

**NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2019,  
at 7:30 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – January 3, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**ABSENT:** Greg Flanagan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross and STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

A. December 20, 2018 Regular - The minutes were approved by consensus with the clarification that the School Start Time Committee is looking into the *feasibility* of changing the start time for the 2020-2021 school year.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item F - ED099 Child Nutrition Programs. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Pat Bower thanked Dr. Cosentino for a wonderful and concise budget presentation. He asked about the number of personnel in BCBA positions and encouraged the Board of Education to invest in STEM programs. He spoke of the death of former New Fairfield High School teacher Mr. Robert Suchy.

## **VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin also sent condolences to the family of former New Fairfield High School teacher and coach Mr. Robert Suchy.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
  - There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade play at Meeting House Hill School. A stipend has been posted for this position and staff members are encouraged to apply.
  - The PTO play for MHHS will not happen at this time.
  - Thanked the PTO leaders and volunteers and cautioned everyone not to believe everything that appears on social media.
  - Dr. Cosentino will be at the Senior Center on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to meet seniors and share information about the proposed budget.
- C. Student Representatives' Report - None

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. 2019-2020 Budget - Dr. Cosentino asked that all budget questions be sent to Dr. Sanzo so that they can be reviewed ahead of time. Chairman Katkocin encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for December 20, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Cosentino noted that with the new teacher's contract, the district is able to pay current teachers to teach an extra math class.

- B. Acceptance of Donation
  - 1. Middle School Breakfast Club
  - 2. Middle School Student News

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the acceptance of the Derx Foundation Grants in the amount of \$17,000: \$7,000 for the Middle School Breakfast Club and \$10,000 for the Middle School Student News. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

- C. New Course Approval
  - 1. What It Is to Be a Young American

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new course - What It Is to Be a Young American - as presented by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone,

Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. New Course Approval- Suspension of the Rules

1. Interior Design

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to the approval of a new course - Interior Design - to be acted upon at this regularly scheduled BOE meeting. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new course - Interior Design - to be offered beginning with the 2019-2020 school year at New Fairfield High School. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Sherman Contract

Dr. Cosentino noted that she received a call from the Superintendent of Schools in Sherman asking that the district extend their contract for sending students to New Fairfield High School for another year. Dr. Cosentino noted that this makes sense at this time. She recommended that tuition and the cost for Special Education services be increased by 2.5% for the 2019-2020 school year and that it be renegotiated next year.

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the one year extension, for the 2019-20 school year, of the contract between the Board of Education of the Town of Sherman and the Board of Education of the Town of New Fairfield, for the period beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, with tuition of \$14,153 and Special Education supplement of \$2,738, and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract extension. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. ED099 Child Nutrition Programs

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to authorize Dr. Richard Sanzo to sign the ED099 and to sign claims for reimbursement. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Cosentino noted that this was to give Dr. Sanzo authorization to sign forms for this program.

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** - Members of the Board discussed the following:

Stephanie Stazza asked about the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade play and it was noted this is different than the play proposed by an outside source which will not be happening at this time.

Kathy Baker encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process.

Dominic Cipollone wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Rick Regan reminded everyone that the next meeting of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee will be on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Peggy Katkocin reminded everyone that the next regular BOE meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos