FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Public Work Session
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building

MR. ANTHONY DEPASCALE, BOARD PRESIDENT, CALLED THE ROLL AT 6:**30** PM:

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

It is anticipated that the Executive Session will take approximately **60 minutes**; the Board may take action when it reconvenes to Public Session; and the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the reason for the Executive Session no longer exists.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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 matters related to the employment, appointment, or termination of current or prospective employees;
9. Attorney/Client privilege.

Motion by: **Melinda Street** Seconded by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Time: **6:30 PM**

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

Motion by: **Melinda Street** Seconded by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Time: **7:35 PM**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion by: **Melinda Street** Seconded by: **Andrea Bellise-Jandoli** Time: **7:35 PM**

ROLL CALL

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2026
7:30 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building
(Access livestream at www.fpsk6.org at 7:30 PM. Also available on Channel 34)

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

MR. ANTHONY DEPASCALE, BOARD PRESIDENT, CALLED THE ROLL AT 7:**36** PM:

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

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

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

Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Mr. DePascale spoke about all of the upgrades completed throughout the District during the summer months, as well as the upcoming curbing project at Stevenson School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Mr. Gupta thanked the HSA for providing breakfast for the entire staff on the first day of school and for hosting both Back to School Nights. He also thanked KingPrints for providing free T-shirts for the staff and the FEF for once again offering grant opportunities to the staff this year.
- He reminded everyone that there are many events taking place throughout the district and encouraged families to check the district newsletters for information.
- Lastly, Mr. Gupta shared that the NJSLA scores from last year have been received and will be mailed home shortly.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Mr. Lindsley advised that the auditors have completed the 2025-26 audit. The audit presentation is tentatively scheduled for the October meeting.
- He thanked the custodial staff for all their hard work over the summer while the various projects were underway. He also thanked the staff for their patience and cooperation throughout the summer projects.

Mr. Lindsley presented a slide presentation outlining the various projects completed during the summer and provided an explanation of each project.

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

Building and Grounds and Finance - Mr. Fede reported:

- Mr. Fede spoke about the upcoming referendum and shared that the architects are currently reviewing options for updating both schools and providing the additional space that is much needed.

HSA - Ms. Altaai reported:

- HSA Fest is scheduled for Sunday, October 4 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Families are encouraged to attend and support the HSA.

Special Education - Ms. Melinda Street reported:

- The Special Education staff have been participating in training and professional development.

- SEPAG held its first Meet and Greet on September 22. Its next event, Cider & Stories, is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 PM at the Fairfield Library

Municipal Alliance - Mr. DePascale reported:

- Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30: Jordan Toma at West Essex Schools
- Wednesday, September 30: Mahjong Madness, 7:00 to 10:00 PM at the Fairfield Recreation Ctr.
- Friday, October 9: 6th Grade Dance, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Stevenson School Gym
- Sunday, October 11: Officer Ciampi Day
- Sunday, October 18: Participating in the L.E.A.D. Bowl
- Friday, October 30: Assisting the Donatiello Foundation with its Halloween Trunk or Treat.

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

NONE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

1F. To approve the Minutes from the Public & Executive Session of August 20, 2026.

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

Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 08/31/2026	$345,534.73
Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 09/14/2026	$520,636.28
Ratify and Affirm Bills & Claims List - 09/24/2026	$57,881.56
Ratify and Affirm August 30, 2026 Payroll	$81,795.11
Ratify and Affirm September 15, 2026 Payroll	$470,330.14

3F. To approve the transfer of funds for the months of July 2026 and August 2026 as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

4F. To approve the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the period of July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 and August 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and certify that as of July 2026 and August 2026 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. MOTION TO APPROVE SUBMISSION TO THE COUNTY OFFICE FOR APPROVAL OF A TRANSFER IN EXCESS OF 10%

WHEREAS**,** in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.1, a cumulative budget transfer exceeding ten percent (10%) requires Board of Education approval and submission to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval; and

WHEREAS**,** this transfer in the amount of $543,000.00 from unexpended tuition account balances to Regular Programs - Instruction, for the purchase of classroom furniture;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fairfield Board of Education approve the budget transfer in the amount of $543,000.00 and authorize its submission to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval as required by statute.

ROLL CALL

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CONTRACTS - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

The following contract 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:

1CO. To ratify and affirm approval of the out-of-district placement and tuition contract for Student ID # 20371545 at Celebrate the Children in Denville, New Jersey for the period of September 8, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The total estimated tuition charges and extraordinary services is $126,900.

2CO. To ratify and affirm approval of the out-of-district placement and tuition contract for Student ID # 20312168 at Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey for the period of September 8, 2026 through June 18, 2027. The total estimated tuition charge is $85,500.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

1A. New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approves the updated results which were approved on March 9, 2026 of the NJQSAC audit. The new scores were based on the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

NJQSAC Area	Initial Placement (October 2025)	Interim Placement (September 2026)
Instruction and Program	76%	91%
Fiscal Management	100%	100%
Governance	100%	100%
Operations	94%	94%
Personnel	100%	100%

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school district has now satisfied at least 80% of the weighted indicators in each of the five areas of the NJQSAC review process and has been designated as "high performing."

2A. BANK

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfield Board of Education reaffirms the designation of ***Columbia Bank and/or its successors*** as its official depositories of school monies and other funds of this District for the 2026 calendar year for the following accounts:

General Fund
Payroll Account
Payroll Agency Account
Holding Account
Churchill Student Activity Account
Stevenson Student Activity Account
MECCA & Mark Ibrahim Scholarship Accounts

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bank be authorized to honor warrants drawn upon the funds of the Fairfield Board of Education and that the following warrant three officers be authorized to sign checks:

Account Name	Signatures Required
General Fund	Board President, Board Secretary, and Superintendent
Payroll Account	Board Secretary and Superintendent
Holding Account	Board President, Board Secretary, and Superintendent
Payroll Agency Account	Board President, Board Secretary, and Superintendent
Churchill Student Activity Account	Principal and Board Secretary
Stevenson Student Activity Account	Board Secretary and Superintendent
MECCA & Mark Ibrahim Scholarship Accounts	Board President, Board Secretary and Superintendent

3A BE IT RESOLVED that a residency hearing was held in executive session at the parent's request on August 20, 2026, where parent had the opportunity to prove domicile in Fairfield and the Board of Education has determined that Student ID Nos: 20352083 and 20341405 are not residents of nor domiciled in Fairfield, therefore said Students are ineligible to attend Fairfield Public Schools.

4A. To approve the acceptance of an award received through GenYouth for an NFL Flag-In School Kit. The kit includes 10 footballs, 50 flag belts, a ball pump, a mesh equipment bag, and printed and digital instructional materials, to support student participation in physical education and recreational activities.

ROLL CALL
Mr. Fede, Ms. Bellise-Jandoli, Ms. Street, Ms. Altaai, Mr. DePascale - All Ayes
Mr. Fede - Abstain - **Item 3A**
Mr. Altaai - Abstain - **Item 3A**

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

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:

Organization Group/Location/Purpose	Date and Time Slot
Fairfield Recreation Department Youth Basketball Stevenson and Churchill - All 3 Gyms	November 16, 2026 - March 19, 2027 Monday - Friday 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM
SEPAG Meeting Meghan Cafone Stevenson Gym	Retroactively to September 22, 2026 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Fairfield Municipal Alliance LEAD - 6th Grade Dance Stevenson Gym and Cafeteria	October 9, 2026 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

2B. To approve the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drills for the Fairfield Schools held in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6a:27-11.2.

- Adlai E. Stevenson School held its drill for routes 1-2 on September 17, 2026. All routes were evacuated and supervised by Ryan Gupta.
- Winston S. Churchill School held its drill for routes 8-9 and SE GR on September 18, 2026. All routes were evacuated and supervised by Thomas Majocha and Jaime Chavkin.

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
PERSONNEL - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1-14**, will be voted upon in one motion.

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

1P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following staff member(s) for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Name	Location/ Position	Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Carlos Bazan	Part-Time Custodian	$25.00 per hour	10/01/2026

2P. To ratify and affirm the appointment(s) of the following staff member(s) for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Location/ Position	Tenure Track or Leave Replacement	Replacing or New Position	Step	Salary/Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Alexandra Mazzeo	Paraprofessional	N/A	Kristin Ortizzo	N/A	$21.00 per hour	09/08/2026

3P. To approve the following employees to also serve as substitutes in the areas specified below, as needed, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Employee	Substitute as:
Giannotto, Jayneanne	Teacher, Paraprofessional, Sec.
Kazazi, Selvie	Teacher

4P. To approve the appointment(s) of the following substitute staff member(s) for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:

Name	Position	Daily Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about:
Mary Jo Foti	Substitute Aide, Sec.	$16.00 per hour	09/28/2026

5P. To approve Jaime Chavkin as Teacher in Charge at Winston S. Churchill School at the stipend per contract of $3,515.78, for the 2026-2027 school year.

6P. To approve Catherine Prall as Teacher in Charge at Adlai E. Stevenson School at the stipend per contract of $3,515.78, for the 2026-2027 school year.

7P. To approve Jaime Chavkin as Detention Supervisor at Winston S. Churchill School at the stipend per contract of $61.85 per hour, for the 2026-2027 school year.

8P. To approve the listed building changes for the following staff for the 2026-2027 school year:

Staff	From	To	Assignment
Crisafi, Kristin	Churchill	Stevenson	Grade 2
Goldsmith, Andrea	Stevenson	Churchill	Grade 4 (ELA)
Verrengia, James	Churchill	Stevenson	Testing Coordinator/Math Coach

9P. To approve a stipend of $140 for each of the listed room/location changes for the following staff members for the 2026-2027 school year:

Beim, Julia	Goldsmith, Andrea	Staudinger, Amy
Bowers, Lisa	Kirk, Sarah	Verrengia, James
Crisafi, Kristin	Kohlberg, Jodie	

10P. To ratify and affirm the following staff members as Monitors for early arriving/late departing students effective for the 2026-2027 school year, as needed:

Name	Prorated Hourly Rate	School		Name	Prorated Hourly Rate	School
Dina Bargiel	$61.85	WSC		Lisa Carroll	$32.50	AES
Megan Dewland	$61.85	WSC		Emily Lay	$61.85	AES
Donna Gualtieri	$61.85	WSC		Tracey Suhey	$21.20	AES
Sarah Kirk	$61.85	WSC		Kathryn Vagell	$61.85	AES
Danielle Malinowski	$61.85	WSC				
Gabriella Panzarino	$61.85	WSC				

11P. To ratify and affirm the updated "not to exceed $14,000," for the Extended School Year 2026 Program, as follows:

Position	Name of Staff	Per IEP Requirements	Hourly Rate
Child Study Team: LDTC, Psychologist, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist	Darlene Sardinsky, Jennifer Singh, Lisa Giuffre, Carissa Martinez	For completing evaluations and meetings	$61.85 Not to exceed **$14,000**

12P. To amend Carly Conti's mentor from Cheryl Malinski to Michelle Manna for the 2026-2027 school year. The fee is paid by the novice teacher.

13P. To approve an additional Stevenson Homework Club position and stipend of $1,143.68 for the 2026-2027 school year, per current teachers' contract, for a minimum of 15 sessions per year.

14P. To approve the following staff members as Club Advisors for the 2026-2027 school year:

Club	School	Name	Stipend
Stevenson News Club	AES	Catherine Prall Kathryn Vagell	$571.84 $571.84
Homework Club	AES	Vanessa Mayer	$1,143.68
Homework Club	AES	Emily Lay	$1,143.68
Homework Club	AES	Maria Suppa	$1,143.68
Homework Club	AES	Cheryl Malinski	$1,143.68
Homework Club	AES	Michelle Manna	$1,143.68
Art Club Fall	AES	Eileen Pekarsky Darlene Sardinsky	$571.84 $571.84
Student Council	AES	Donna Lizza Maria Suppa	$571.84 $571.84
Art Club	WSC	Eileen Pekarsky Jaclyn Van Natten	$571.84 $571.84
Communication/Coding Club	WSC	James Verrengia	$1,143.68
Drama - Musical Director	WSC	Sarah Kirk	$1,143.68
Drama - Technical Director	WSC	Sarah Kirk	$1,143.68
Gardening Club	WSC	Jaime Chavkin	$1,143.68
Homework Club	WSC	Danielle Malinowski	$1,143.68
Homework Club	WSC	Olivia Montwaid	$1,143.68
Homework Club	WSC	Alexa Rubino	$1,143.68
Homework Club	WSC	Jaclyn Van Natten	$1,143.68
Jazz Band Club	WSC	Justin Lazaro	$1,143.68
Safety Patrol Club	WSC	Sarah Kirk Jennifer Sarna	$571.84 $571.84
Student Council	WSC	Cynthia Perez **Courtney Cox**	**$571.84** **$571.84**
Yearbook Club	WSC	Jaime Chavkin Sarah Kirk	$571.84 $571.84

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CURRICULUM/PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

The following curriculum/program 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:

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

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses*
Lisa Giuffre	SCERTS 3-Day Course	Virtual	10/01/2026, 11/30/2026	Registration Fee: $170.60
Ryan Gupta	NJSBA Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 - 10/21/2026	Registration Fee: $550.00 Cost of Mileage: $125.51 Cost of Tolls: $ 22.76 Cost of M&I: $170.00 Cost of Hotel: $256.00
AnnaMaria Karch	NJSBA Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 - 10/21/2026	Registration Fee: $550.00 Cost of Mileage: $125.51 Cost of Tolls: $ 22.76 Cost of M&I: $170.00 Cost of Hotel: $256.00
Wally Lindsley	NJSBA Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 - 10/21/2026	Registration Fee: $550.00 Cost of Mileage: $125.51 Cost of Tolls: $ 22.76 Cost of M&I: $170.00 Cost of Hotel: $256.00
James Verrengia	AMTNJ "Fall 2026 Conference: Math Reimagined"	Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ	11/20/2026	Registration Fee: $215.00 Cost of Mileage: $ 49.52 Cost of Tolls: $ 11.40

*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.

2C. To ratify and affirm the following Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses*
Lisa Giuffre	SCERTS 3-Day Course	Virtual	09/17/2026	Registration Fee: $85.30

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

The following policy 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 **Melinda Street** to approve the following motion:

1PO. To approve the second reading and adoption of the following policy as noted:

Policy #	Title	Status
P 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities (M)	Revised

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ENROLLMENT - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Grade	Students 6/26/2026	Students 9/18/2026
Preschool Inclusive	17	18
Preschool Disabilities	17	14
Kindergarten	97	107
First	100	95
Second	87	100
Third	98	87
Fourth	106	102
Fifth	89	108
Sixth	107	89
Out-of-District	**2**	**3**
Charter School	**3**	**1**
Total	**723**	**724**

The Board President will open the floor to the public for 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 October 22, 2026, Public Work Session beginning at 6:00 PM followed by Executive Session with Public Session resuming at approximately 7:30 PM, at the Fairfield Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion by: **Andrea Bellise Jandoli** Seconded by: **Angela Altaai** Time: **8:19 PM**

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