

# FAYETTE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 6:30 P.M. - FCS Library

## Meeting Minutes

1. **Call To Order** – Chairlady Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
  - 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.2 Roll Call – R. Holland absent.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None
3. **Consideration of the Minutes**
  - 3.1 Approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 regular meeting as presented.

Motion D. Polky	Second M. Charland	Vote 3/0
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Approve the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 28<sup>th</sup> budget workshop meetings as presented.

Motion D. Polky	Second M. Charland	Vote 3/0
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4. **Communications/Public Comments None**
5. **Reports**
  - 5.1 Superintendent's Report – No report
  - 5.2 Principal's Report – Prin. Blue presented a report on the staff attendance to the WMEC Rendezvous on March 22, 2019. She detailed the scope of the meeting. Sue Morin, Pre-K Teacher also commented she had a very positive experience at the meeting.
6. **Old Business**
  - 6.1 Make adjustments to the Proposed 2019/20 Fayette School Dept. Budget – Supt. Mattos provided an overview of Draft #5 of the school budget. He covered the details of the latest potential changes, which would make a change of \$107,000 from last year's budget. Some of the potential changes could be:
    1. Change the configuration of the classroom removing one teacher and replacing with an Ed Tech, which would save \$31,000.
    2. Another option would be to remove one teacher position and not replace the position, which would save \$64,000.He also noted that contract negotiations are ongoing so how those negotiations will impact the budget is unknown at this time.

There was discussion around teacher pay and some of the comments were as follows:

    1. Supt. Mattos offered that currently Fayette offers a low pay scale for new teachers.
    2. The base rate is \$34,000 for a new hire. Increases do not begin until after four years of employment, and the total increase for a new hire is \$1000.00 over the first six years of employment. Most of the pay increases are scheduled at the higher end of the scale. This practice makes it difficult to employ and retain good teachers.
    3. We also have to be aware of the movement by the State to pay teachers a starting salary of at least \$40,000. as that could impact the budget at some point.
    4. Supt. Mattos suggested that grants might offer some help.Supt. Mattos gave a brief overview of the audit. C. Rose, Fayette School Dept. Bookkeeper explained the details of the audit overview.

There was continued discussion regarding budget cuts as follows:

    - There was public comment noting that parents are feeling uncomfortable with losing a teacher position and having to reconfigure the classes, especially with the small amount of saving that would be derived from that option.
    - Brent St. Clair, Town Budget Comm. Mbr., noted that he had heard that money left over from the 2018/19 budget was used for Technology, an option that the Town voted against. D. Polky noted that grant money was used for Technology, not Town funds. Mr. St. Clair commented that he felt that still went against the wishes of the Town.
    - Mr. St. Clair also noted that the school has money that is being used for Special Education services and asked where that is coming from if there are no excess funds in the budget. Supt. Mattos explained that when necessary costs arise that are not budgeted for, the money has to be taken from other budget

lines, and those things that the money was planned for have to be dismissed as Special Education services are not negotiable.

- Mr. St. Clair commented that using a student from UMF for Technology instruction is an awesome idea and would like to see that continued. Supt. Mattos offered that he had called UMF for availability and they do not have certified students to employ for those services. There is not a program in UMF that will make interns available to us.
- Mr. St. Clair offered that he is in favor of an increase for teachers, but can't support the increase that the Board is suggesting. Supt. Mattos noted again that the current contract increases a teacher's pay only \$1000 over the first six years. The purpose of the Sch. Comm. suggestions regarding teacher pay is to realign the increases in the teacher scale to entice good teachers to want to come to Fayette and stay. The current setup is not conducive to that. Supt. Mattos and Sch. Comm. Mbr. Diane Polky reiterated that the teacher contract negotiations are currently ongoing and it is premature to know how they will affect the budget.
- Supt. Mattos offered that there are really no other areas to cut enough to bring the mil rate down by one-half mil.
- The public voiced regrets that we would have to make changes again and lose a teacher.
- Supt. Mattos asked for ideas for cutting.
- Mr. St. Clair commented that last year's school budget had a large increase and an additional increase for this year, even though we are receiving an increase of \$50,000 from the State. Supt. Mattos explained that two thirds of the increase to the budget is due to tuition costs and Special Education services, two areas that we have no control over.
- The question was raised as to whether limiting school choice would lower tuition costs.
- Mr. St. Clair commented that he and others believe that the facility, boiler, and busses have been neglected. Supt. Mattos asked for specifics. Mr. St. Clair commented that the pellet furnace is not being cleaned as is prescribed. He also heard a bus was out of service but it is back so doesn't know specifics.
- Supt. Mattos noted that we have starting having the Town crew do some minor repairs to the busses to save money on repair costs.
- Mr. Swimm, Town Budget Comm. Mbr. commented that he is concerned about two administrative positions, one that's here every day, and one is here once a week. It's critical that they know all aspects of the function of this building. Prior to installation of pellet furnace, it was stated that it had to be cleaned once a day as well as once a day on the weekend. That has not been followed. A structure needs to be set up by administration and they need to be fully aware that this is occurring. Regarding the busses, the administration has to have intimate knowledge of how the problems occurred. They can't be parked on the grass. When something like that occurs, the administration needs to be aware and make sure this is not happening. If you are asking the Town to cough up more money for the budget, then there needs to be proper accountability. Knowing that there is a structure that makes sure these things are done, as well as proper communication so that people are doing what needs to be done.
- Supt. Mattos noted that if anyone thinks things are not right, or if there is a problem, he needs those people to come and see him.

6.2 Approval of 2019/20 Fayette School Calendar – Table to May meeting.  
Motion Second Vote

7. **New Business None**

8. **School Committee Comments:** E. Wilcox reported that the Supt. Search Comm. members decided not to interview any candidates and we are re-advertising the Supt. position.  
M. Charland, Sch. Comm. Mbr. thanked Supt. Mattos for all his work and efforts on the current draft of the budget.  
D. Polky thanked the Sch. Comm. for their work regarding a plan for undesignated funds.

9. **Adjournment**

Without objection, Chairlady Wilcox declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next regular monthly School Comm. meeting, **Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fayette Central School library.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Mattos, Superintendent

*Any individual, who needs special accommodations to enter the building or assistance to attend this public meeting, must contact the Superintendent's Office at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting. (A.D.A.)*

***Upcoming Events:***

4/12/19 Early Release Day  
5/20/19 Spring Concert/Art Show  
5/24/19 Early Release Day  
5/27/19 Memorial Day