

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Work Session

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

MR. ANTHONY DEPASCALE, BOARD PRESIDENT, CALLED THE ROLL AT 6:00 PM:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Ms. Andrea Bellise-Jandoli	ABSENT	Ms. Angela Altaai	PRESENT
Mr. Joseph Fede	PRESENT	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: **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: **Joseph Fede** Seconded by: **Anthony DePascale** Time: **6:30 PM**

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

Motion by: **Angela Altaai** Seconded by: **Melinda Street** Time: **7:30 PM**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion by: **Angela Altaai** Seconded by: **Melinda Street** Time: **7:30 PM**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fede, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli - Absent

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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	ABSENT	Ms. Angela Altaai	PRESENT
Mr. Joseph Fede	PRESENT	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:

- **Mr. DePascale advised that board committee reports will begin next month.**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- **Mr. Gupta recognized the “Best in the Nest” recipients from September to December for Stevenson School and presented them with certificates.**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

- **Mr. Lindsley advised that the State opened up the budget software and he is working on next year’s budget.**

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS: (any new or old business) **NONE**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON: *AGENDA ITEMS ONLY*

NONE

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
FINANCE - JANUARY 22, 2026**

The following finance 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Joseph Fede** to approve the following motions:

- 1F. To approve the Minutes from the Public & Executive Session of December 22, 2025 and the January 8, 2026 Reorganization meeting.
- 2F. To approve the Bills and Claims List and Payroll as follows:

Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 1/22/2026	\$699,506.72
Ratify and Affirm December 30, 2025 Payroll	\$422,471.74
Ratify and Affirm January 15, 2026 Payroll	\$475,079.81

- 3F. To approve the transfer of funds for the month of December 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 December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and certify that as of December 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.

ROLL CALL

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ADMINISTRATIVE - JANUARY 22, 2026**

The following administrative 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

- 1A. To approve the existing Board of Education Committees, Chairpersons, and Members for the 2026 organizational year as follows:

Committee	Chairperson	Member
Buildings & Grounds	Joseph Fede	Anthony DePascale
Curriculum/Technology	Angela Altaai	Anthony DePascale
Finance	Joseph Fede	Anthony DePascale
Negotiations	Joseph Fede	Anthony DePascale
Personnel	Angela Altaai	Melinda Street
Policy	Joseph Fede	Andrea Bellise-Jandoli
Special Education	Melinda Street	Angela Altaai
Liaison: HSA/Public Relations	Angela Altaai	Anthony DePascale
Liaison: Fairfield Township	Anthony DePascale	N/A
NJ School Boards Delegate	Andrea Bellise-Jandoli	N/A
Essex School Boards/Legislative	Melinda Street	N/A
Municipal Alliance Delegate	Anthony DePascale	N/A

- 2A. To approve the donation of an Elegoo Centauri Carbon 3D Printer from Eileen Pekarsky, with appreciation and gratitude for the students of Adlai E. Stevenson School.
- 3A. To approve Trafera Holdings, LLC for the purchase of student Chromebooks in the amount of \$39,240. (Hunterdon Educational Service Commission # CAT 25-06-R)
- 4A. To ratify and affirm an increase to the hourly rate for **substitutes** for the 2025-2026 school year, in accordance with the minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2026 as follows:

Secretary	\$16.00 per hour
All Aides (Instructional/Playground)	\$16.00 per hour
Custodian	\$16.00 per hour
Custodian in Long-Term Assignment	Consecutive Day 1-20: \$16.00 per hour Day 21 to end of assignment: \$17.00 per hour (returns to \$16.00 per hour at end of assignment)

ROLL CALL

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CONTRACTS - JANUARY 22, 2026**

The following contract 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Joseph Fede** to approve the following motion:

1CO. To ratify and affirm approval of Hillmar, LLC as a School Psychologist to provide psychological services for students on an as-needed basis effective January 15, 2026 to June 12, 2026 at a rate of \$100.00 per 30-minute session.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fede, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - JANUARY 22, 2025**

The following buildings and grounds 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

1B. To approve the following Building Use Applications:

<u>Organization Group/Location/Purpose</u>	<u>Date and Time Slot</u>
Art Club Eileen Pekarsky and Jaclyn Van Natten Churchill - Art Room and Room 14	3/2, 3/4, 3/9, 3/11, 3/16, 3/18, 3/23, 3/25, 3/30, 4/1, 4/13, 4/15, 4/20, 4/22 and 4/27/2026 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Daisy Troops 20191 Monthly Meetings Stevenson - Art Room	2/19, 3/19, 4/16 and 5/21/2026 3rd Thursday of every month 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Fairfield Recreation Youth Basketball Games Churchill - Large Gym	January 24 to February 28, 2026 (Saturdays only) 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Homework Club Danielle Malinowski, Olivia Montwaid, Alexa Rubino and Jaclyn Van Natten Churchill - Rooms 5, 13, 14, 23 and Library	February 11 to May 27, 2026 (Wednesdays) 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Homework Club Maria Suppa and Laura Barra Stevenson - Rooms 13, 14 and Library	February 23 to April 20, 2026 (Mondays and Wednesdays) 3:27 PM to 4:27 PM

2B. BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education has identified old and broken technology that has reached the end of life and is no longer beneficial to the district and needs to be recycled as follows:

142 - HP Chromebooks	6 - Switches	2 - Racks
21 - Laptops	5 - Desktops	2 - Smartboards
7 - Projectors	4 - Monitors	1 - Poster Printer
6 - Laptops	3 - Speakers	
6 - Printers	2 - Carts	

To approve the recycling of the items to Green Wave Electronics, an R2v3 certified provider to recycle at no cost to the board.

ROLL CALL

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
SSDS INVESTIGATIONS/HIB REPORT PERIOD #1 - JANUARY 22, 2026

The following SSDS Investigations/HIB Report 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motion:

- 1H. To accept the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Investigations Report and the HIB Trainings and Programs Report, for Period #1, September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fede, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
PERSONNEL - JANUARY 22, 2026**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion by **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Joseph Fede** to approve the following motions:

1P. To ratify and affirm Ervis Mucka for the maintenance position with a stipend in the amount of \$4,900, effective January 5, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Last Day of Employment
Joleen Dickson	WSC	Fifth Grade Teacher	Retirement	06/30/2026

3P. To ratify and affirm the resignation of the following staff member:

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Last Day of Employment
Salvador Saavedra	AES	Part-Time Custodian	Resignation	01/06/2026

4P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following substitute staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Name	Position	Daily Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Elaina Ragusa	Substitute Teacher Substitute Aide	\$130 per day \$15.50 per hour	01/26/2026

5P. To approve the revised salaries for the following staff member(s) for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, effective February 1, 2026, previously approved on the August 21, 2025 board agenda:

Name	Location/ Position	Prorated Hourly Rate
Kayla Derrig	AES, Paraprofessional	\$20.00
Crystal Elie	AES, Paraprofessional	\$20.00

ROLL CALL

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CURRICULUM/PROGRAM - JANUARY 22, 2026**

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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motion:

1C. To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses*
Theodor Chomyszak	2026 NJAHPERD Annual Convention	Princeton, NJ	02/23/2026	Registration Fee: \$410.00 Personal Expenses: Cost of Mileage: \$ 52.68 Cost of Tolls: \$ 4.80
Brianna Salvemini	2026 NJAHPERD Annual Convention	Princeton, NJ	02/23/2026	Registration Fee: \$410.00 Personal Expenses: Cost of Mileage: \$ 52.68 Cost of Tolls: \$ 4.80
Rebecca Smith	School Partnership License - 1 year access (Inspiring Young Learners, LLC)	Virtual	1 year access	Membership Fee: \$347.00

* Reimbursement of mileage, meals, and incidentals (according to NJ per diem rates) to be paid pending completion of the workshop and submission of the travel report.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fede, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
POLICY - JANUARY 22, 2026**

The following policy 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 **Angela Altaai** Seconded by **Joseph Fede** to approve the following motions:

- 1PO. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation WSCS #3 2025-2026 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. To approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar for the Fairfield Public Schools. (See Attached)
- 3PO. To accept the first reading of the following policies and regulations as noted:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>
P 0142.01	Nepotism (M)	Revised
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)	Revised
P&R 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff (M)	New
P&R 2530	Resource Materials	Revised
P&R 2535	Library Material (M)	New
P 3362	Sexual Harassment (M)	Abolished
R 3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Compliant Procedure	Abolished
P 4352	Sexual Harassment (M)	Abolished
R 4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure	Abolished
P&R 9130	Public Complaints	Revised

ROLL CALL

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ENROLLMENT - JANUARY 22, 2026**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Students 6/30/2025</u>	<u>Students 1/16/2026</u>
Preschool Inclusive	27	17
Preschool Disabilities	10	16
Kindergarten	99	97
First	93	100
Second	94	87
Third	104	98
Fourth	84	106
Fifth	108	89
Sixth	110	107
Out-of-District	2	2
Charter School	3	3
Total	734	722

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2026**

The Board President will open the floor to 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 February 26, 2026, 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: **Joseph Fede**

Seconded by: **Melinda Street**

Time: **7:50 PM**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fede, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes

Ms. Bellise-Jandoli - Absent

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATE	DAY(S) OF THE WEEK	EVENT	TEACHER DAYS	STUDENT DAYS
2026				
August			1	0
31	Monday	First Day Meeting for Staff		
September			19	18
1	Tuesday	Second Day for Staff		
2	Wednesday	First Day for Students		
4	Friday	Labor Day Weekend - No School		
7	Monday	Labor Day - No School		
14	Monday	Two-Hour Delayed Opening for Students K-6 Professional Development for Staff (AM)		
15	Tuesday	Back to School Night - Stevenson		
16	Wednesday	Back to School Night - Churchill		
21	Monday	Yom Kippur - No School		
October			22	21
12	Monday	No School for Students Professional Development for Staff		
30	Friday	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff		
November			17	17
5, 6	Thursday & Friday	NJEA Convention - No School		
19, 23, 24	Thur., Mon., Tue.	Early Dismissal for Conferences		
25	Wednesday	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff		
26, 27	Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Recess - No School		
December			17	17
7	Monday	Two-Hour Delayed Opening for Students K-6 Professional Development for Staff (AM)		
23	Wednesday	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff		
24 - 31	Thurs. to Thurs.	Winter Break - No School		
2027				
January			19	19
1	Friday	New Year's Day - No School		
18	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School		
25	Monday	Two-Hour Delayed Opening for Students K-6 Professional Development for Staff (AM)		
February			18	18
12	Friday	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff		
15, 16	Monday & Tuesday	Presidents' Day Recess - No School		
March			19	19
17	Wednesday	Two-Hour Delayed Opening for Students Professional Development for Staff (AM)		
26	Friday	Good Friday - No School		
29 - 31	Monday to Wed.	Spring Break - No School		
April			20	20
1 - 2	Thursday & Friday	Spring Break - No School		
May			20	20
28	Friday	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff		
31	Monday	Memorial Day - No School		
June			15	15
1	Tuesday	Two-Hour Delayed Opening for Students K-6 Professional Development for Staff (AM)		
17, 18	Thursday & Friday	Early Dismissal for Students		
21	Monday	Last Day: Early Dismissal		
Total Days (including 4 emergency days):			187	184

Board Approved: January 22, 2026