

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Work Session

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

MR. ANTHONY DEPASCALE, BOARD PRESIDENT, CALLED THE ROLL AT 6:30 PM:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Ms. Andrea Bellise-Jandoli	PRESENT	Ms. Angela Altaai	PRESENT
Mr. Joseph Fede	ABSENT	Mr. Anthony DePascale	PRESENT
Ms. Melinda Street	PRESENT		

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Mr. Ryan Gupta	Superintendent of Schools	PRESENT
Mr. Wally Lindsley	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	PRESENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education meeting 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.

RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education hereby convenes to Executive Session for discussion of the following subjects: **1,3,7 and 8.**

It is anticipated that the Executive Session will take approximately **60 minutes**; the Board may take action when it reconvenes to Public Session; and the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the reason for the Executive Session no longer exists.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters or other exceptions to the sunshine laws as follows:

1. Any matter considered confidential by federal law, state statute, or court rule;
2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair the receipt of federal funds;
3. Any material which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy if disclosed;
4. Any collective bargaining agreements;

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5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds;
6. Any tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public;
7. Any pending or anticipated litigation;
8. Personnel matter related to the employment, appointment or termination of current or prospective employees;
9. Attorney/Client privilege.

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by: **Angela Altaai** Time: **6:30 PM**

Motion to return to open session (to be moved in Public Session):

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by: **Angela Altaai** Time: **7:29 PM**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned.

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by: **Angela Altaai** Time: **7:29 PM**

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Mr. Fede - Absent

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025

7:30 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

(Access livestream at www.fpsk6.org at 7:30 PM. Also available on Channel 34)

The Board will reconvene from Executive Session and Mr. Anthony DePascale, Board President, will preside and call the public meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

MR. ANTHONY DEPASCALE, BOARD PRESIDENT, CALLED THE ROLL AT 7:30 PM:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Ms. Andrea Bellise-Jandoli	PRESENT	Ms. Angela Altaai	PRESENT
Mr. Joseph Fede	ABSENT	Mr. Anthony DePascale	PRESENT
Ms. Melinda Street	PRESENT		

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Mr. Ryan Gupta	Superintendent of Schools	PRESENT
Mr. Wally Lindsley	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	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 News and The Progress.

Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT: NONE

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Gupta reported:

- **Stevenson Variety Show** - Best wishes to the brave and talented 2nd graders performing tonight. Acts include singing, dancing, comedy, and more. Special thanks to Mr. Silvestri for organizing this event.
- **Autism Awareness** - On April 2nd, Fairfield Public Schools participated in Autism Awareness Day by wearing blue. Churchill staff and students showed support by purchasing Autism Awareness shirts from local business Steady Eddie Designs, and a special thanks to Mr. Santana for organizing that. The superintendent expressed pride in leading a district that provides strong programs for Autistic students, something not all districts offer. Special thanks were given to Director of Special Services, Meghan Cafone and her team for their outstanding work, and to the dedicated teachers and aides in MD classrooms who show deep care for their students.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: NONE

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS: (any new or old business)

HSA: Melinda Street reported:

- The HSA is hosting a Casino Night with a Havana Nights theme on Thursday, May 15th at Seasons. Tickets are available and all proceeds will go directly to support the schools and benefit the students. Please join them for a fun night!

Finance: Anthony DePascale reported:

- The budget will be discussed at the next meeting, including a review of the budget presentation. Things are currently looking positive and moving in the right direction. Attending the meeting is encouraged, as it will feature a more detailed presentation prepared by the new business administrator.

Buildings and Grounds: Anthony DePascale reported:

- Stevenson Roof Update: Over the past few months, Wally, Joe, and I have worked with the original roofing company due to ongoing leaks. Despite multiple repair attempts, the roof continues to leak. After a site visit with the company's regional manager and technicians, Wally determined that over 20% of the original roofing work has already been replaced. The vendor is proposing more patchwork repairs, but we believe this approach is unfair to both the district and the students. Our board attorney is now involved, and we will continue to provide updates as the situation develops.
- Recreation Grant Award: Thanks to Wally's initiative, we secured a \$87,000 recreation grant to improve Stevenson's outdoor spaces. The Grant will enhance playgrounds and fields for our students.

New/Old Business: Anthony DePascale reported:

- The board has been actively seeking new revenue sources for the school and recently partnered with the recreation department to create a rentable soccer field behind Stevenson School and also rented out the baseball fields to two other organizations. If successful, the program may expand to include fields at both Churchill and Stevenson schools. The board is proud of the progress and hopeful about the potential for continued success.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON: *AGENDA ITEMS ONLY*

NONE

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
FINANCE - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following finance motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 to 5**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motions:

- 1F. To approve the Minutes from the Public & Executive Session of March 13, 2025.
- 2F. To approve the Bills and Claims List and Payroll as follows:

Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 3/21/2025	\$103,486.52
Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 4/10/2025	\$232,352.98
Ratify and Affirm March 15, 2025 Payroll	\$443,186.04
Ratify and Affirm March 30, 2025 Payroll	\$440,575.22

- 3F. To approve the transfer of funds for the month of March 2025 as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.
- 4F. To approve the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the period of March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and certify that as of March 2025 the Board Secretary's monthly financial reports did not reflect an over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on these reports and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

- 5F. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY (with not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

It is hereby determined that one additional spending proposal will be submitted for voter approval at the Annual School Election scheduled for November 4, 2025. The form of the proposal will read substantially as follows with such adjustments as required in accordance with guidelines or requirements of the Department of Education:

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
FINANCE - APRIL 10, 2025**

RESOLVED that there shall be raised an additional \$359,201 of funds in the 2025-2026 School Year to hire three (3) classroom aides, one (1) special education teacher, and one (1) school counselor to provide support to students with academic, social, and emotional needs. Approval of these funds will result in a permanent increase in the district's tax levy.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ADMINISTRATIVE - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following administrative motion is made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item 1, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motion:

1A. **BANK**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education reaffirms the designation of *Columbia Bank and/or its successors* as its official depositories of school monies and other funds of this District for the 2025 calendar year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bank be authorized to honor warrants drawn upon the funds of the Fairfield Board of Education and that the officers authorized to sign checks be amended to the following warrant officers:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Signatures Required</u>
Churchill Student Activity Account	Raymond Santana and Ryan Gupta or Wally Lindsley
Stevenson Student Activity Account	Michael Trabucco and Ryan Gupta or Wally Lindsley

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CONTRACTS - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following contract motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 - 3**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motions:

1CO. Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Cooperative

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the participation of a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for Special Education, Field Trip, Public and Private School Transportation for the 2025-2026 school year.

2CO. Award Bid for Lighting Upgrade - District Wide

BE IT RESOLVED that two proposals were received for the lighting upgrade to LED for the Fairfield School District.

BIDDER	TOTAL PROJECT	REBATES	FINAL COST
Albright, LLC	\$109,510	\$81,250	\$28,260
K.HE Enterprises	\$107,084	\$77,160	\$29,924

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves the award for the lighting upgrade to LED for the Fairfield School District to Albright, LLC in the amount of \$28,260.

3CO. Award Bid for MDF Room Upgrade at Adlai E. Stevenson School

BE IT RESOLVED that three proposals were received from the Technology Administrator for the MDF room upgrade for Adlai E. Stevenson School.

BIDDER	TOTAL PROJECT	COOPERATIVE LICENSE NUMBER
CDW Government, LLC.	\$175,010.71	ESCNJ/AEPA-22G
JCT Solutions	\$230,658.92	UCCP# 8-2022
SHI International Corp.	\$168,630.02	E-8801-NJSBA ACES-CPS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education approves and awards the contract to CDW Government, LLC for the MDF room upgrade at Adlai E. Stevenson School in the amount of \$175,010.71. (E-Rate funded)

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
GRANTS - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following grant motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 - 2**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motions:

1G. New Jersey Schools Insurance Group - Safety Grant Award

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (“NJSIG”) is a school board insurance group authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. to provide insurance coverage and risk management services for its members; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the “Educational Institution,” is a member of NJSIG; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with NJSIG Policy 3710, the goal of the safety grant program is to provide members the necessary resources to complete risk reduction projects and improve the safety of the population NJSIG members serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Educational Institution applies for a safety grant through the NJSIG safety grant program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of **\$2,322** for the purposes set forth in their safety grant application; and
- 2) The Business Administrator or their designee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary to apply for and receive a safety grant award.

2G. Recreation Improvement Grant Award

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education accepts the award from The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Division of Local Government Services (DLGS), for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) in the amount of **\$87,000** for the Fairfield School District.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following buildings and grounds motion is made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item **1**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motion:

1BG. To approve the following Building Use Applications:

ORGANIZATION GROUP/LOCATION/PURPOSE	DATE AND TIME SLOT
Corporal James High - Fairfield Police Dept. LEAD Graduation and Atlantic Health helicopter landing	May 19, 2025 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Hustle Baseball Youth Baseball Practices Stevenson Fields	Retroactively to 3/26/2025 - 6/26/2025 (Wednesdays and Thursdays Only) 5:30 PM to 7:45 PM
West Essex Jr. Knight Baseball Practices Stevenson Fields	Retroactively to 4/1/2025 to 8/29/2025 (Tuesdays and Fridays Only) 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
PERSONNEL - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following personnel motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 - 4**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motions:

1P. To approve the leave of absence for the following employee:

Name	Location	Position	Maternity/ Disability Leave	NJLA/FMLA w/o pay, but with benefits	Return Date
Lisa Salant	AES	Preschool Teacher	08/28/2025 - 09/10/2025	09/11/2025 - 12/03/2025	12/08/2025

(NOTE: All dates are considered “on or about”)

2P. To approve the resignation of the following staff member:

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Last Day of Employment
Karissa Yelovich	AES	First Grade Teacher	Resignation	6/30/2025

3P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Name	Location/ Position	Tenure Track or Leave Replacement	Replacing or New Position	Step	Prorated Salary/Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Marissa Tamuzza	AES School Counselor	Tenure Track	Gabriella Day	M.A., 2	\$64,300	08/28/2025

4P. To approve the new job description for “Child Study Team (CST)/School Secretary” effective May 2, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CURRICULUM/PROGRAM - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following curriculum/program motion is made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item **1**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motion:

- 1C. To approve the revisions to the 2024-2025 school calendar to reflect Tuesday, June 17, 2025 as the last day of school. Furthermore, schools will be closed on Friday, May 23, 2025 (**see attached**).

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
POLICY - APRIL 10, 2025**

The following policy motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 - 7**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Angela Altaai** to approve the following motions:

- 1PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #11 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 2PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #12 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 3PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #13 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 4PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #14 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 5PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #15 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 6PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #16 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.
- 7PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #17 2024-2025 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board. A copy of the Board's decision will be sent to the affected students' parents.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ENROLLMENT - APRIL 10, 2025**

Grade	Students 6/7/2024	Students 4/8/2025
Preschool Inclusive	22	27
Preschool Disabilities	12	9
Kindergarten	92	98
First	96	92
Second	99	94
Third	84	103
Fourth	109	84
Fifth	108	109
Sixth	86	110
Out-of-District	2	2
Charter School	0	3
Total	710	731

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2025**

The Board President will open the floor to the public comments on non-agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

NONE

NEXT MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED that the next meeting will be held, in person, on April 29, 2025, Public Work Session beginning at 6:00 PM followed by Executive Session with Public Session resuming at approximately 7:30 PM, at the Fairfield Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned.

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by: **Angela Altaai** Time: **7:47 PM**

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Absent