

Fairfax School Board
Monday, June 13, 2022
Fairfax School Board Meeting Minutes

These minutes are not approved until accepted by the Fairfax School Board at their next meeting.

Present: Scott Mitchell, Megan Maddocks, Matthew Hogan, Elizabeth Noonan, Justin Brown, Tom Walsh, Geri Witalec-Krupa, Emily Aiken, Tamara Revoir, John Tague, Ella Stafford, Peyton Metruk

Public Present: Katrina Antonovich, Barb Murphy, Rob Rocheleau, Patti Shea, Sharon Renevieve Collum, Julie Filiberti, Ben Albee, Mike Theoret, Samantha Senna, Shannon Arzen, Jennifer Patterson, Emily Strum, Christine Maynard, Alan Maynard, Roy V. Hill, II, Tom Noble, Brian Sheldon, Isabelle Collum, Tessa Anderson, Kathy Connor, Michelle Noble, Amy Breene

1. Scott Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
2. **Approve Minutes** – *Motion by Matthew Hogan to approve the May 9, 2022, May 16, 2022 (LRFPC Meeting), and May 31, 2022 (LRFPC Meeting) minutes, with changes, approved unanimously.*
3. **Correspondence** – The Board received a lot of correspondence. Letter in support of a teacher, gun policy, flag policy, Maple Run Unified District.
4. **Public Comment** – Katrina Antonovich asked for clarification on pole vaulting, high jumping and why it is not allowed. Geri Witalec-Krupa explained that we do not have the facilities to do so or the access to such facilities. There are also no coaches qualified to teach this sport at this time. Barbara Murphy shared that the graduation banners around town are wonderful. Robert Rocheleau discussed the conversation at the last Board meeting regarding the flag policy. He stated that Matthew Hogan's resignation would be appropriate. Matthew Hogan discussed what his role is on the Board.
5. **Student School Board Representatives Reports** – Ella Stafford stated National Honor Society finished their projects and community service and elected new officials. Peyton Metruk discussed the last week of school which went very well and was fun. Ella stated the fall show will be Beauty and the Beast. Peyton stated there was an award ceremony.
6. **Statement from Chair** – Scott Mitchell discussed the behavior of the Board. He stated that the Board should be working together. The Code of Ethics will be reviewed at the Board Retreat. Scott asked that any responses be brought to the Board Retreat. Tamara Revoir wanted to make a statement. Scott stated they will be addressed at the next meeting.
7. **Board Business** –
 - a. New Hires – John Tague discussed the new hires.
Motion by Matthew Hogan to allow the Superintendent to make new hires from now through the August meeting, approved unanimously.
 - i. Thomas Smith, SPED-FWSU
 - ii. Sarah Wheeler, 3/4 Elementary School

- iii. Lauren O'Connor, Elementary SLP
 - iv. Erica Marcelino-Howard, PreK
 - v. Zach Smith, High School Science
 - vi. Megan Majercak, 5/6 Interventionist
 - vii. Jesse Gaudette, Flexible Pathways Coordinator
 - viii. Jojo Lynch, Elementary Classroom Teacher
- b. Flag Pole Policy – A second reading of the policy has been completed. Scott Mitchell read the policy in its current form. Megan Maddocks agreed that the policy is in line with the recent Supreme Court decision. Emily Aiken stated her view regarding the flag policy. Matthew Hogan discussed that the Board needs to review all aspects of race and racism. Matthew believes the policy limits the students' voices. Tamara Revoir believes the Board should take the advice of the lawyer and accept the policy as written. Emily asked the student reps what they have been hearing. Ella Stafford stated that some students are frustrated and disappointed. Ella states that Milton flies the BLM and pride flag and she likes seeing those. They asked why they can fly those flags and Fairfax cannot. Sharon Randall discussed a recent interaction regarding Black Lives Matter. Sharon believes the Board should not remain neutral. Sharon discussed her support for the flag. Genevieve Collum stated her thoughts regarding this matter. She thanked the Board for listening to the students. She discussed the hard work of the club and the backlash. She asked why other schools can fly this flag and we cannot. She referenced other schools that fly the Black Lives Matter flag. Julie Filiberti discussed democracy, the silencing of the students' voices. She offered suggestions for the policy such as a student council governing body. She suggests a second flagpole for the students to use to express themselves. Ben Albee stated he was impressed by the student voice at this meeting. He stated that he did not like how the word activist was being used. He believes the flag should remain. Mike Theoret stated he believes the school represents the community and should include everyone. He stated his support for flying the flag. Samantha Senna stated that she just moved to Fairfax and discussed her experience here and her decision to send her children to private school. Sharon Arzen stated her support for the flag. Jennifer Patterson stated her support for the policy as written. Emily Strum discussed an experience at the school this past fall. She asked the community to feel uncomfortable and discuss it. Christine Maynard stated that taking the flag down is harmful and there are children that are affected by this. She wants the children to leave Fairfax with perspective. Her daughter will be attending Winooski high school next year for her senior year. Al Maynard discussed his support for the flag. Roy V. Hill, II commended the Board and discussed Boards around the United States being attacked. Tom Noble spoke in support of the policy as written. Isabelle Collum read a statement regarding the Essex/Westford position on the flag, which currently flies the flag. Tessa Anderson acknowledges that everyone wants to do what's right for the kids. Tessa discussed her support for the flag. Kathy Connor discussed that the conversation is about the flagpole policy, not the flag itself. Kathy discussed her children's experiences here in Fairfax and her support for the flag. Michelle Noble discussed her support for the policy as written. Amy Breene agrees that this is about giving the students a voice. Patti Shea discussed her upbringing in Fairfax and experiences with friends of color. She expressed her support for the flag. Megan Maddocks would like the policy to include language for a second flagpole. Scott suggests an Equity and Equality committee. Matthew would like to see quotes and bids for a second flagpole. Matthew discussed the Board's position and his

disappointment. Megan discussed the process to get the second flagpole erected. Kathy asked if student reps can have a vote on future policies. Scott will research this topic. Ella stated she would not have voted for this policy and it does not represent the students.

Peyton Metruk stated she would also have voted against this policy. There was a discussion about keeping the flag up until a second flagpole issue is resolved.

Motion by Tamara Revoir to approve the policy as written, Emily Aiken opposed, Matthew Hogan opposed, motion approved.

Motion by Megan Maddocks to leave the flag up until the information regarding the second flagpole is available and a special meeting is held to discuss, Tamara Revoir opposed, motion approved.

- c. Plan Retreat – There was a discussion regarding the agenda for the Board Retreat. The Board Retreat will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 11am – 5pm. School Board Association discussion, diversity, equity and inclusion, written explanation from counsel regarding the flagpole policy, FA test score review.

- d. Puerto Rico & France Trips – Elizabeth Noonan asked the Board permission regarding field trips to both Puerto Rico and France.

Motion by Matthew Hogan to approve moving forward with a trip to France in April 2023 and a trip to Puerto Rico in May 2023 and no student shall be denied approval due to their inability to pay, approved unanimously.

- e. Capital Expense Request – *Motion by Matthew Hogan to approve the locker removal and replace with benches and hooks to be allocated from the capital fund, approved unanimously.*

8. **Reports –**

- a. Principals – Justin Brown sincerely thanked the staff, teachers and others who kept the place running. Tom Walsh echoes Justin’s sentiments. He stated that it was nice to welcome families into the school this year. Tom thanked the Board for the luncheon today. Geri Witalec-Krupa welcomed Peyton to the Student Representative Board. Geri congratulated the students for all their hard work. Elizabeth Noonan stated that FWSU formed a committee to pick a teacher of the year. Graduation was held last Saturday.
- b. Financials – *Motion by Matthew Hogan to accept the Tax Anticipation Note option 1 from Union Bank in the amount of \$2,325,000.00, approved unanimously.*
- c. Superintendent – 8th grade graduation and high school graduations were successful.
- d. Committees – LRFPC will meet next week. There was a discussion regarding the future needs of the school. Black River will pull together some sketches. Tamara Revoir believes there should be a plan in place in case the budget does not pass. There is an impasse with the teacher contracts. There will be a meeting with a mediator next week.
- e. Board Members – None.

9. **Other –** None.

10. **Plan Next Meeting & Agenda –** August 9, 2022 – Board Retreat

11. **Executive Session –** None.

12. **Adjourn –** *Motion by Megan Maddocks to adjourn at 10:01pm, approved unanimously.*



Flag Policy

1 message

Julie Filiberti <vtfiliberti@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 7:44 AM

To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Hi all,

I plan on coming to Monday's board meeting to speak about the proposed flagpole policy, but ahead of that, I wanted to be sure that you were aware of how Maple Run was handling flags on their flagpole. They recently raised the BLM flag at all of their schools. Attached is a link to their policy as well as a letter to their staff about what raising the BLM flag means.

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/218/MRUSD/2061716/F38_Flag_Raising_Policy.pdf

Thank you,
Julie Filiberti



2022.05.27 BLM Flag Raising & FAQs.pdf

273K



BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY/NCTC
FAIRFIELD CENTER SCHOOL
ST. ALBANS CITY SCHOOL
ST. ALBANS TOWN EDUCATIONAL CENTER



POLICY: FLAG RAISING

CODE: F38

Policy

It is the policy of MRUSD that the School Board may, from time to time, decide to fly a flag on school grounds, in addition to the United States and Vermont flags, in accordance with the criteria set forth below. In all cases, the raising and display of a flag on a school flagpole in this District shall remain a matter of the Board's discretion and shall be considered an expressive act of the School District itself. This Policy is not intended to and does not create a forum for speech by students or any members of the school community.

Criteria includes:

- The request to fly a flag must originate from a MRUSD student group.
- The flag must represent ideas that align with and support the current District Mission, Vision, & Core Values.
- The flag may not depict symbols or language that are understood to promote hate or the supremacy of one group over others.
- The flag may not include content that is vulgar, religious, commercial, or subject to trademark or similar restrictions.
- The flag shall remain on the school flagpole through the end of the school year and shall then be removed, unless the Board elects a different timeframe.
- The Board may invite comment from the community, including students.

School administration, in consultation with the School Board, will develop operating procedures to implement this Policy.

MRUSD Board

1st Reading April 6, 2022

Date Warned: April 15, 2022

Date Adopted: May 4, 2022



gun violence

1 message

jon <jon@jonbondy.com>
To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 9:46 AM

An interesting podcast, with some unconventional recommendations about sheltering in place and swarming the shooter.

<https://www.samharris.org/podcasts/making-sense-episodes/283-gun-violence-in-america>

Jon Bondy



Flag policy and related comments

1 message

Patricia Jedlicka <vtyogini@gmail.com>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: "fxboard@fwsu.org" <fxboard@fwsu.org>

I live in a neighboring town and many of the children in this town attend BFA Fairfax when they graduate from FES.

I've been following the flag policy discussion and must say I am deeply troubled to read in the May 9 school board minutes that one SB member has either directly commented or insinuated a belief that some members of the very board on which he sits on are 'racist' for not agreeing with the flag policy. I am making an assumption that the BLM flag will no longer be flown but your minutes are not clear and it does not appear that you have completely finalized what you are now going to call "the flag pole policy."

I believe the person who raised the concern regarding the code of behavior (or code of ethics) regarding the one board member who believes others may be 'racist' has a pressing concern that the Chair or your superintendent need to address quickly and decisively. I've lived in many places across the country and I have never seen anything so divisive to children as what occurs with the school board in Fairfax. I remember another discussion several meetings ago where parent expressed a concern about a teacher singling out the parents' child to discuss their politics. I see no follow up on THAT matter although I presume that a personnel matter would not be discussed 'publicly' at a SB meeting.

Is this really what you have devolved into? It's really shameful how partisan ideologies seem to interfere with what is best for ALL the kids at BFA and the community at large.

There are many ways to acknowledge and fight racism besides flying a flag. For people who are supposed to be educated and doing what is best for the kids, most of you sure don't act like it.

A Town of Fletcher resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



Gratitude for Mr. Pierce Karp

1 message

'Kathy Cotter' via Fairfax School Board <fxboard@fwsu.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 3:28 PM

Reply-To: Kathy Cotter <katluvbug80@yahoo.com>

To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Cc: Pierce Karp <pkarp@fwsu.org>, Tom Walsh <twalsh@fwsu.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to express my gratitude for an educator in the BFA/Fairfax school system, Mr. Pierce Karp. Mr. Karp is my child's 3rd grade teacher. But before I go into all the reasons why we LOVE Mr. Karp, I thought I would tell you a little bit about me and my family.

My husband and I were born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. We grew up in very dangerous and unsafe neighborhoods and went to even safer schools. When I say they were unsafe, they were overcrowded, there were metal detectors at all the entrances, we had hot metal boxes they called "portable classrooms" in the parking lots and 50-55 kids to ONE teacher, ONE teacher (I didn't not even know what a para-educator was until we moved here). We were always scared and as you can imagine this did not leave space for him and I to get a proper education. We had very turbulent, abusive, neglectful and unloving childhoods. When him and I met it was the one thing that connected us. We have now been together for 20 years, and married for 17 years this June AND we are only 41 years old! That should tell you something. We met and saved each other from continuing the cycle of trauma and we made it our life goal that if we had children we would raise them completely opposite of what we had as kids. Very quickly after we were married we had our first child, they just turned 16 this year. They go to BFA and Essex Tech. They are one of the smartest, kindest, most decent and caring humans I have ever met. I am more proud of them than they will ever know! We knew we wanted to get out of Vegas before they started school. So, Daniel and I spent the next 4 years educating ourselves, getting degrees and showing the world that you can come from nothing and STILL be and do anything you put your mind to. Cheesy side note: When people ask me who my hero is, I always tell them that my husband is. He went from running the streets, to homelessness, to then meeting me, turning his life around and graduating college with a business degree and now is an Area Director of a multimillion dollar plumbing/heating/propane supply house (not our personal company, unfortunately, we can't be that lucky:)). People meet him and would never know what he came from, I would like to think they'd say the same about me. When our child turned 4 we knew we did not want them to start school in Vegas so we did the only logical thing you can do and moved 2800 thousand miles

to Williston, Vermont. Keep in mind we only visited Vermont in July before we decided to move here, we should have come in February! We moved here because we knew our child and future children would have the best opportunities and have the pleasure of never knowing what it was like to go to a bad school or live in a bad neighborhood. Our first child went to Allen Brook and then Williston Central until 2017, that is when we bought our first house in Fairfax, VT and they started school at BFA/Fairfax. In between moving to Vermont in 2010 and moving to Fairfax we had our miracle child who is now 9 and goes to BFA/Fairfax and is in Mr. Karp's class. I tell you all this so you have context of who we are and what we come from. We have a very broad view of the world, and have appreciation for things that most people do not have.

Our 9 year old has only ever gone to BFA/Fairfax. She started kindergarten with Erica Green, who we loved! Then off to 1st grade she went with Ms. Mary who we also loved. What happened next no one was prepared for, March 2020, the dreaded COVID. I am immunocompromised so when it came time to choose to send them back to in person school for the 2020/2021 school year, Daniel and I made the tough decision to keep them remote for the entire school year. This is where I gained my true appreciation for our educators. Sure, they had online teachers who did the best they could with what they had, but let's be honest, as the parent who could work from home, I also became a 2nd and 9th grade teacher. This was the hardest year of not only my kids life but mine as well. My youngest developed debilitating general anxiety and separation anxiety and became acutely aware of how easy this virus could kill me, being immunocompromised. They would not leave my side and I slowly started seeing her revert emotionally and mentally which made teaching her very difficult. Luckily we found a child therapist and she has been a godsend, without her my child would not have been able to return to in person learning for their 3rd grade year.

In comes Mr. Karp, my child's 3rd grade teacher! Over the summer I sent him a full synopsis of my child's life up to that point, their learning styles, their anxiety issues and as a result their learning difficulties (can you say helicopter mom, guilty). I told Mr. Karp that it was going to be tough for them to leave me, and that I knew they were going to cry at drop offs and vice versa. I told Mr. Karp all about the anxiety my kid was feeling about being gone for a whole year and not knowing what being in real school was going to feel like. Mr. Karp only ever reassured me that it was going to be ok. Then we got to meet him in person for the teacher "meet and greet" he immediately put my worries and fears to rest. When I walked in and saw this young, bright eyed, eager teacher I knew we had hit the jackpot! He was funny, kind, smart and calm but had a way of commanding the room as an authority figure as well as a friend. I loved this about him. I knew my kid was going to be OK! We had a rough start but all along the way Mr. Karp would listen to me. Email after email he would listen and adjust whatever needed to be

adjusted for my child so that they felt comfortable and had the best opportunity for learning and growth. Whether that was moving them to a different spot on the rug, or allowing them a fidget when they got anxious, he always responded accordingly. If something came up in therapy and their therapist emailed Mr. Karp, he always took it so well and would do whatever he could to make sure my child was learning AND thriving. When my child was being bullied by another student he immediately took action. I knew my child was safe and well cared for while in his careful watch. Writing this today brings tears to my eyes because if you could have seen the kid that started third grade in Mr. Karp's class and the kid who is exiting third grade in Mr. Karp's class you would never know it was the same child! Mr. Karp has a way with these kids. He can relate to them on their level all while maintaining professionalism! He is not one person in front of them and another in front of adults. Mr. Karp is "what you see is what you get" and it is one of the many reasons we love him! He has taught my child so much and he is my favorite teacher out of all the teachers my kids have had, and they have had some great ones! My kid comes home daily and expresses joy and tells me everything that Mr. Karp has taught them in an exciting way. My kid loves Mr. Karp! Just this morning on our way into school out of nowhere they said, "you know I am so glad I get to have Mr. Karp next year, he is my favorite teacher"!

Mr. Karp has always been transparent with me and all the other parents. If he was going to bring in a Nintendo for fun day, he would email us. If he was going to let them watch a movie, he would email us. If ANYTHING out of the ordinary was going to take place, he would email us. I have always appreciated this about him. Mr. Karp truly cares for these kids and has a true gift. Mr. Karp is a rare gem in this world and the kids who are lucky enough to be taught by him will forever be changed. He is the kind of teacher that you hear about from your friends when they reminisce about a teacher who changed their life. I only wish I would have been lucky enough to have experienced this.

I understand there have been some accusations against Mr. Karp and I am here to tell you I will stand up for him anytime in any capacity, just like he did for my kid. Mr. Karp has never done anything to make me think he doesn't always have pure intentions and the best in mind for our kids. In fact, I believe that he is being targeted by the very parents he stood up to when their child was bullying my child and other children in his class. He spoke up, and did what was right and now he is being accused of something that did not happen. I have talked to my child about the incident and their story aligns with many of the other kids' story. Nothing happened. The only thing that is bothering my child is the fact that someone would say something poorly about Mr. Karp. I know that this is my opinion and I wasn't going to even mention this, I had planned on ONLY talking about all the positive things I have seen all year but I thought I would be doing a disservice to not only the kids in his class but the future kids of Mr. Karp's classes!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can do anything further. You now have my email address and my phone number is 702-460-1850.

Sincerely,

Kathy Cotter



BFA Flag Policy

1 message

Tom Noble <tomnoble75@gmail.com>

Wed, May 18, 2022 at 3:43 PM

To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Cc: jtague@fwsu.org, Michelle Noble <michellenoble49@gmail.com>

Members of the board,

I was unable to attend the last school board meeting where a potential flag policy was discussed, but have recently watched the recorded meeting. I drafted the attached letter to express my thoughts on the matter, which I think represent those of many people in town.

Thank you,
Tom Noble

Sent from my iPhone

 **BFA Fairfax Flag Policy.pdf**
94K

BFA Fairfax Flag Policy

To the members of the BFA Fairfax Schoolboard,

I am writing this letter to express my views on the proposed revision to BFA's flag policy. I was encouraged to hear the proposed changes which would result in the school only flying the United States and Vermont flags- I believe this is the correct stance for any public facility. Schools, like any other municipal facility, are owned by and intended to serve all residents- they should therefore remain neutral on controversial political issues. By the same reasoning that schools do not lead students in prayer (as this would be the school imposing religious beliefs on the students), the school should neither take positions on nor fly flags of social or political organizations. Flying a Black Lives Matter flag (or any other organization's flag) on the school grounds suggests an endorsement of that organization by the school and the town and that is entirely inappropriate. Even if you accept the dubious argument that I have heard made that the flag is just an expression of support for black people and not the organization's flag, it is still not appropriate for the school to take positions like this.

As for the argument that we are suppressing students ability to express themselves (as expressed by Mr. Hogan)- this is an absurd assertion. Not allowing a flag to be flown is in no way tantamount to silencing students. These students can do or say whatever they want, arrange and participate in events, wave signs- whatever they want. They just don't get to speak for the entire town, and flying the flag over the school suggests that is the position of the town.

I was not able to attend the last BFA Schoolboard meeting where the revised flag policy was discussed, but I did watch the recording after the fact. I found much of Mr. Hogan's behavior and statements deeply offensive. I find it incredibly inappropriate for a member of the school board to come to a meeting wearing a shirt advocating for a particular outcome on an issue before the board. But far more egregious was his position that anyone who disagrees with his position on the flag is a racist. He suggested a definition of racism in his statements, but this is the actual definition according to the Merriam Webster's dictionary- "A belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race." Suggesting that a school should not fly a political organization's flag in no way means that I or anyone else thinks my race is superior to other races. It means I believe that a vocal minority does not get to speak for the entire town. I grew up in this area and have never known it to be any kind of racist hotbed. This is a town full of good and decent people who don't deserve to be disparaged and insulted like that. The broad suggestion that this town is riddled with racists people and systems is not only insulting and offensive, it is ludicrous and ignorant.

From what Mr. Hogan said, he appears to buy in to a distorted and inaccurate history of our country and this state in particular. He mentioned something about 1619 which suggests he believes the thoroughly debunked version of American history presented in "The 1619 Project". While it is true that slave ships came to this country in 1619, to suggest that that represents the genesis of our country and that slavery was the primary reason why the United States was founded is to completely ignore the actual writings of our founders and to completely misread our history. I certainly hope this is not how the school is presenting American history to our children. For the record- our country was founded in 1776 and we should remember the opening to the second paragraph of our Declaration of Independence, which reads "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights..." No rational person can read

that as an endorsement of slavery. We should also understand that most residents of the northern colonies found slavery reprehensible- the only reason it was allowed to continue in the south was because they knew they couldn't resist the British without the southern states.

The 3/5 clause in the constitution is another widely mis-read and mis-represented part of our history that people like Mr. Hogan like to point to. The real reason for this was not that the northern states (who were pushing for them to not be counted at all) thought black people were less worthy human beings. The intent of this was to reduce the influence of the slave owning states (since representation in the House of Representatives is based on population). It was the slave owners that wanted the blacks to be counted one for one on the census because it would give them more voting power and allow them to perpetuate slavery. Vermont in particular was always an abolitionist state- read our state constitution, we banned slavery from the start. We should also recognize the steps this country has taken based on our own moral convictions to continue our progress toward achieving the aspirations of our Declaration of Independence (All men being created equal). From 1861 to 1865 we fought a civil war to rid ourselves of slavery and lost somewhere between 650,000 and 850,000 people in the process. Vermont sent many men to fight this war as did my own family. We have also enacted several pieces of civil rights legislation to make sure people are treated equally. We are no longer the nation of Jim Crow laws- not because some outside force made us change, but because we are nation of decent people that are continually trying improve and live up to the ideals stated in our Declaration of Independence. All of this seems to be either forgotten or willfully ignored by people pushing an agenda. I grew up believing that no one is inherently superior to anyone else and I believe that is true of most people in this area. We should be seeking to achieve Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a colorblind society where people are judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. What we should not be doing is dividing ourselves into racial blocks of oppressors and oppressed- all we achieve by doing that is tearing into societal wounds which we have been working for generations to heal. We cannot put blood guilt on all white people for the sins of previous generations- the result of that kind of retributational treatment as advocated by people like Ibram X. Kendi is more, not less racial animus.

Now, let's be clear about the actual flag in question and the organization it represents: Black Lives Matter (BLM) does little to nothing to actually improve the lives of black people. The founders of this organization have bilked donors of millions of dollars and used it to buy expensive houses- not to fund initiatives that would improve the lives of black people. Not to mention that there is video of one of their founders, Patrisse Cullors, describing them as "trained Marxist" and that early versions of their website called for "disrupting the nuclear family". I don't think those are things that our community should be supportive of. The main policy proposal that we have seen from this group is that police should be defunded. The rationale for this is that police are the main threat to the lives of black people. This is an absurd rationale based on the actual statistics- in 2019 a total of 13 black people were fatally shot by police nationwide. Compare that to the number of black people murdered in our nation's large cities on any given weekend and it quickly becomes apparent that police are not the biggest threat to black lives (Chicago alone reported 785 homicides of black people in 2021). Statistics also show that in places where BLM's preferred policy prescription has been applied, crime (homicides in particular) have gone up, not down. I could support an organization that advocated doing something about gang violence and the breakdown of families- because those things would actually help save black lives- but that's not what BLM does. Rather, BLM enriches its leadership, sows discord, and pushes policies that hurt, not help black lives.

In summary, this organization is not what it claims to be and is not any kind of force for good. Even if it was, the school should not endorse any political organization (and yes by advocating policy prescriptions, BLM is political). Flying an organization's flag IS an endorsement and we should have clear policy like what was presented in the meeting prohibiting it. I would feel the same even if it was an organization I agree with- would Mr. Hogan feel the same if this was an NRA flag or a Pro-life organization's flag? I suspect not. But then again, I guess I'm a racist for not agreeing with him...

Sincerely,

Tom Noble



Dangerous Precedent

2 messages

Revoir, Tamara <trevoir@fwsu.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 3:18 PM

To: Fairfax School Board <fxboard@fwsu.org>, John Tague <jtague@fwsu.org>, "Noonan, E" <enoonan@fwsu.org>, Justin Brown <jbrown@fwsu.org>, Tom Walsh <twalsh@fwsu.org>

Fellow Board members and Fairfax Admin,

The accusations of racism at last Monday's meeting set a dangerous precedent. Matt Hogan's statement that "a vote for the flag policy would be considered an act of racism" was clearly an effort to intimidate the rest of the board into adhering to his ideological beliefs. He was telling us that he is right on this issue, and if we disagree, we are wrong.

There is no way to respond to that accusation. Trying to defend ourselves only gives it legitimacy, and it has none. Understand this, some may see it as a call for "action" against a board member they now view as "racist", because they strongly identify with Matt's intolerant views. It may fall under free speech but it has predictable consequences.

Furthermore, this event was one more example of how politicizing our school is dangerous and unethical. I have tried to highlight for the board that many Fairfax residents and parents disagreed with the board's decision to fly the BLM flag last year. During board meetings and other public discussions, we have witnessed individuals pass judgement that their community and town are racist. This type of blanket judgement lacks any real knowledge of the people they are accusing. The community members have seen this board passively observing while these comments have been leveled on the town of Fairfax, as a whole, with no proof.

The use of this irresponsible and dangerous rhetoric to influence a vote also emboldens the loud ideological minority that Matt is a part of, and highlights how we have cheapened a very serious word by using it as a political or ideological bludgeon. We risk creating an environment at school where only fringe ideas are considered acceptable. And now, an elected board member, who should be considered a role model for our students, has given activist students license to call anyone that disagrees with them a racist.

Our children and students should not be pawns in this ideological debate, and I will measure my success as a board member on my ability to re-orient our educational priorities to serve the best interests of all of the kids of this community.

Thank you,
Tammy Revoir

Mitchell, Scott <smitchell@fwsu.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 4:40 PM

To: "Revoir, Tamara" <trevoir@fwsu.org>

Cc: Fairfax School Board <fxboard@fwsu.org>, John Tague <jtague@fwsu.org>, "Noonan, E" <enoonan@fwsu.org>, Justin Brown <jbrown@fwsu.org>, Tom Walsh <twalsh@fwsu.org>

Board Members,

This is not the forum for this. Please end all correspondence via email immediately. This needs to be done in a Public Meeting and not through email.

Should you have an item which you wish to be put on the agenda, reach out to me or John.

Scott

[Quoted text hidden]



Proposed Ethics Discussion

1 message

Maddocks, Megan <mmaddocks@fwsu.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To: Fairfax School Board <fxboard@fwsu.org>, E Noonan <enoonan@fwsu.org>, Justin Brown <jbrown@fwsu.org>, Tom Walsh <twalsh@fwsu.org>, Geri Witalec-Krupa <gwitalec@fwsu.org>

Hello Scott, John, et al.,

Writing to express my concerns over Matt's behavior during the last board meeting. First and foremost I must make it clear that my concerns are not related to the perceived difference of opinion; my concerns are regarding the manner in which the public discourse occurred. We are in a position to not only model behavior for our community, but for the students as well. Both interruptions and threats and/or allegations cannot be our mode of operation. All opinions are welcome, and it is imperative we treat each other with respect, especially when we disagree, because this will perpetuate a learning culture and in turn growth and understanding in our community.

Perhaps a next step is to review the code of ethics during our upcoming retreat and discuss what these items mean to us in practice.

Thank you,

Megan



Concerns about uncivil discourse at Monday's board meeting

1 message

Jennifer Patterson <straycatpatterson@gmail.com>
To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:41 PM

To the Fairfax School Board:

I am writing to express my objections to the behavior of an elected board member at the public school board meeting on Monday May 9, with regard to the flag policy.

I was home with a sick child so I could not attend the meeting on 5.9.2022. I watched the recording instead. After the proposed flag (pole) policy was presented, Mr. Matthew Hogan shared some comments. The quote that I find most objectionable is: "A vote 'yes' for this policy is, and will be viewed as, an act of racism."

I believe the new policy helps ensure that all students feel welcome and included, and I appreciate the time and care that Mr. Tague and our school board members have put into drafting it. Some students feel marginalized and offended by the BLM flag, and that is not consistent with our school community values. The new policy sticks to common ground among all school community members. It does not treat anyone differently based on grounds of color, race, or ethnic or national origins, therefore the policy does not logically qualify as an "act of racism." Mr. Hogan's statement to other board members was defamatory and out of line.

Board members are elected by the people in this community to vote according to their best judgment. Attempting to influence other board member's votes via **slander** is, at the very least, unethical and uncivil behavior, and I wonder if it's legal.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Patterson
802-881-8599
jenniferpatterson802@gmail.com



May 9th Meeting

1 message

Samantha Senna <samanthasenna18@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 2:31 PM

To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Hello,

We just moved to Fairfax this past month with the highest hopes for a political free, non-discriminatory, equality driven, "old fashioned" school district. My children have spent their entire schooling career in a school that thrived off bullying and injustice, Milton Elementary. There was not a day that went by that my young, elementary aged children were not absolutely tortured by other kids in that school. I would love to say that the faculty was active in implementing justice on this matter, but that would be a lie. That school is a living hell.

We come from a mixed race family and are not strangers to the bit of racism that still exists in America today. However, it was not until BLM protests began rioting across America and being publicised on TV that my family members started being victims. My own cousins who are Hispanic no longer speak to my 7 and 10 year old because they are "inherently racist" solely because they are white. My children were never raised to hate or discriminate against ANYONE, despite: gender, race, ethnicity, disability, language, social economic class. Our own family ripped at the seams due to a group that was intended for good.

When I got word of the BLM flag being removed from the school's flagpole I was overjoyed, I thought "is it actually possible that a school wants to eliminate hate?". I personally do not believe BLM sends the right message to children and has single handedly created immense division in our society. We have personally experienced it. I believe everyone is entitled to freedom of speech but having the BLM flag, or any flag for that matter being displayed up next to our country and state flag is uncalled for. Showing universal support for a movement that is committing exactly what it stands against.

As far as the school board is concerned, Matt Hogan deliberately called you all racist and anyone who supports taking the flag down racist. I would encourage Matt to take that energy and feed it into a movement that strives for equality. It is so important to remember what racism is and that it does not discriminate. There is nothing saying that racism is specific to black Americans. I would also encourage you to do some research on BLM as an entirety and see what they are recently up to. I am positive there is a more productive way to preach your message that I hope is "equality". I also hope that you can remember why you signed up for the school board and remember how you are supposed to behave/present yourself. Your acts at this past board meeting were painful

to watch and were the very thing you say you are working against. There are better ways to get your point across and better ways to represent the community you are so passionate about protecting. I would also offer you to consider the importance of a simple flag hanging if it was for a different organization. Would you be open to allowing all organizations to fly flags at our school?

I am hopeful that the school board will make a decision that has the best interest of the students and the community at mind. Looking forward to an equal opportunity America and BFA Fairfax (someday).

Thanks for your time,
Samantha Senna
802.324.5570



Flag Policy

1 message

Julie Filiberti <vtfiliberti@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 7:44 AM

To: fxboard@fwsu.org

Hi all,

I plan on coming to Monday's board meeting to speak about the proposed flagpole policy, but ahead of that, I wanted to be sure that you were aware of how Maple Run was handling flags on their flagpole. They recently raised the BLM flag at all of their schools. Attached is a link to their policy as well as a letter to their staff about what raising the BLM flag means.

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/218/MRUSD/2061716/F38_Flag_Raising_Policy.pdf

Thank you,
Julie Filiberti



2022.05.27 BLM Flag Raising & FAQs.pdf

273K

Dear Students,

In the spring of 2021, the Board approved a request to raise the Black Lives Matter Flag and gave approval to fly the flag until there was a flag policy in place and then reassess any request.

On May 9, 2022, the Board had the first reading of a flag policy (attached below) where only the American and Vermont State flags will be raised on the District flagpoles. The board moved this policy forward with minor corrections to be presented at our next meeting on June 13, 2022 for its second reading. If adopted, the only flags raised on the District flagpoles will be the American and Vermont State flags. We know there are many ways beyond the use of a flagpole for students to express their beliefs and passions and encourage you to work with faculty and administration to explore these avenues.

The Board encourages student expression. We believe the board is successful only if BFA Fairfax prepares you for your next step, once you leave us. We will continue to support student needs and encourage you to share projects with us.

We look forward to watching you grow within the school and what you will achieve when you leave.

Sincerely,
The BFA Board of Directors

Fairfax Town School District

FLAGPOLE POLICY

Warned: May 9, 2022

Adopted:

Under state statute, the Fairfax Town School District (FTSD) is a municipality and a government body. Therefore, it is the policy of the FTSD that District flag poles are a forum of government speech, thereby maintaining the distinction between government speech and private speech by students and community members. The FTSD Board, as a government entity, determines its speech through the actions of the Board. The speech of the Board is not controlled or limited by any individuals other than the elected members of the Board.

The District's flagpoles are under the control and management of the District and it is impermissible to fly any flag other than the United States and Vermont flags.

Statement from the Chair

Since our last meeting I have been troubled by the actions of individual members of this Board and I have to address members of this Board who do not appear to want to adhere to the Code of Ethics that was signed only 3 short months ago. From board members conducting independent fact finding missions around specific classes being taught in the High School to others accusing the board of acting in a racist manner should we vote in a certain way.

Let me state clearly, This needs to stop!

We all bring our individual experiences to this board and our own views, for if we all saw things through the same lens change and advancement would never occur. However, we are here to work together in a collaborative manner to support the students, school and community as one entity, and not 5 individuals. To that end, you are not parents who serve on the School Board, you are a School Board member that is a parent, you are not activists that serve on the School Board, you are a School Board member that is an activist. This may sound like the same thing, I assure you it is not. What I am asking is difficult, as a parent you always want to put your children first and as an activist your cause, but as a school board member, part of our work is to prioritize that responsibility, as an elected official and to take into consideration how our actions and decisions affect all students, not just yours or a select few.

I said at our last meeting and I reiterate, we do not curtail free speech and I encourage each member of this Board to do so in a respectful manner. I do not expect us to always agree, but I do expect in times of disagreement we treat each other with dignity and respect. I also said in our last meeting that I was not prepared to respond to a question from a board member, I did not do this to deflect from another members statements, but rather to reflect on what was said and to critically analyze the statement made, if we expect our students to be critical thinkers they should expect the same from us.

We were elected as stewards for this school district, by voters who put their trust in us. I would ask that all of you to take this into consideration as we move forward from here. With that said, at our August retreat, we are working to get a representative from the Vermont School Board Association to come in to speak on the work of Vermont School Boards. Additionally, we will also be reviewing the code of ethics that we all signed and addressing any questions you may have about it.

France Trip Proposal for the School Board

Purpose- to offer students studying French the opportunity to travel to France, see historic and culturally significant sites, attend a French high school and experience typical French culture with a French family, deepening their cultural understanding and expanding their language ability.

Description- Travel from Burlington to Paris by plane, then from Paris to La Rochelle by train to spend 6 nights with host families in the medieval port city of La Rochelle. Students will attend classes with their exchange partner in the morning, and spend afternoons exploring the city of La Rochelle. After returning to Paris, they will spend the last 3 nights at a hotel in the Latin quarter of Paris, sightseeing on a tour organized by Milne Travel. Meals in La Rochelle will be covered by host families (lunches at the school cafeteria or in host home) and breakfasts included with the hotel. Lunches and dinners in Paris will be decided while sightseeing. Travel arrangements will be through Milne Travel.

Details- Students who are sophomores and up and have two semesters of French (or the equivalent proficiency through online work) are eligible for this trip. They will need to participate in French club leading up to the trip in order to practice speaking, plan activities for hosting students from France, and to do fundraising. Students will need to host a student from France and will stay with that student when they go to France. Ideally, the school in La Rochelle prefers that the exchange be reciprocal with the host families (and wouldn't pay a stipend). If a BFA student would like to participate in the exchange but cannot host a student in March, I will ask them to find another family in our community to host the student (and make sure that this is okay with the organizers in La Rochelle.)

Dates- Tentatively, students from France will visit in March and stay with host families in Fairfax, and students from Fairfax will travel to stay with their exchange partners in April.

Cost- the trip in 2020 was \$1500, plus miscellaneous expenses while in Paris. The trip in 2023 will likely cost more due to higher travel costs, however, I will try to keep the cost as affordable and equitable as possible through fundraising.

Travelers- French teacher, 1 adult chaperone, and ideally between 10-15 students.



Fwd: American Dream Request

1 message

Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 10:57 PM

Revoir, Tamara <trevoir@fwsu.org>

To: John Tague <jtague@fwsu.org>, "Truso, Candace" <ctruso@fwsu.org>

Please include this email chain in the official minutes. I passed this out during my discussion with Scott.
Thank you
Tammy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Revoir, Tamara** <trevoir@fwsu.org>

Date: Tue, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Subject: Re: American Dream Request

To: Mitchell, Scott <smitchell@fwsu.org>

CC: John Tague <jtague@fwsu.org>

Scott and John,

So we can move forward, here is the response from VSBA Executive Director, Sue Ceglowski, on whether I retain an individual right to ask for public information from the school:

"To answer your question, I am not aware of any legal prohibition on one's right to request public records upon election to public office."

Furthermore, pursuant to the Vermont Public Records Act, anyone can request public records and a statement of purpose is not required. The pushback I have received in my request for public records is in violation of the Vermont Public Records Act and, now, the guidance of the VSBA.

In the future, I will use my personal email account to request public information (for individual education or use) from the school. If you have any continuing reservations or objections about that method for requesting public information, I suggest we consult the school's lawyer for a formal and united position.

I look forward to our meeting on Monday,
Thank you,
Tammy

On Mon, May 2, 2022 at 10:59 PM Mitchell, Scott <smitchell@fwsu.org> wrote:

Hey Tammy,

I consider this issue closed as you now have the information you requested. Should you have any requests in the future I would like to address these in open session with the input from the Board.

As to the Code of Conduct item 2 under operations states Board Members will "Act only as a member of the board and not assume any individual authority when the Board is not in session, unless otherwise directed by the Board." You told me you were engaged in fact finding, which falls under the authority of the Board.

Again, thank you for your service on the Board, we greatly benefit from differing views to better serve the students and the community.

Scott

On Mon, May 2, 2022 at 9:33 AM Revoir, Tamara <trevoir@fwsu.org> wrote:

Hi Scott,

I appreciate the effort you put into crafting these responses. However, after our discussion on Friday, I was specifically looking for the law/rule/statute that supports your interpretation of school board member's roles and limitations. You stated, in the phone call, that my effort to get public information on individual classes, either as a board member OR parent, is not allowed. You agreed in your answer to #4 that class syllabi and reading lists are considered public information. Public information (pursuant to Vermont Public Records Act, found in 1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320) means it is available to all members of the public, unless there is a specific exemption for it to be withheld such as personal private information. If that is the case, the superintendent must provide the exact exemption he is using to withhold the information.

Bottomline Scott, I need to know the specific law/regulations/statute you are referring to that limits my individual rights as a school board member or as a parent. In addition, on Friday you accused me of violating the school board member code of conduct, and I need to know exactly what element of the code of conduct you are referring to, since you are questioning my conduct. If you are referring to the Code of Ethics statement "Act only as a member of the board and do not assume authority as an individual in school matters when the board is not in session," I interpret this statement to mean "authority" in relation to implementation of policy, guidance, rule, or regulation. I do not read it as limiting my ability to access public information to better inform myself as a board member. I also do not interpret that as a limitation on my personal parental rights to access public information solely because I am a School Board member. If that is how you are interpreting it, then I would formally request a legal opinion to justify that assertion.

I look forward to your responses and I expect this will be on the agenda for Monday (specific topic: "the rights and limitations of school board members").
Thank you for your service as well,
Tammy

On Sun, May 1, 2022 at 9:45 PM Mitchell, Scott <smitchell@fwsu.org> wrote:

Hey Tammy,

Below are the written responses you requested.

1. As a parent, tax payer and/or school board member, I am not allowed access to the syllabus and reading list for a class that my own student is required to take at our public school. If yes, please provide an explanation that I can provide to parents.

- What you reference are 3 different stakeholders is the students education
 - We encourage parents of students in a class to engage with teachers and administrators and bring any concerns to them. Parents are a very important part of their student's education and reviewing the syllabus and reading with their students is very beneficial.
 - Taxpayers elect representatives to oversee the vision and the spending of the school and act in a semi-judicial manner when needed.
 - School Board members are these elected officials tasked with the oversight of spending and the execution of the vision of the school and alignment with the mandates set by the Legislature. This is done as an entity of which that member belongs and the School Board member shall not act unilaterally and without authorization from the School Board.
- Should a taxpayer, community member or parent have concerns that are brought to an individual member of the Board, it is the responsibility of that member to pass these concerns on to the Superintendent or the Board Chair to review and possibly bring forward for the Board to address in open session

2. As a school board member, I am required to ask the board chair for permission to access any syllabus and reading list of any course taught at our public school. If yes, please provide a more thorough explanation than above, because I believe that visibility into curriculum is integral to setting priorities and a vision. I was elected by other parents in this district to represent their concerns with the current "vision" for our school and I need to be able to educate myself on the facts behind these concerns.

- Yes, as operations is not part of our purview, there should be no need for specific review of course syllabi or reading lists. If there is a belief by a board member that there needs to be a review of these materials this should first be brought to the Superintendent and the Board Chair so that it can be added to an agenda and be addressed in open session. Upon discussion in open session the Board can then decide if it needs to form a committee in order to take part in fact finding and review and report those findings back to the full board.
- Currently, we receive reports from the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and the Principals on a regular basis regarding the vision and priorities that we have set as a Board, should a member of the board wish these reports to be enhanced we can look to integrate the needed information into the monthly reports we receive.

3. Parents are required to ask the school board chair if they have questions about the classes their children take at the public school. And may only get answers if it is an Agenda item on the board. If yes, then please provide the regulations that set out that expectation so the public and parents are more fully aware.

- Of course not, as I stated in the answer to the first question, we encourage parents to speak with the teachers of classes their students attend and also interact with the Administration if they have concerns about a class or member of the faculty.

4. Is what I have asked for, in your opinion (syllabus and reading list) public Information or not? Why?

- It is not private or privileged information as it is provided to students and parents when a student is taking a class.

Thank you for your service to our community by serving as a board member. I hope I have been able to provide some clarity by answering your questions.

Scott

On Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 8:50 AM Revoir, Tamara <trevoir@fwsu.org> wrote:

Scott and John,

I need a few quick answers in writing and then I would like to discuss this with you both in person or on the phone. I am surprised at the reluctance to release a simple reading list (regardless of inevitable yearly modifications) from a required course taught to our children, especially after our discussion about transparency following the last board meeting. Please provide answers the below questions:

1. As a parent, tax payer and/or school board member, I am not allowed access to the syllabus and reading list for a class that my own student is required to take at our public school. If yes, please provide an explanation that I can provide to parents.
2. As a school board member, I am required to ask the board chair for permission to access any syllabus and reading list of any course taught at our public school. If yes, please provide a more thorough explanation than above, because I believe that visibility into curriculum is integral to setting priorities and a vision. I was elected by other parents in this district to represent their concerns with the current "vision" for our school and I need to be able to educate myself on the facts behind these concerns.
3. Parents are required to ask the school board chair if they have questions about the classes their children take at the public school. And may only get answers if it is an Agenda item on the board. If yes, then please provide the regulations that set out that expectation so the public and parents are more fully aware.
4. Is what I have asked for, in your opinion (syllabus and reading list) public Information or not? Why?

Separately, I still would like to meet with Randy about the budget, and I apologize in advance if I also require permission from Scott for that request. Time is getting short before the next meeting.

Thanks,

Tammy

On Tue, Apr 26, 2022 at 9:50 PM Mitchell, Scott <smitchell@fwsu.org> wrote:

Hey Tammy,

John made me aware of a request you made for a syllabus list for the American Dream and said you are now asking for the reading list for the class. This request is out of the purview of the School Board as we do not set curriculum.

The Board sets the priorities of the School and the Vision moving forward. That vision is reflected in our mission statement "Committed to ensure all students become informed, literate, critical thinkers, who demonstrate responsible social and civic behaviors." It is left to the Administrators and Educators we hire to execute on this vision. If you wish to discuss the vision and priorities of the school we can do this at a meeting of the Board.

If you or any parent have specific questions or concerns that the Board should address I am happy to discuss and if warranted add to the Agenda for the Board to consider.

From my understanding you were provided the syllabus for the class, which in my opinion, you should not have been granted as it is out of the purview of the School Board. Additionally, it is my understanding that reading lists change from year to year and what my senior read when he was a Freshman is not necessarily what my Sophomore did when she was. This can be attributed to different teachers and a change from pre-pandemic to pandemic, there are many mitigating factors and education is not static.

If you wish to have a further discussion on this please let me know and I will make myself available. In the meantime I have instructed John not to have any administrator furnish any syllabus to any Board member without notifying me of the request and the reason for it.

Scott
(802)309-8974

June 1, 2022

Kerri Brien
Bellows Free Academy Fairfax
75 Hunt Street
Fairfax, VT 05454

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been the Spanish Teacher at BFA Fairfax for nine years and have proposed Spanish cultural trips in the past, but never have had enough students interested in travel to run a trip. **I'm writing today to propose a short student trip to Puerto Rico next year, May 1-5, 2023!** Spanish program students who will be Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors next year (2022-2023) will be eligible. Students will primarily experience the authenticity of hearing and speaking Spanish as they interact at museums, markets and restaurants in a Spanish-speaking country. Students will explore how history and culture in Puerto Rico informed historical sites and architecture in the capital city of San Juan. Students will explore the international tropical island features of a rainforest, botanical gardens, a bioluminescent bay and island snorkeling.

The authentic intercultural experience of international travel and language communication makes world language-learning meaningful and practical for students. This past school year my students were involved in trying to spear-head a connection with a school in Puerto Rico for communication practice and possible future travel, and we spent a lot of time exploring cultural highlights and figures from the country. That connection hasn't come to fruition which made students and I very frustrated, but some students are still interested in Puerto Rico travel. Although I do not have the preferred ten minimum students, as has happened in the past, I would still like to offer this opportunity to the four students and their parents that expressed interest. My reasoning is that the Spanish program at BFA Fairfax has seen a disappointing decline in student enrollment over the past three years. The committed students that do continue are highly motivated students who are excelling in Spanish listening and speaking communication. This Puerto Rico travel experience would boost these students' proficiency in speaking and listening!

Attached please find a full proposal form. Students would travel to Puerto Rico with the travel company Explorica. We achieved a low total cost per student by participating along with other schools on a joint tour. The pricing includes round-trip airfare from Burlington, hotel lodging, breakfast and dinners, guided sight-seeing tours with an Explorica director, some tips and overnight security chaperone. To make this trip equitable, my students and I would run a full-year returnable bottle collection, offer car cleaning (at least outside if not interior vacuuming) in the Spring and sell baked goods after school hours or ask to do one of the Coffee House concessions.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerri Brien', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kerri Brien
Spanish Teacher 8-12
BFA Fairfax



BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

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Fax 802-849-2611
www.bfafairfax.com

John T. Tague, 9-12 Principal
Justin Brown, 5-8 Principal
Thomas J. Walsh, Pre K-4 Principal
Geri Witalec-Krupa, Director of Student Activities



OVERNIGHT AND OUT OF STATE TRIP PROPOSAL

Please complete the following form for approval of overnight trips.

This proposal must be approved by the School Board XXXXX months in advance of the trip.*

Location of Trip: Puerto Rico

Dates of Trip: May 1 - 5, 2023

Proposal Submitted By: Kerri Brien, Spanish Teacher

I. Overview: Please give a general description of the purpose for travel and the target student group for the trip.

Students: *past and present Spanish program students who have had at least one semester of Novice Spanish by the end of 2022 school year (Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors).*

Purpose: *Students will primarily experience the authenticity of hearing and speaking Spanish as they interact at museums, markets and restaurants in a Spanish-speaking country. Students will explore how history and culture in Puerto Rico informed historical sites and architecture in the capital city of San Juan. Students will explore the international tropical island features of a rainforest, botanical gardens, a bioluminescent bay and island snorkeling.*

Note: Students' parents are invited on this tour.

II. Transferable Skills: Please list all Transferable Skills and their Priority Indicators that students will be addressing as a part of the proposed travel experience. (Before trip, during travel, summative reflection, etc)

Proficiency 1: Clear and Effective Communication

Priority Indicator: Demonstrate organized and purposeful communication in Spanish before and during travel.

Proficiency 3: Creative and Practical Problem Solving

Priority Indicator: Observe and evaluate situations in order to define problems in a new culture and country during travel.



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Geri Witalec-Krupa, Director of Student Activities



VII. Fundraising: What are your anticipated fundraising plans?

If permitted, bake sale after school hours and/or asking to host Coffee House concessions
Collecting bottle returns all school year with labeled bins around MS and HS (and possibly ES)
Spring: car cleaning, definitely exterior; possibly vacuuming interior.

VIII. Homestay Information: (if applicable) To ensure the safety of our students, it is imperative that host families be screened. Depending on the location, background checks may require different processes. What process will be put in place to ensure host families have a background check?

n/a

IX. Other comments: (school work requirements built into trip)

n/a

Approved

Denied

Signature of Board Member _____ Date _____



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Justin Brown, Middle School Principal
Elizabeth Noonan, High School Principal
Thomas J. Walsh, Elementary Principal
Geri Witalec-Krupa, Director of Student Activities

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Mitchell, Chair Megan Maddocks, Clerk Emily Aiken Matt Hogan Tamara Revoir
Ella Stafford, Student Rep Janaya Parsons, Student Rep



BFA Fairfax Elementary School Board Report June 14, 2022

I want to express my appreciation to every staff member in this school. There are no words to adequately show how grateful I am for their selfless dedication to our community, our students, and families. They are remarkable people who make a positive and profound impact on our children every day.

Proficiency-Based, Personalized Learning:

Classroom Placement Update Information to Families- *As the past two years have shown, circumstances arise that require us to be flexible and responsive. We continue to experience increased enrollment of students in Grades 3 and 4 for next year. The new enrollment numbers warrant the addition of another classroom to provide more manageable class sizes and allow for additional spaces for summer enrollment in these grades.*

The School Board has authorized me to reassign current staffing to create another classroom teaching position. We have had some teachers who have decided not to return to their positions in the last several weeks, so I am exploring how to use those positions to meet the need at this time for an additional classroom teacher. Our primary need is for an additional Grade 3 classroom teacher to loop with this class for the next two years.

As you are also aware, we have no more classroom space in the elementary school wing. Therefore, we will be rearranging classrooms to accommodate this need. The elementary staff have been amazing partners as we collaborate to meet the needs of all our students.

*Due to continued student growth in our school, we will not share student placements until the **beginning of August**. We want to use the summer to ensure our placements and classroom space can accommodate all students. These classroom placements will be final.*

New Hires:

Grade 3/4- Sarah Wheeler
Elementary SLP- Lauren O'Connor
.5 FTE Pre K- Erica Marcelino Howard
Elementary Classroom Teacher- JoJo Lynch

Distributed Leadership and Student Agency:

Recognition of Grade 4 Students- We had three opportunities last week to gather with families, students, and staff to recognize and celebrate our students in Grade 4 and mark their transition to middle school. It was really great to see our families and to connect as a learning community.

Safe, Equitable, Healthy, Flexible Learning Environments:

Summer Learning- We have extended invitations to approximately 100 students to attend our Summer Learning program. We continue to hire staff to support the program. This program will be offered at BFA Fairfax Elementary School three times a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays), from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, from July 12 to July 28. Transportation will be offered to support student access to the summer program. Breakfast and lunch will also be available.

Variety Show- Students participated in the Variety Show on Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 9 from 1:30 pm - 2:40 pm in the ES Gym. A big thank you to Mary Mullahy and JoJo Lynch for facilitating this fun and valuable experience. It was fantastic to see our students showcase their talents and to have families here in the building participating in this event..

Field Days- We had a great day at our annual Field Days on Monday, June 06. A big thank you to Heather Weeks, the Unified Arts team, and our amazing high school volunteers. It was fantastic to see our students interacting with our high school students.

Engaged Partners: Parents and Community:

Elementary All-School BBQ- Genuine Foods did a fantastic job at our Elementary BBQ on June 7. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout of families that joined us for lunch outside on the hill. It was really great to be together.



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Ph 802-849-6711
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www.bfafairfax.com

Justin Brown, Middle School Principal
Elizabeth Noonan, High School Principal
Thomas J. Walsh, Elementary Principal
Geri Witalec-Krupa, Director of Student Activities



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Mitchell, Chair Megan Maddocks, Clerk Emily Aiken Matt Hogan Tamara Revoir
Ella Stafford, Student Rep Janaya Parsons, Student Rep

Bellows Free Academy - Fairfax

Board of School Directors Report: Grades 5-8

June 8, 2021

As I write this, we are in final preparations for our first “unmasked” 8th grade transition ceremony. This process has reminded me that when this group was in 6th grade when we first went remote, they spent the majority of their 7th grade year in hybrid learning and have survived myriad challenges throughout the pandemic.

Proficiency Based Personalized Learning:

In Grade 5 we successfully launched our rockets and wrapped up StarBase for the year. We are excited to continue this tradition with next year’s new 5th Grade.

Our Grade 7 students (who missed Star Base when they were 5th graders, due to the pandemic) were excited to launch their self-designed rockets. We have worked to design and launch a different type of Rocket. Unfortunately, this launch was again delayed due to COVID, but the students were patient and thoughtful throughout the design process. And we are looking forward to the launch during our last week of school.

The community turn-out for our Middle Grades Band and Chorus performances (our final concerts of the year!) on May 31 and June 2 was spectacular. It is always satisfying to see students presenting and performing for our community...especially when the caliber of musicianship is so high!

Distributed Leadership and Student Agency:

Thank you to Nichole Wehman for all of her work facilitating a very engaged and thoughtful group of 8th graders in the design and implementation of our 8th Grade Transition Ceremony. We are excited to recognize the accomplishments and perseverance of our soon to be High Schoolers on June 10 at 5pm outside under the tent (in the baseball outfield). It has been wonderful to work with these students to plan fun events to bring closure to the year and to recognize their class.

Safe, Equitable, Healthy, Flexible Learning Environments:

As it still feels recent that we have been able to take trips and partner with parents, our end of the year celebrations are in full swing. During the final week with students, Grade 6 went to Knight’s Island for a cookout and games; on Thursday 6/9, Grade 5 went to Shelburne Museum, Grade 7 abbreviated their academic schedule to include teambuilding games and activities each afternoon; and Grade 8 enjoyed their final day as “middle schoolers” doing games and activities at the Town Pavilion all day on Friday before the Transition ceremony later that night (5pm) under the tent.

We have identified a Restorative Practices Planning Committee to work with Annie O’Shaughnessy (director of the Holistic Restorative Education Program at St. Michael’s College) over the summer. Our goal is to further evolve our school-wide Restorative Practices and supports for students who engage in unexpected behavior. In

conversation with our School Resource Officer and teacher leaders we are all excited for the potential this brings to our students and our community.

Engaged Partners: Parents and Community:

Thank you to Karen Shearer and Tony Hardy for coordinating a Careers night with several area professionals representing a variety of career paths. I spoke with each of the presenters, and they were all willing to potentially partner for future sessions with Middle School students.

We have released our Trout! Ben Psaros' 7th grade classroom has been raising trout in partnership with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's Trout in the Classroom program. During the final week of May, the water temperature in Mill Brook was perfect. The Trout had reached maturity and were ready to be released. I am so proud of our students for feeding, tending and caring for the fish all the way through! Thank you, Ben for taking the lead on this project. We are also grateful for all of Brenda Menard's help along the way!

Finally, in so many ways, this year has presented challenges and unexpected turns beyond what any of us had hoped for. Yet, we continue to be grateful for the growth we have seen in our students, as well as for the continued support of our families and community. As we prepare to transition our 8th graders to high school, welcome our new 5th graders, and reflect on the year. I hope you will join me in appreciating our staff for all of their flexibility, resilience and professionalism throughout this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Brown

Grades 5-8 Principal



BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

75 Hunt Street
Fairfax, VT 05454
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BFA Fairfax High School School Board Report June 2022

It is with great pleasure that I write this final board report of the 2021-2022 school year. Our students have had a successful and fun end to the year. They completed academic class on June 3rd and spent the last week of school in mini-mester courses. Opportunities included activities such as rock climbing, golf lessons, histories & mysteries, self development, book club, puzzling, history of Hip Hop, fishing, and pickleball.

Sophomores presented their exhibition work to friends and family. It is a humbling experience to hear students speak about their learning experience and goals for the future.

Our team was happy to attend award ceremonies for Burlington Tech, Essex Tech, and Northwest Tech to see many of our student honored with awards, scholarships, and program completion certificates. We are fortunate to continue our connections with these schools.

Our own awards ceremony took place on Friday morning. We celebrated the work of all high school students and honored our juniors and seniors with scholarships and other recognitions. It was amazing to hand out over 1,000 awards and honors. We invited families to conclude the day with a cookout.

On Saturday, we celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2022 with a wonderful student led ceremony.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our staff and faculty for the continued energy, excitement, and support for learning.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Noonan
High School Principal



BELLWS FREE ACADEMY

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Bellows Free Academy - Fairfax

Board of School Directors Report

Director of Student Activities

June 13, 2022

What a fantastic year it has been! Although we are still working our way through ongoing challenges from the pandemic over the past 2.5 school years, there is so much to celebrate!

Safe, Equitable, Healthy, Flexible Learning Environments

Last Friday, the BFA Fairfax campus was abuzz with excitement generated by the announcement of next year's Fall Musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. This annual co-curricular opportunity for our students in grades 7-12 is one of the highlight events of the year in our school. With this being the 15th anniversary of our first production of *Beauty and the Beast*, it was a special treat to see the lead cast members from 15 years ago take part in the formal video announcement. Audition packets can be picked up from Mr. Bailey, and auditions will be held in August.

The Trills and Thrills music festival was a resounding success for our Middle School band and chorus. Both ensembles came away with a Superior with Distinction rating, the highest rating offered to participating ensembles! They were then able to celebrate with a well earned day of fun at the Great Escape! Congratulations to all!

Our spring athletic season has come to a close, and we are immensely proud of all our student-athletes and coaches. This was the first "normal" spring season since the start of the pandemic, and it was great to see all our teams back in action, and participation numbers as high as ever. BFA Fairfax stands out in the number of athletic offerings we provide for our students. Whether our own teams, or taking part in member-to-member agreements with partner schools, we are among the leaders in the number of student offerings for schools our size. We understand that our students have broad interests, and will pursue all available opportunities for them to participate in the activities they love.

Thank you again for all the support during this school year. I am fortunate to work in such a fantastic community, and look forward to the 22-23 school year.

Respectfully,

Geri Witalec-Krupa

Director of Student Activities

Fairfax Town School District

FLAGPOLE POLICY

Warned: May 9, 2022

Adopted:

Under state statute, the Fairfax Town School District (FTSD) is a municipality and a government body. Therefore, it is the policy of the FTSD that District flag poles are a forum of government speech, thereby maintaining the distinction between government speech and private speech by students and community members. The FTSD Board, as a government entity, determines its speech through the actions of the Board. The speech of the Board is not controlled or limited by any individuals other than the elected members of the Board.

The District's flagpoles are under the control and management of the District and it is impermissible to fly any flag other than the United States and Vermont flags.

Fairfax School District
FY22 Budget Status Report
As of June 13, 2022

	Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Remaining
Revenues				
Revenues	\$14,494,647	\$13,891,436	-\$250,000	\$1,103,211
Fund Balance Carry Forward	\$131,445	\$0		
Total Revenues	\$14,626,092	\$13,891,436	-\$250,000	\$1,103,211

	Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Remaining
Expenditures				
Elementary School	\$2,942,249	\$2,415,710	\$353,364	\$173,175
Middle School	\$0	\$29,120	\$11,250	-\$40,370
High School	\$3,749,578	\$2,613,409	\$702,684	\$433,485
School Wide	\$116,879	\$64,884	\$53,015	-\$1,020
Early Ed	\$452,843	\$339,991	\$119,633	-\$6,781
Special Education	\$1,371,143	\$1,050,000	\$176,920	\$144,223
Speech & Language	\$110,482	\$80,000	\$30,482	\$0
Compensatory Education	\$245,185	\$108,125	\$15,126	\$121,934
Planning Room	\$5,850	\$10,610	\$8,112	-\$12,872
Co-Curricular	\$303,940	\$254,244	\$40,891	\$8,805
Guidance	\$425,874	\$319,855	\$50,288	\$55,731
Nurse	\$213,922	\$186,815	\$26,772	\$335
PD & Technology	\$570,228	\$511,123	\$61,318	-\$2,213
Library	\$129,834	\$105,763	\$21,608	\$2,463
School Board	\$39,571	\$29,700	\$7,213	\$2,658
FWSU Assessment	\$1,575,844	\$1,418,968	\$0	\$156,876
Principal's Office	\$859,645	\$809,694	\$37,907	\$12,044
Business Office	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000	\$0
Operation and Maintenance of the Plant	\$1,070,110	\$978,377	\$102,433	-\$10,700
Transportation Assessment	\$377,917	\$127,083	\$120,834	\$130,000
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$14,626,094	\$11,453,471	\$2,004,850	\$1,167,773

Anticipated FY22 Surplus:

FY22 Revenue	\$14,244,647	
FY22 Expenditure	\$13,458,321	
HRAs not yet encumbered	\$227,000	
	<hr/>	
	\$559,326	Potential Surplus
50% to capital / offsetting revenue in FY24	\$279,663	

UnionBank

June 10, 2022

Fairfax Town School District
Attn: Randall Morton
4497 Highbridge Rd
Fairfax, VT 05454

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Randy,

Thank you for including Union Bank in the bid process for a tax anticipation loan. We have provided you with two options to choose from for this type of borrowing. They include:

**Option #1
Tax Anticipation Loan
with Reinvestment Option**


Borrower:	Fairfax Town School District
Loan Amount:	\$2,325,000.00
Loan Date:	July 1, 2022
Maturity Date:	June 30, 2023
Interest Rate:	1.10%
Payment:	Principal and interest at maturity
Prepayment Penalty:	No
Tax Exemption:	Interest income is tax exempt to bank and "bank qualified" under Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code

The investment rate on funds not needed for current expense will be deposited into an Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) Account. With the ICS product, you will earn interest while accessing multi-million dollar FDIC insurance. The interest rate for the ICS Account is 1.30% with an APY of 1.308%. The interest compounds daily and is posted to the account at month end when the statement is produced. There are no fees associated with this account and there are no limitations as to the number of transactions allowed each month.

If the loan is paid off before the maturity date **June 30, 2023**, then the interest rate on the Insured Cash Sweep account may revert to the interest rate for a *Municipal Checking account with Interest* at the interest rate that's in effect for this described product at the time of the payoff.

20 LOWER MAIN STREET | P.O. BOX 667 | MORRISVILLE, VERMONT 05661

UBLOCAL.COM | 1.802.888.6600

Member FDIC  Equal Housing Lender

Not all methods of interest calculation for the excess funds on deposits are calculated the same by financial institutions. Often times a financial institution is agreeing to pay interest on the investment balance *only* up to the original loan amount. Here is an example:

Original Loan Amount:	\$500,000
Insured Cash Sweep Balance:	\$650,000
Interest Paid up to:	\$500,000**

** Any balances in the ICS over and above the original amount either *do not earn* interest or *earn interest at a significantly lower rate*.

At Union Bank, *we agree to pay the same rate of interest on the entire balance in the Insured Cash Sweep Account.* In the example above, you would earn the stated interest rate on the entire \$650,000. So even if the spread between the loan interest rate and investment interest rate may appear greater with other banks, that does not necessarily equate to a better return for the municipality.

Option #2 Non-Revolving Line of Credit Option

Borrower:	Fairfax Town School District
Loan Amount:	\$2,325,000.00
Loan Date:	July 1, 2022
Maturity Date:	June 30, 2023
Interest Rate:	2.25%
Payment:	Principal and interest at maturity
Prepayment Penalty:	No
Tax Exemption:	Interest income is tax exempt to bank and "bank qualified" under Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code

To aid in the analysis of the various options, we have included a spreadsheet that compares the two options. According to the estimated cash flow provided, if the School District chooses option #1, the net interest income would be approximately \$26,128.00 over the course of the fiscal year 2023.

Should the School District choose the line of credit option #2, the interest expense would be approximately \$6,692.00 over the course of the fiscal year 2023.

In the event the School accepts the terms of this bid, the following loan documents will need to be executed by the School Board:

- Note
- Resolution

- IRS Form 8038-G
- Tax Certificate w/Schedule D
- Cash Flow Certificate **SATISFIED**
- Signed Acceptance of Union Bank's Proposal Letter

We will also require copies of the following items:

- Copies of School Board Minutes Awarding Bid to Union Bank
- Most recent Annual report
- Warning of Informational Budget Hearing, if applicable

We reserve the right to cancel this commitment letter and to terminate our obligation hereunder if the loan fails to close on or before **July 1, 2022**.

Sincerely,

Heather S. Campbell

Heather Campbell, Vice President
Commercial & Municipal Loan Officer

Please indicate your acceptance of the terms and condition by signing below and returning to my attention.

By: _____
Duly Authorized Agent

Line of Credit vs. Reinvestment Option - Union Bank

ç Town School District Fairfax Town School District

Officer: Heather S. Campbell

Loan: 2,325,000

Loan #:

Reinvestment:

1.30%

Daily Rate:

CIF:

0.00356%

Loan Rate:

1.10%

T/E Rate:

1.34%

ICS #:

Spread:

20.00

T/E Rate:

2.75%

Line of Credit Rate:

2.2500%

T/E Rate:

2.75%

Month	Days	Estimated Expenses	Estimated Receipts	Monthly Surplus or Deficit	Cumulative		Line of Credit		Loan Plus Cumulative	ICS Compound Interest	Loan Interest	Net Profit (Cost) To Customer
					Surplus or Deficit	Municipality	Cost to					
				Beginning Cash on Hand-->	1,000,000							
July	31	1,570,000	86,000	(1,484,000)	(484,000)	(925)			1,841,000	2,034	2,172	(138)
August	31	1,430,000	320,000	(1,110,000)	(1,594,000)	(3,046)			731,000	808	2,172	(1,365)
September	30	1,140,000	2,170,000	1,030,000	(564,000)	(1,043)			1,761,000	1,883	2,102	(219)
October	31	571,000	257,000	(314,000)	(878,000)	(1,678)			1,447,000	1,599	2,172	(574)
November	30	342,000	1,426,000	1,084,000	206,000	0			2,531,000	2,706	2,102	604
December	31	1,141,000	5,535,000	4,394,000	4,600,000	0			6,925,000	7,650	2,172	5,478
January	31	1,084,000	428,000	(656,000)	3,944,000	0			6,269,000	6,925	2,172	4,753
February	28	1,255,000	114,000	(1,141,000)	2,803,000	0			5,128,000	5,116	1,962	3,154
March	31	970,000	2,026,000	1,056,000	3,859,000	0			6,184,000	6,831	2,172	4,659
April	30	1,141,000	3,000	(1,138,000)	2,721,000	0			5,046,000	5,394	2,102	3,292
May	31	154,000	1,628,000	1,474,000	4,195,000	0			6,520,000	7,203	2,172	5,031
June	30	4,905,216	1,710,216	(3,195,000)	1,000,000	0			3,325,000	3,555	2,102	1,453
				0								
365		15,703,216	15,703,216			(6,692)			3,975,667	51,703	25,575	26,128
										Monthly Average		

Line of Credit Cost to Client

Profit (Cost) to Customer With Reinvestment Option:

(6,692)

26,128

FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION
TAX ANTICIPATION BORROWING

WHEREAS, the School Board of Directors is authorized and empowered to borrow money on the credit of the Fairfax Town School District in anticipation of the collection of taxes and the receipt of other revenues; and

WHEREAS, the said School Board of Directors finds it expedient and it is necessary for the Fairfax Town School District to borrow funds in anticipation of the collection of taxes and receipt of other revenues for the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Directors has been and is now providing essential governmental services and funds are needed to meet expenses relating to the delivery of said essential governmental services; and

WHEREAS, in order to have funds to meet expenses as aforesaid, the School Board of Directors has arranged to borrow \$2,325,000.00 from UNION BANK with such borrowing evidenced by promissory note(s) as hereinafter set forth, which note does not refund and replace any previously issued note.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Directors and the Treasurer proceed forthwith to complete said transaction and issue said evidence of indebtedness to cover the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said evidence of debt when issued and delivered pursuant to this Resolution shall be a valid and binding general obligation of the Fairfax Town School District payable according to the terms and tenor thereof from unlimited ad valorem taxes duly assessed on the grand list of taxable property in said Fairfax Town School District, as established by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts and things heretofore done by the lawfully constituted officers of the Fairfax Town School District in, about, or concerning the expenditure of proceeds of the Note(s) are hereby ratified and confirmed; and

We, the undersigned School Board of Directors and Treasurer of the Fairfax Town School District hereby certify that we are the duly chosen, qualified and acting officers as undersigned, that the Note(s) is issued pursuant to authority, that no proceeding relating thereto has been taken other than as shown in the foregoing recital, that no such authority or action has been amended or repealed, and that there is no litigation threatened or pending in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction seeking to enjoin either the issuance of the above-described Note(s) or the expenditures being financed by the proceeds of the same.

We certify also that no litigation is pending or threatened affecting the validity of the Note(s) or the apportionment and assessment of taxes, if necessary, to pay the same when due, that neither the corporate existence nor the boundaries of the Fairfax Town School District, nor the title of any of us to our respective offices, is being questioned or contested.

Further, we hereby certify to and covenant with UNION BANK, its successors and assigns, including specifically the transferees, assigns, holders and owners of the above-described Note(s) that:

1. The aggregate principal amount of said Note(s) does not exceed the maximum cumulative cash flow deficit of the Fairfax Town School District for the term of said Note(s), from date of issue to and including date of maturity, as computed under Sections 103 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or under the Regulations promulgated thereunder.

2. No proceeds of the Note(s) (including investment proceeds thereof) will be used (directly or indirectly) in any trade or business carried on by any person other than the Fairfax Town School District nor used to make or finance loans to any person.

3. During the current calendar year, neither the Fairfax Town School District nor any subordinate agency thereof will issue debt of any sort aggregating \$10,000,000.00 or more.

4. The Fairfax Town School District will file when and as required with the Treasury Department or Internal Revenue Service information returns relating to the issuance of the Note(s) and all other obligations of the Fairfax Town School District.

5. The Fairfax Town School District will comply with, perform, maintain and keep each and every covenant, representation, certification, and undertaking in the accompanying Tax Certificate, execution and delivery of which is hereby authorized.

6. The amount borrowed in anticipation of taxes does not exceed 90% of taxes levied or to be levied for the current year.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2022.

FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scott Mitchell, Chair

Emily Aiken

Matthew Hogan

Tamara Revoir

Megan Maddocks, Clerk

All or a Majority of Its School Board
of Directors

Attest:

Megan Maddocks, Clerk

Deborah Woodward,
And, Its Duly Authorized Treasurer

\$2,325,000.00

#5701004693

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE
FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAIRFAX, VERMONT
JULY 1, 2022

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the Fairfax Town School District, a municipal corporation, (the Borrower) promises to pay to the order of the Union Bank or its registered assigns (the Lender) at its place of business in Morristown, Vermont the principal sum of Two Million Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand and 00/100** Dollars (\$2,325,000.00) with interest at the rate of 1.10% per annum, calculated on an actual 365 day basis or, if applicable, 366 days set forth to mature on June 30, 2023.

This Note is issued in anticipation of the receipt of taxes and other revenues and is authorized by resolution of the School Board of Directors duly adopted on June 13, 2022, the terms of which are incorporated herein by referenced thereto.

Demand, presentment for payment, protest and notice of protest hereof are waived.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required to be done precedent to and in the issuing of this Note have been done, have happened, and have been performed in regular and due form, as required by law, and for the assessment, collection and payment hereon of a tax to pay all sums due hereunder when due, if necessary, the full faith and credit of the Borrower are hereby irrevocably pledged.

FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scott Mitchell, Chair

Emily Aiken

Matthew Hogan

Tamara Revoir

Megan Maddocks, Clerk

All or a Majority of Its School Board
of Directors

Deborah Woodward,
And, Its Duly Authorized Treasurer

FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
TAX CERTIFICATE
TAX ANTICIPATION BORROWING

We, the Treasurer and at least a majority of the School Board of Directors (the "legislative body") of the Fairfax Town School District, Vermont (the "Issuer"), HEREBY CERTIFY and reasonably expect with respect to the issuance and the use of proceeds of the \$2,325,000.00 Tax Anticipation Note (the "Note") of the Municipality, dated July 1, 2022 as follows:

1. The Issuer is issuing and delivering the Note simultaneously with the delivery of the Certificate.
2. We are the officers of the Issuer charged by law with the responsibility for issuing the Note.
3. The Note is being issued in anticipation of the collection and receipt of taxes levied and assessed for the current fiscal year, and the receipt of other revenues during such period.
4. The entire amount borrowed by the issuance of the Note, together with all of such, if any, amounts previously raised or borrowed for the same purpose, does not exceed the total approved budget expenditures of the Issuer and is less than 90% of the taxes assessed or to be assessed for the current fiscal year.
5. Payment of the expenses financed by the Note is expected to proceed hereafter with due diligence and in accordance with the schedule of expenditures set forth on the attached Cash Flow Certificate.
6. The Note is not being issued to refund an obligation previously issued for the same purpose described in paragraph (3).
7. Any real and personal property, acquisition of which has been financed by the Note has not been and is not expected during the life of the Note to be sold or otherwise disposed of for consideration.
8. It is expected that any earnings or net profit derived from investment or deposit of the proceeds of the Note, including transferred proceeds, any accrued interest received upon sale of the Note and any premium received on the delivery thereof, will be expended during the term of the Note for essential governmental purposes to the extent that such funds are not commingled for accounting purposes in the general funds of the Issuer with tax and other substantial operating revenues.

9. The Issuer has not created and does not expect to create or establish any debt service fund, bond payment reserve, sinking fund, or other similar fund pledged to the payment of the Note or from which it is expected that payment of the Note would be made.
10. To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, the above expectations are reasonable.
11. The Issuer has not been notified of any action by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to disqualify it as an issuer whose tax certificates may be relied upon.
12. No part of the proceeds derived from the issuance and sale of the Note nor the expenditures financed by the proceeds of the Note shall be:
 - (a) Used, loaned or otherwise made available to any person or other entity, other than the Issuer or a governmental body, so as to cause the Note to be classified as a private activity bond or arbitrage bond, as those terms are defined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
 - (b) Used directly or indirectly in a trade or business by any person other than the Issuer or another municipal entity;
 - (c) Loaned to any person directly or indirectly other than the Issuer;
 - (d) The subject of any contract, lease or agreement of any sort having a term of one year or more and calling for the payment by the Issuer of consideration other than a flat fee;
 - (e) Expended to finance the construction, alteration or renovation of any improvement the use, occupancy, availability or beneficial enjoyment of which shall be restricted among public users thereof or for which preferential, different or unique fees, rates, assessments or charges shall be levied;
 - (f) Invested in such a manner or for such a period or at a yield to result in the rebate of interest earnings thereon to the United States under any public law now or hereafter in effect;
13. The Issuer shall furnish to the United States, or any agency, department or instrumentality thereof, in a timely fashion, such information as may be required by law with respect to all evidences of debt now or hereafter issued by the Issuer.
14. Neither the proceeds of the Note, nor any earnings derived from the investment thereof, shall be expended for the purpose of paying any costs associated with the issuance of the

Note.

15. The Note will not be refunded or otherwise paid, defeased or secured by the proceeds of any form of debt issued by the Issuer, if the manner of such payment, refunding or security, results in the Note being classified as a “private activity bond” or an “arbitrage bond” within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
16. The proceeds of the Note will not be used in a manner that will cause the Note to be an “arbitrage bond” or “private activity bond” within the meaning of Sections 103(c), 141 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Regulations promulgated thereunder.
17. The aggregate principal amount of the note is not greater than the maximum anticipated cumulative cash flow deficit which has been computed in accordance with the Regulations promulgated under the Code Sections 103(c) and 148, which computation is shown on the accompanying Cash Flow Certificate dated June 9, 2022.
18. In addition to the record-retention requirements of Section 6001 of the Code, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder, the Issuer hereby adopts and commits to implement the procedures set forth in Schedule D which are intended to provide the following:
 - (a) Assignment of tax-exempt and tax credit bond, if applicable, compliance responsibilities to appropriate departments, officers, or employees.
 - (b) Establishment and maintenance of books and records for each issue of obligations of the Issuer.
 - (c) Establishment of Code Section 148 compliant procedures for the investment of gross proceeds for each issue of the Issuer’s obligations.
 - (d) Maintenance of records relating to all allocations of expenditures of proceeds of each issue of the Issuer’s obligations.
 - (e) Periodic monitoring of use of proceeds of each issue of the Issuer’s obligations, the investment and reinvestment of proceeds from the temporary investments thereof and the use of property acquired or financed by the proceeds of such obligations.
 - (f) Verification of the foregoing.
19. The Note is declared to be a “qualified obligation” under Section 265 of the Internal Revenue Code.

This Certificate is executed and is being delivered pursuant to Section 1.148(b)(2)(i) of the Regulations promulgated under Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands on behalf of the Municipality this 13th day of June, 2022.

FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scott Mitchell, Chair

Emily Aiken

Matthew Hogan

Tamara Revoir

Megan Maddocks, Clerk

All or a Majority of Its School Board
of Directors

Deborah Woodward,
And, Its Duly Authorized Treasurer

SCHEDULE D

MUNICIPAL BOND POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been adopted by the Issuer, effective as of the date of issue of the Note. These procedures shall be implemented immediately and shall relate to the Note and all currently outstanding and future debt obligations and financing leases. These procedures are intended to assist the Issuer in complying with those provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") relating to (a) the qualified use of proceeds of the Issuer's tax-exempt and other tax advantaged bonds and notes and improvements financed by such proceeds; (b) arbitrage yield restrictions and rebate; (c) remediation of the effects of "deliberate action" of the Issuer which results in the disposition, abandonment or other change in use of property financed by the Issuer's debt obligation; and (d) the resolution of matters raised in connection with an audit or examination of the Issuer's tax-exempt or tax-advantaged obligations. These procedures are intended to furnish guidance in matters of Code compliance, and are subject to revision, modifications and enlargement from time to time.

- (1) The municipal official or employee possessing the statutory or contractual powers, functions and responsibilities of a Chief Financial Officer (to the extent the same are not exercised by the Treasurer) shall be responsible for monitoring Note post-issuance compliance (the "Compliance Official").
- (2) The Compliance Official shall review and implement these procedures in the manner necessary to ensure ongoing compliance with the provisions of the Tax Certificate. In connection therewith such official will become knowledgeable or consult an advisor experienced in post issuance compliance and will review and monitor notices, advice and directives as may be received by the Issuer from its bond counsel, accountants, financial advisors, and governmental sources.
- (3) On or before the first day of June in each year, the Compliance Official shall confirm that all Issuer property financed by the proceeds of the Issuer's obligations continues to be used in the same manner as existed when such property was first placed into service. Such confirmation shall be based upon a visual inspection and representations of the public officials under whose care, custody and control the property is placed.
- (4) For so long as the proceeds of any debt obligation of the Issuer remains unexpended, the Compliance Official shall confirm on the first day of June and the first day of December in each year that such proceeds are deposited or invested for a "temporary

period” as established under Section 148 of the Code, and the Regulations thereunder. Following the third anniversary of the issuance of an Issuer obligation, all unexpended proceeds shall be invested so as to generate a yield no greater than the yield on the corresponding obligation.

- (5) The Compliance Official shall confirm, at least annually while there are unexpended proceeds, that the proceeds of each Issuer obligation shall be expended in such amounts, at such frequency, and in such intervals to ensure that the Issuer avails itself of one or more arbitrage rebate exception allowed under Section 148 of the Code, and the Regulations promulgated thereunder. Alternatively, if rebate is due, the Compliance Official will engage a consultant to prepare a Report to determine any rebate due.
- (6) With respect to the acquisition and construction of capital improvements financed with the proceeds of the Issuer’s debt obligations, the Issuer hereby declares that such proceeds shall be allocated to acquisition and construction expenditures prior to the expenditure and application of funds from any other public or private source. A final expenditure report accounting for the use of all Issuer obligation proceeds and earnings shall be completed no later than 18 months after the Project(s) financed by the Issuer obligation is placed in service.
- (7) In the event there is a change of use, abandonment or disposition of property financed by the proceeds of an Issuer obligation, the Compliance Official shall immediately consult with the Issuer’s bond counsel and accountants regarding remedial action. The Issuer thereafter shall endeavor to call and redeem all or a portion of outstanding debt obligations, the proceeds of which were expended to finance such property. The proceeds derived from the sale or other disposition of the financed property shall not be commingled with other funds of the Issuer, but shall be used to effect the redemption of obligations, if necessary, the proceeds of which financed such property. Pending redemption as called for in this section, such proceeds shall be invested at a yield no greater than the yield on the obligations to be redeemed.
- (8) The Compliance Official shall create and preserve records for the term of all Issuer obligation and any refunding thereof plus three years documenting the procedures incident to the authorization and issuance and identifying the proceeds of each issue of the Issuer’s obligations, the deposit and investment thereof, the income derived from such deposit and investment, the expenditure of such proceeds and investment income (containing at a minimum the date, amount and recipient of each expenditure),

payment requisitions, and all rate, fee, charge and assessment schedules relating to property financed by the Issuer's obligations. Such records shall include copies of loan agreements, escrow agreements, tax certificates, project bid documents, construction and acquisition contracts, project invoices, project-related bank statements, and documents related to anticipatory bond financing.

- (9) The Compliance Official shall retain all contracts or arrangements with non-governmental persons relating to the use, control and management of the Project(s) financed an Issuer obligation.
- (10) In the event there remain on hand any excess proceeds from an Issuer obligation, following acquisition or completion of the improvements for which such obligation was issued, the Compliance Official shall consult with the Issuer's bond counsel regarding the use of such proceeds.



Superintendent's Report June 2022

Board Business

a. New Hires: During the past month, I have met with and offered positions to the following professional staff:

- i. Thomas Smith-HS Special Education (UVM Masters grad, currently works at CenterPoint, worked in China in 2012- **FWSU hire**)
- ii. Sarah Wheeler, 3/4 Elementary School (JSC and St Mikes grad, works at Johnson ES,
- iii. Lauren O'Connor, Elementary SLP (SUNY Plattsburgh grad, enjoys time with her family and pets-**FWSU hire**)
- iv. Erica Marcelino-Howard, PreK (JSC grad, works at BFA as .5 Wellness, this position makes her 1.0 FTE)
- v. Zach Smith, High School Science (TAP Program through Champlain College, currently works at CVU, passionate about outdoor education)
- vi. Megan Majercak, 5/6 Interventionist (Slippery Rock University grad, currently works at Newport MS, endurance competitor)
- vii. Jesse Gaudette, Flexible Pathways Coordinator (JSC and St Mikes grad, currently works in St Pete FL although originally from VT, enjoys singing)
- viii. Jojo Lynch, Elementary Classroom Teacher (UVM grad, current para at BFA, provisional license, coaches soccer for BFA HS)

b. Flag Pole Policy (2nd Reading) (Discussion / Action)

For context, a local school raised the BLM flag in the beginning of June. Another school that has been flying the BLM flag adopted a policy similar to the one you are considering in response to a recent [Supreme Court ruling](#). If approved this evening, this policy would take effect immediately.

c. Plan Retreat (Discussion / Action)- I have contacted Phil Gore at VSBA to work with the board at the retreat. He is unavailable on August 8, but can work with us on August 9. If we can make it work, I will confirm this date and time with him.

d. Puerto Rico & France Trips (Discussion / Action)-Principal Noonan has proposals for two separate trips proposed by the World Language teachers. In order to begin the planning and recruitment process, the teachers will need your preliminary approval. Both trips will benefit students. I recommend your approval.

e. Capital Expense Request (Discussion / Action)-We have an updated bid to remove the MS lockers and replace them with benches and hooks. This could be a capital expense. With your approval, the work will be completed this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. TAGUE

John T. Tague
Superintendent