

1 **MAPLE RUN UNIFIED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**2 **January 17, 2017 6:00 Fairfield Gymnasium 57 Park St. Fairfield, VT**3 **MINUTES**4 **Present for a Quorum:** James Farr, Steven LaRosa, Jack McCarthy (by cell phone) and Al Corey (via cell
5 phone), Michael Malone, Denise Smith, Nina Hunsicker, Nilda Gonnella-French, Mike L'Esperance.6
7 **Unable to Attend:** Martha Casavant-Ries8
9 **Administrators:** Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Jill Ballou, Central Office
10 Administrator; Julie Regimbal, Special Education Director; Michelle Spence, Early Education Coordinator;
11 Jason Therrien, SATEC Assistant Principal; Angela Stebbins, SATEC Principal; Joan Cavallo, SACS Principal;
12 Stacie Rouleau, SACS Dean of Students; Chris Mosca, BFA Principal; Shannon Warden, BFA Assistant
13 Principal; Heather Fitzgibbons, BFA Assistant Principal; Sean O'Dell, Interim Fairfield Principal; Leeann
14 Wright, NWTC Director; David Kimel, CPSC Manager.15
16 **Others:** Jeff Morrill, Bet Howrigan, Bennett Dawson, David Gaudette; see attached list.

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- 18 1.
- Call to Order**
- James Farr called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
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- 19 2.
- Agenda Review**
- Agenda item 8A. was removed from the agenda to be rescheduled at a future
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- 20 Board Meeting. No other changes were made.

21 **Michael Malone made a motion to approve the amended agenda; seconded by Steven LaRosa. The**
22 **motion passed unanimously.**23 3. **Pledge of Allegiance**24 4. **Visitors -**

- 25 A. Bet Howrigan presented another 125 signatures to the Board to show support for
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- 26 interim Principal Sean O'Dell staying on as Fairfield principal.

27 5. **Host Site**

- 28 A. Presentation – Interim Principal Sean O'Dell - Grady's Golden Goodness donated
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- 29 ingredients for the snacks provided for the Board and community.
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- 30 • Jaime Tibbets, outdoor classroom coordinator, invited two third grade students,
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- 31 Mania Tibbits and Jack Barney, to share a presentation on a Dairy in the Classroom
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- 32 unit and field trip to the Sweet Dairy Farm. Jaime then shared many events from
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- 33 this year's outdoor classroom including harvesting pumpkins and pressing cider.
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- 34 Seventh grade students Hannah Branon and Makenna Hughes shared slides about
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- 35 the high tunnel gardening units, and the cider pressing units. Unused plants from
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- 36 the high tunnel units are sold to the community to help raise funds to support the
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- 37 outdoor classroom. They shared the work they do raising chickens and the harvest
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- 38 dinner.
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- 39 • Bet Howrigan shared information on the program Fuel Up to Play 60, which
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- 40 supports children to move and play for at least 60 minutes a day. This program is a
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- 41 partnership between local farmers and the NFL. Hannah Branon, Lauren Kate
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- 42 Garceau and Kayleigh Branon shared their experiences at the Gillette Stadium Fuel
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- 43 Up to Play 60 event. Kayleigh shared her experience of when she was invited to
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- 44 Vikings Stadium Fuel Up to Play 60 event. Kayleigh won \$1,000 to support the
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- 45 development of a pizza garden at Fairfield school. Hannah was recognized for her
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- 46 role as ambassador.

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6. **Consent Agenda (Action)**

A. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2018

Consent agenda was adopted.

7. **Old Business**

A. Budget Approval – Business Manager Martha Gagner provided the Board with budget information that demonstrated the implications of limiting the education spending per equalized pupil to 2.5% and to 2.0%. Jim Farr asked building administrators to share what the impact of these adjustments would be. Joan Cavallo shared that these were adjustments that she could live with. Angela Stebbins shared that it would mean a 5% cut in student materials and that the reduction of a Kindergarten teacher should allow them to bring Pre-K into SATEC from Barlow Street. Creation of a PreK – K classroom would reduce class size and integrate another Pre-K into SATEC. Fairfield shared that their budget was lean and further cuts, if needed, are listed on the 2nd page. Chris Mosca shared that they can make the reduced math position through attrition and redesign of instructional intervention offers. Leeann Wright shared that cuts to supplies and co-curricular stipends will be slightly reduced to share one full time equivalent (FTE). Martha Gagner shared reductions made in Central Office lines. The Board discussed that the elimination of the Math teaching position is through attrition. Martha Gagner then shared the estimated tax rate information. With the proposed 2nd draft budget, the estimated tax rate would be \$0.7158 in St. Albans City; \$.6064 in St. Albans Town and \$.2140 in Fairfield. The tax rate increase over FY18 is estimated to be \$0.076 in St. Albans City; \$0.037 in St. Albans Town and \$0.027 in Fairfield. Kevin shared that the impact of the low yield still results in slightly increased tax rate. Going from a 3.1% to a 2.5 % increase in education spending per pupil saves very little in the tax rate, but that is the number printed on ballot and is the governor’s recommendation. Jim Farr discussed wanting to meet the 2.5 % threshold but concerned about limiting offerings at the high school. Michael Malone expressed concern about cutting teaching positions. The Board members discussed staying with the previous 3.1 % increase. Nina Hunsicker stated that she believes that they can sell a 3.1 % increase to the community. Michelle Spence and Angela Stebbins explained the possible PreK-K model and whether the reduction of the FTE in Kindergarten could be managed and improve capacity while reducing the student teacher ratio. Jim Farr asked the Board their thoughts on the tax benefits of reducing to a 2.5 % or keeping the 3.1% previous proposal. The Board needs to either adopt a budget tonight or have a special meeting. The consensus of the board was to adopt the previously proposed budget of \$54,529,488 which represents estimated tax rates, after Common Level of Appraisal adjustment, of \$0.7209 in St. Albans City; \$.6108 in St. Albans Town and \$.2155 in Fairfield. The tax rate increase over FY18 is estimated to be \$0.081 in St. Albans City; \$0.041 in St. Albans Town and \$0.028 in Fairfield.

Michael Malone made a motion to adopt a budget for FY19 of \$54,529,488; second by Denise Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

- 92 B. Warning Approval – Martha Gagner provided the Board with the revised Warning,
93 and indicated that Article VI would list \$54,529,488 as the total expenditure,
94 education spending of \$15,481 per equalized pupil, and the projected percentage
95 increase in spending per equalized pupil would be 3.16%.

96 **Michael Malone made a motion to approve the Warning as presented with \$54,529,488 as the total**
97 **expenditure, education spending of \$15,481 per equalized pupil, and the projected percentage increase**
98 **in spending per equalized pupil would be 3.16%; seconded by Michael L’Esperance. The motion passed**
99 **unanimously.**

100 8. **New Business**

- 101 A. Truancy Report -- Joanne Wells had provided the Board with a written history of the
102 Truancy Program in our district. This item was removed from the agenda.
103 B. Policy E20 Facility Use - Superintendent Dirth presented the policy and stated that
104 no comments or feedback had been received on this proposed policy. It was
105 discussed and will be brought to the first Board meeting in February for possible
106 adoption.
107 C. Discussion of Fairfield Center School Principal position - Jim Farr shared that the
108 board appreciated the community input relative to the principal position. He
109 emphasized that the board would make a decision after hearing the
110 recommendation of the superintendent. At that point, he turned it over to the
111 Superintendent, Kevin Dirth. Dr. Dirth stated that, after much thought and after
112 consideration of community input, the results of the climate survey, and a review of
113 the interim principal's performance since July 1, 2017, it was his recommendation
114 to change Sean O'Dell's title from "interim principal" to "principal"; effective
115 immediately.

116 **Mike L’Esperance made the motion to approve the new contract for Dr. Sean O’Dell as proposed;**
117 **second by Denise Smith. The motion passed unanimously.**

118 Jim Farr thanked Bet Howrigan for her groundwork to see if this would be approved in the community.

119 9. **Other Business**

- 120 A. **Warrants (Action)**

121 **Mike Malone made a motion to approve the warrants; second by Al Corey. The motion passed**
122 **unanimously.**

- 124 B. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Kevin Dirth reported that it is school
125 board appreciation month and read a resolution from the general assembly
126 thanking school board members and designating January 2018 as School Board
127 Appreciation month.

- 128 C. Administrator’s Report - Principal Sean O’Dell said his report is attached and
129 thanked the community and school board for their trust.

- 130 D. Principal/Director Voices

131 Dave Kimel invited the Board to Collins Perley for a youth cheerleading
132 competition event.

133 Leeann Wright updated NWTC professional development opportunities for
134 staff. She shared that there will be a Taste of Franklin County Event at City
135 Hall and that tickets are available.

136 Chris Mosca shared that the assessment schedule has been redesigned this
137 year so that students will not be leaving campus early as in past years, which

- 138 will allow students to better make up work and meet proficiency
139 requirements.
140 Michael Malone asked if Chris Mosca was pleased with the evacuation that
141 occurred at BFA. Chris Mosca responded that he was very pleased with the
142 way staff, students and police interacted to make it a smooth and safe
143 process.
144 Shannon Warden shared that on January 2nd in-service, Andrew Jones was a
145 presenter on proficiency based learning and reporting. They look forward to
146 working with him again.
147 Heather Fitzgibbons shared that the semi-formal winter ball will take place
148 this weekend as a fundraiser for the prom.
149 Joan Cavallo shared that she was pleased to work with teachers from each
150 school on writing prompts that will be used throughout the district.
151 Angela Stebbins announced that tomorrow at 7p.m. they will hold their
152 winter band concert. Next Thursday at 7 p.m. will be the winter chorus
153 concert. There will also be an early elementary arts night coming up on
154 February 15th.
155 Jason Therrien shared that between now and the end of February youth
156 leaders are focusing on practicing kindness. The student leaders put
157 together a video to highlight that work.
- 158 10. **Agenda Items for Future Meeting:**
159 Policy adoption on facility use, truancy presentation.
 - 160 11. **Potential Executive Session – No request for executive session**
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 - 162 12. **Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.
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 - 164 13. Respectfully Submitted,
 - 165 14. Brenda Comstock