

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – May 5, 2022

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Ed Sbordone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, 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,

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 7, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
- B. April 12, 2022 - Special meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Information Item “2022-2023 Budget.” Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - New Fairfield High School Concert Choir and Band

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:
 - Congratulated the 2023 Building Staff members of the Year, Building Paraprofessionals of the Year and the Building Teachers of the Year.

B. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- Wished all the staff a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the PTOs for all their hard work this week.
- Wished all the respective School Nurses a "Happy Nurse Appreciation Day."
- The Junior Prom will be held on Saturday, May 7th.
- Congratulated James Mandracchia for accepting a job at the State Health Family Services Department.
- Congratulated Allyson Story on becoming the head Principal for MHHS/CELA.
- Reminded everyone that the budget vote will be held on Saturday, May 14th.
- Thanked Senior Student Representative Cayden Walker for his work on the BOE over the last two years and wished him well in college.

C. Student Representative Report

Senior Representative Cayden Walker spoke of the following:

- Senior Enrichment Experience (SEE) projects will start in the middle of May.
- Reminded everyone who doesn't have a parking pass to please not park on campus.
- Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Student Representative to the BOE.

D. Committee Reports

1. Communications/Community Outreach - Meeting was cancelled.

E. Liaison Reports

1. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that the next meeting for the School Security and Safety Committee will be on June 7^h.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Instructional Update

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby gave a presentation regarding the Vision of Instruction and strategies for supporting student achievement. She spoke of four goals that are identified on the Strategy Map that outlines the role of district leaders, building leaders, teachers and students. Each of the four schools have broken down these roles for their respective schools.

Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca explained the role of coaches in achieving instructional goals. Instructional Coaches Kristy Labet, Pam Lionetti and Nicole Briggs spoke of the progress and their achievements of this past year. Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story spoke of goals for High Quality Instruction. Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner spoke of the impact of this program.

B. Bilingual Program

English Learner Coordinator Rowena Zylali spoke of the new bilingual program. The district received a grant for this bilingual program since it had more than 20 English Language Learners that spoke Spanish. She introduced the new tutor Joren Harris who spoke of the progress and details of the program.

C. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the reimbursement for the school building project and specifically work that was done at Meeting House Hill School in order to accommodate the CELA project. The district has been working with State Representatives Patrick Callahan and Ken Gucker, and State Senator Julie Kushner to make sure that New Fairfield will receive all of the reimbursements that it is entitled to. He noted that this legislation passed in both the House and the Senate and is currently being sent to the Governor to become law.

D. 2022-2023 Budget

Dr. Sanzo noted that the BOE increased its 2022-2023 budget in the amount of approximately \$345,000 due to increased costs. This was presented to the Board of Finance. The BOF did not make any more cuts to the original BOE budget but did not take action on the revised budget. Dr. Sanzo spoke of ways that he and his staff have identified to close this budget gap.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Head Principal of Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School

Dr. Cosentino announced the appointment of Allyson Story as the new Head Principal of Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School and gave a brief description of her background.

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Allyson Story as Head Principal of Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School effective July 1, 2022. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for April 28, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

C. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policy 4118.11/4218.11 - Nondiscrimination as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policy 6146.11 - Grade Weighting and Class Rank as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Bylaw 9327 - Electronic Communications among Board Members as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza **OPPOSED:** Tim Blair and Amy Johnson

D. Copier Lease and Service Contract

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the reasons for the need for a new copier lease and service contract.

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to authorize Dr. Sanzo and/or Dr. Fildes to finalize and enter into an agreement with BASE Technologies for a copier lease and service contract from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

E. Connecticut DOT Distracted Driving Survey

Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval for 9th through 12th grade students to participate in the Connecticut DOT Distracted Driving Survey. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Allyson Story thanked everyone for the opportunity become the Head Principal of MHHS/CELA.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Kathy Baker asked for a presentation from the Athletic Director about what is being done to train the athletic coaches in helping students with social and emotional learning.
- Amy Johnson asked for an update on the technology that will allow the Board to meet in person.

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kathy Baker congratulated all the new administrators for their new roles. She thanked the teachers for all their work and wished them a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week.

Kim LaTourette thanked the teachers and wished them a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week.

Stephanie Strazza congratulated Allyson Story and James Mandracchia on their new positions. She asked everyone to be aware of the Zoning Commission and Permanent Building Committee meetings regarding the proposed bus lot. She reminded everyone to vote for the budget on May 14th.

Greg Flanagan congratulated everyone on their new positions and all the teachers who have won awards. He reminded everyone to vote for the budget on May 14th.

Dominic Cipollone congratulated all the new administrators. He encouraged everyone to read an article in the Town Tribune written by Samantha Mannion and Katherine Matz about Special Education. He reminded everyone to vote for the budget on May 14th.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos