

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Public Work Session**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education meeting finds it necessary to meet in Executive Session (Closed to the Public) to discuss attorney/client privileged information, which is exempt from the Open Public Meetings Act.

**RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

It is anticipated that the Executive Session will take approximately **45 minutes**; the Board may take action when it reconvenes to Public Session; and the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the reason for the Executive Session no longer exists.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Public Work Session**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

Motion by: **Angela Altaai**    Seconded by: **Andrea Jandoli-Bellise**    Time: **6:45 PM**

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

Motion by: **Angela Altaai**    Seconded by: **Andrea Jandoli-Bellise**    Time: **7:32 PM**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion by: **Angela Altaai**    Seconded by: **Andrea Jandoli-Bellise**    Time: **7:32 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:30 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

(Access livestream at [www.fpsk6.org](http://www.fpsk6.org) at 7:35 PM. Also available on Channel 34)

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

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

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

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

The public has been duly informed of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by posting, at least 48 hours in advance, a notice on the bulletin boards in Stevenson and Churchill Schools, a notice to the Township Clerk, and a notice to The Herald News and The Progress.

*Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Mr. DePascale thanked the community who voted yes on the ballot question. The support shows the community values the progress our schools and leadership are making.

- **Mr. Gupta presented certificates to the students for their Academic Achievements.**

Mr. Gupta apologized for the scheduling conflict that prevented teachers from attending and noted that the teachers are very proud of the students.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Mr. Gupta was thrilled by the incredible response to the Food Drive. Over 50 bags were delivered to St. Thomas More Church. A special thanks to the families and Student Council advisors for making it possible. Both schools are still collecting Toys for Tots until December 15th. Thank you to everyone who has donated and to the Fairfield Police Department for allowing us to take part in this wonderful cause. He also wished everyone a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving!

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lindsley advised that at last month's meeting, the special counsel on the agenda could not be discussed. The issue involved roofing issues at Stevenson School. After discussions with the roofing company, an agreement was reached to repair the entire roof at no cost, so legal services were not needed, no fees were incurred, and repairs are currently underway.

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

### **Municipal Alliance: Anthony DePascale reported:**

- The Winter Wonderland will be held on December 13, 2025 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM

### **HSA: Melinda Street reported:**

- The HSA hosted the Cannoli Takeover with the teachers, raising over \$1,000 in just a few hours. She thanked the teachers for volunteering, the HSA for organizing, and Nick from the Cannoli Shop for supporting the community and students.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON: *AGENDA ITEMS ONLY***

A member of the public thanked Mr. Lindsley for the update on the special counsel. The same member of the public also asked questions about several agenda items:

- Item 1CO - Mr. Lindsley responded.
- Item 1G - Mr. Lindsley responded.
- Item 2B - Mr. Lindsley responded.

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
FINANCE - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1-6**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

1F. To approve the Minutes from the Public & Executive Session of October 16, 2025.

2F. To approve the Bills and Claims List and Payroll as follows:

<b>Ratify and Affirm</b> Bills & Claims List - 11/10/2025	\$508,781.53
<b>Ratify and Affirm</b> Bills & Claims List - 11/20/2025	\$177,392.31
<b>Ratify and Affirm</b> October 30, 2025 Payroll	\$423,930.93
<b>Ratify and Affirm</b> November 15, 2025 Payroll	\$420,454.69

3F. To approve the transfer of funds for the months of September 2025 and October 2025 as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

4F. To approve the reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the period of September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 and October 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and certify that as of September 2025 and October 2025 the Board Secretary's monthly financial reports did not reflect an over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on these reports and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

5F. Acceptance of ACFR

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Board of Education is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 and has had an annual audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions as of June 30, 2025; and

To approve and accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings–Financial, Compliance and Performance with no recommendations in the ACFR and the AMR for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as submitted by Nisivoccia, LLC, the district's auditors, having been presented at the October 16, 2025 public meeting; and

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
FINANCE - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education acknowledges that the 2024-2025 Synopsis of Audit is available to the public and approves the submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there are no audit recommendations.

6F. Amended Tax Levy Payment Schedule

BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfield Board of Education approves the submission of the Amended Tax Levy Payment Schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, pending certification of election results:

July 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	January 10, 2026	\$1,303,761.00
August 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	February 10, 2026	\$1,303,761.00
September 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	March 10, 2026	\$1,303,761.00
October 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	April 10, 2026	\$1,303,761.00
November 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	May 10, 2026	\$1,303,761.00
December 10, 2025	\$1,243,894.00	June 10, 2026	\$1,303,760.00

Total <b>Amended</b> Tax Levy 2025-2026	<b>\$15,285,929.00</b>
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Fairfield Board of Education ratifies and affirms the submission of the amended 2025-2026 budget approved by the Fairfield voters on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the amount of \$359,201.00 pending certification of election results.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
CONTRACT - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

- 1CO. To approve Addendum #2 to the Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Fairfield for the provision of Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers, Paragraph 4 - Compensation, will be paid at an hourly rate of \$36.00, effective December 1, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
ADMINISTRATIVE - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

- 1A. To approve the Preschool Tuition Rate for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$5,000.
- 2A. To approve the submission of the required NJQSAC District Improvement Plan (DIP).

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
GRANTS - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

1G. WHEREAS, the Fairfield School District desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Education for the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act Water Infrastructure Grant to carry out a project to repair/upgrade the water fountains in the district.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

- 1) that the Fairfield School District does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Education, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Fairfield School District and the New Jersey Department of Education.
- 3) Sustainability Plan - The new bottle filler units feature interchangeable internal filters and digital filter status monitors to ensure continued water quality. Each unit also includes a bottle counter display that tracks the number of plastic bottles avoided through refilling, reinforcing the district's sustainability goals. The district will implement a maintenance schedule to regularly inspect the units, monitor filter status, and replace filters as indicated. This proactive approach will maintain water quality, encourage the use of reusable bottles, and reduce plastic waste.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection herewith.

- 2G. To ratify and affirm the acceptance of the Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) Grant in the amount of \$3,710 on October 21, 2025.
- 3G. To approve the submission and acceptance of the Final Expenditure Report for the 2024-2025 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- 4G. To approve the submission and acceptance of the Final Expenditure Report for the 2024-2025 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Basic and Preschool.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

The following buildings and grounds motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

1B. To approve the following Building Use Applications:

<u>Organization Group/Location/Purpose</u>	<u>Date and Time Slot</u>
Cookie Cabin HSA - Family Cookie Decorating Night Churchill Small Gym	4:00 PM - 8:00 PM December 11, 2025
Student Leadership Workshop Lazzara Group, LLC Churchill Gym and 4 classrooms	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Retroactively to November 17, 2025

2B. To approve the Annual Health and Safety Evaluation of Buildings Checklist for Adlai E. Stevenson and Winston S. Churchill Schools pursuant to NJQSAC.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
PERSONNEL - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1-6, will be voted upon in one motion.

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

- 1P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Name	Location/ Position	Tenure Track or Leave Replacement	Replacing or New Position	Step	Prorated Salary/Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Elizabeth Kubie	District OT	Tenure Track	Anthony Pontone	MA/18	\$104,134	01/20/2026

- 2P. To approve the paid medical leave of absence for Employee #100109 from November 10, 2025 through March 31, 2026 using accrued sick days. Approximate date of return is April 1, 2026.

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

Name	Location	Position	Reason	*Last Day of Employment
Jennifer Calello	AES	Paraprofessional	Resignation	10/23/2025

\*In accordance with the 30-day requirement, unless mutually agreed for an earlier release date

- 4P. To approve the following additional club positions and stipends for the 2025-2026 school year, per the current teachers' contract, for a minimum of 15 sessions per year. Split position stipends will be divided evenly.

Club	School	Stipend
(1) Spring Homework Club	AES	\$1,143.68
(4) Spring Homework Clubs	WSC	\$4,574.72

- 5P. To approve Lisa Giuffre and Kaylee Andruska for additional hours required for Speech Services at \$61.85 per hour, as needed.

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
PERSONNEL - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

6P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following substitute staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:c

Name	Position	Daily Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Antonina Caramanna	Substitute Teacher Substitute Aide	\$130 per day \$15.50 per hour	11/21/2025
Carly Conti	Substitute Teacher Substitute Aide	\$150 per day \$15.50 per hour	12/01/2025
Alexandra Della Terza	Substitute Teacher Substitute Aide/Secretary Substitute Nurse	\$130 per day \$15.50 per hour \$250 per day (prorated hourly)	11/21/2025
Andrew Joskowitz	Substitute Teacher Substitute Aide	\$130 per day \$15.50 per hour	11/21/2025
Sandra Rivera	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day	11/21/2025

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Fede - Absent

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
CURRICULUM/PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

The following curriculum/program motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Motion by **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Seconded by **Melinda Street** to approve the following motions:

1C. To approve the submission of the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement and signature pages to the Essex County Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year, required by the NJ Department of Education.

2C. To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses*
Michelle Adams	NJASBO Administrative Assistants Workshop	Whippany, NJ	05/19/2026	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
Zayra Garcia	NJASBO Purchasing Review	Whippany, NJ	03/31/2026	Registration Fee: \$195.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
Zayra Garcia	NJASBO Administrative Assistants Workshop	Whippany, NJ	05/19/2026	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
Donna Gualtieri	BER "2026 Conference for Science Teachers"	Virtual	01/14 - 01/15/2026	Registration Fee: \$545.00
William Harvey	NJASA "Techspo '26"	Atlantic City, NJ	01/28 - 01/31/2026	Registration Fee: \$610.00 Cost of Mileage: \$125.86 Cost of Tolls: \$ 18.10 Cost of M&I: \$170.00 Cost of Hotel: \$234.44
Patricia Iandolo	NJASBO Administrative Assistants Workshop	Whippany, NJ	05/19/2026	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
AnnaMaria Karch	NJASBO Purchasing Review	Whippany, NJ	03/31/2026	Registration Fee: \$195.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
AnnaMaria Karch	NJASBO Administrative Assistants Workshop	Whippany, NJ	05/19/2026	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
Danielle Malinowski	Institute for Educational Development "Defusing Anger, Anxiety and Aggression..."	Virtual	01/06/2026	Registration Fee: \$295.00
Carol Marchetta	Prism/Montclair State University, "The NGSS, Modeling and the NJSLA - Science Grades 5-8"	Bloomfield, NJ	03/10/2026	Registration Fee: \$200.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.22

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
CURRICULUM/PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

3C. To ratify and affirm the following Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses*
Patricia Iandolo	NJASBO Administrative Assistant Program	Whippany, NJ	11/12/2025	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56
AnnaMaria Karch	NJASBO Administrative Assistant Program	Whippany, NJ	11/12/2025	Registration Fee: \$145.00 Cost of Mileage: \$ 8.56

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
ENROLLMENT - NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Students 6/30/2025</u>	<u>Students 11/14/2025</u>
Preschool Inclusive	27	17
Preschool Disabilities	10	15
Kindergarten	99	97
First	93	100
Second	94	86
Third	104	98
Fourth	84	106
Fifth	108	89
Sixth	110	105
<b>Out-of-District</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Charter School</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>718</b>

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**NONE**

**NEXT MEETING**

BE IT RESOLVED that the next meeting will be held, in person, on December 18, 2025, Public Work Session beginning at 6:00 PM followed by Executive Session with Public Session resuming at approximately 7:30 PM, at the Fairfield Municipal Building.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli**      Seconded by: **Angela Altaai**      Time: **7:56 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

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