year period; the special education grant may be reduced and also flow through the town-side. On a positive note, the PTAC approved a grant for Mind-Up, a fabulous program that provides seed money for teacher training on student stress and anxiety. The Ludlowe/Warde Basketball game takes place tomorrow night.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly – What is the rationale for the movement of the special education money? Dr. Jones said she wasn’t sure. On paper, it will look as though the Town is getting additional money, but doesn’t show the negative impact to the school side.

DRAFT

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly asked about scheduling the Town Hall forum and requested clarification on the Hearing for Racial Imbalance.

Mr. Dwyer said that the state BOE, BOE, and Town attorneys agreed that public comment at a regular Board meeting satisfied the Hearing requirement on Racial Imbalance. However, the BOE attorney has suggested a separate Hearing for the upcoming discussion on the Racial Imbalance Plan to occur at 7:00 pm prior to a regular meeting.

Mr. Llewellyn – Will the Hearing be limited to 30 minutes before a BOE meeting?

Mr. Dwyer said no. The BOE meeting will start immediately following the Hearing; people will not be cut off.

Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Gerber said the BOF sent the OHS walkway project back to the BOS due to new information that was received; at this time, it is not moving forward in terms of funding.

Ms. Pytko said SEPTA is hosting a silent auction fundraiser on April 1 at Anna Liffey's.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the PTAC, in addition to sponsoring the Valentine Lunch and the Mind-Up program, they approved a grant for a clay table at McKinley. Additionally, the PTAC coordinated efforts with all schools to participate in the Random Acts of Kindness week.

Open Board Comment

Mr. Dwyer said bathroom labeling is an important issue and should be addressed. He requested input regarding scheduling the Town Hall forum which is in the by-laws to occur twice per year.

Mrs. Gerber said evenings are preferable; she suggested Board members respond with open dates for March and April.

Mr. Dwyer referred to the budget process and said the BOE will wait for the RTM to adopt a budget before reacting.

Mrs. Maxon-Kennelly said the Board may want to consider an additional meeting if cuts are needed; it is hard to discuss sizeable numbers all in one night.

Mr. Dwyer said a special meeting could occur between the first and second meetings in May. He also mentioned the possible need for executive sessions regarding personnel issues and discussion of superintendent progress.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gerber moved, Ms. Pytko seconded that this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education adjourn.

Motion Passed: 7-0

(Mrs. Liu-McCormack and Mr. Patten were not present.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.