# DURANT, NICHOLS, HOUSTON, HODGSON & CORTESE-COSTA, P.C.

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January 13, 2015

David J. McGuire, Esq. American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Connecticut 330 Main Street 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hartford, CT 06604

Re: Fairfield Board of Education Proposed By-Law Amendment

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I write in response to your letter of January 12, 2015 wherein you expressed the ACLU's concerns regarding a proposed amendment to Article V, Section 6-A of the Fairfield Board of Education's By-Laws. Your input in this regard is appreciated and your concerns have been duly noted. I enclose a revised proposed policy which may be considered by the Board of Education and which addresses the concerns you raised regarding viewpoint discrimination.

Please contact my office if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Houston

cc: Ph

Philip Dwyer, Chairman of the Board David Title, Superintendent of Schools

Enclosures

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January 13, 2015

By-Law for Public Comment, submitted by Mr. Dwyer (Revised)

Additions noted in RED:

### **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

## **SECTION 6: PUBLIC COMMENT (8560)**

## A. PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO BOARD ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS -

As a means of encouraging public participation during Board meetings, the Chairman shall solicit comments from the public with regard to agenda items, as proposed or amended, that the Board has discussed will be discussing and/or will be acting upon by vote. The Chairman may limit public comment in any manner appropriate to the orderly and efficient conduct of Board meetings. The following parameters will pertain to public comment:

- 1. Up to three (3) minutes may be allotted to each speaker. The Chair may modify this limitation at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so.
- 2. Public comment on non-voting items can be taken either at the beginning of each meeting or following the discussion of the non-voting item. A member of the public can only speak to a topic once at a meeting. Public comment on voting items will take place at the time the item is on the meeting agenda, following Board discussion and prior to when the vote is taken.

### **B. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND PETITIONS -**

The agenda of Board meetings shall also include an item for public comments and petitions regarding any topic or issue germane to the operation of the School District. The Chairman may limit public comment and petitions in any manner appropriate to the orderly and efficient conduct of Board meetings.