

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – March 21, 2019

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

ABSENT: Stephanie Strazza

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Interim Principal Michael Clarke, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson, Reading Teacher and Instructional Coach Roseann Petruso, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh, BOF member Anthony Yorio and Dr. Jeffrey Kitching (Ed Advance)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. March 7, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus with the amendment: Rick Regan's Board member comment should be as follows: He encouraged residents to let the BOF know if they still support the security initiatives.

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 C.2. "Acceptance of Donation from Danbury Old Timer's Association" and Action Item E. "Non-Resident Student Request." Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Aline Fogle spoke of her concerns regarding safety with the parking lot at Consolidated School and offered some suggestions to ease traffic.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report – Peggy Katkocin spoke of the following:

- The challenge with the parking lot at Consolidated School and noted that this will be addressed if there is a building project at Consolidated.

- Noted that March is Board of Education month.

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

- Presented the BOE members with original framed art work from high school students in honor of Board of Education month. She thanked the members for their service and also high school art teacher Rosanne Main for the art work from her students.
- Dr. Cosentino attended CABA Day on the Hill with Dr. Fildes and Roseann Petruso. They were impressed with the legislators. She spoke of the Governor's stance on regionalization and noted that he is now looking more towards shared services.
- Spoke of the possibility of an early dismissal day on April 9th for seniors at the high school while the underclassmen take the PSATs/SATs.
- Dr. Cosentino will go to DAS (Department of Administrative Services) on April 4th with QA+M to discuss the possible renovation project.
- There will be a Community Forum on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the potential building projects. All community members are welcome to give their feedback.
- Attended the Social Studies Fair at MHHS and it was very successful.
- Cinderella will be performed at the high school on March 29, 30 and 31.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- The PSAT/SAT will be given on April 9th.
- DECA won four trophies at State level competition. Students that placed are eligible to go to National Competition in Orlando, Florida.
- Spring sports began at the high school.
- Cinderella will be performed at the high school on March 29, 30 and 31.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Research Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on March 21st and discussed changes to the 2019-2020 proposed budget. They discussed the summary vs. actual expenditures as of February 28th and there are no concerns. They also reviewed the building project timeline.
2. School Security and Safety Committee - Rick Regan noted that this committee met on March 13th and did a second review of the presentation that will be shown later in tonight's meeting. They also spoke of contingency plans if the building project referendum does not pass. He reminded everyone that the change in start time is dependent on the reconfiguration of the high school/middle school parking lot.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF met on March 13th and March 20th. At their March 13th meeting, the BOF asked the BOE to come back with recommendations for \$400,000 worth of cuts to the proposed 2019-2020 budget and the BOS to recommend \$200,000 worth of cuts to their proposed budget. These reductions can be from either the Capital and Nonrecurring or the operating portion of the budget. At the March 20th meeting, the town presented the recommended cuts to their budget which all came from the Capital and Nonrecurring portion of the budget. It was noted

that the increase in the BOS operating budget consists of additional security measures. The BOF noted that there are no new developments with the State budget. There will be a presentation from the Medical consultants at the March 27th BOF meeting.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission - Greg Flanagan noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on March 18th. The Sip and Stroll will be held on Saturday, May 18th. The first Movie Night at Memorial Field will be held on June 21st. The Commission spoke of the dock replacement and noted that they will get one more season from the current docks and go out to bid soon.

3. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on March 19th and received an update on the outstanding grant applications. The glitches with the anonymous reporting system were fixed and it is hopeful that this initiative will be launched soon. The School Security Master Plan and School Security initiatives in the budget were discussed.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Ed Advance Presentation - Dr. Jeffrey Kitching from EdAdvance gave a presentation of the roles and responsibility of EdAdvance and noted that their mission is to promote success of the school districts that they serve. He noted that their main office is in Litchfield with offices in Danbury and Torrington. He noted that they meet seven times a year and encouraged someone from the New Fairfield Board of Education to join EdAdvance.

B. New Social Studies Curriculum (Second Review)

1. K-5 Social Studies
2. 6-8 Social Studies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules to skip the second reading for the Social Studies curriculum and vote at tonight's meeting. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to accept the Social Studies Curriculum as presented for both the K-5 and 6-8 Social Studies program. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. 2019-2020 Budget

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the request by the BOF to recommend a reduction of \$400,000 from the proposed 2019-2020 budget. She spoke of union contracts and the elimination of certain positions to the original budget was presented. There was a discussion of administrator salaries and their roles and responsibilities. There was a discussion of payroll and it was noted that it can always be adjusted if necessary. BOF Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the recommended reduction and the process for determining the amount of cuts. BOF member Anthony Yorio spoke of capital projects and noted that they are

often funded by the surplus. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of improvements to the curriculum.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval to present the recommended budget reductions of \$400,000 made up of \$317,219.40 as presented by the Superintendent plus an additional \$82,780.60 in Capital and Nonrecurring to be presented to the BOF at their March 27th meeting. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Samantha Mannion

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the personnel report for March 14, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. School Start Time Education Presentation

Samantha Kennedy and Pete Pomeroy spoke of the possibility of changing the start times and noted that this would only apply to the high school. They spoke of many benefits for starting later including health benefits for students, less anxiety and depression and fewer traffic accidents. They noted that starting the high school and middle school at the same time would allow for shared resources between the schools. It was noted that some districts in Connecticut have changed start times and it has been beneficial. They invited the members of the public to attend the School Start Time subcommittee meetings on April 4, May 2, September 5, October 3, November 6 and December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of a school start time presentation to be shown to the community. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. Acceptance of Donation

1. New Fairfield Community Thrift Shop

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$1266.40 from the New Fairfield Community Thrift Shop to pay for round-trip transportation to and from LaGuardia airport for high school students participating in international travel. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Rick Regan

2. Danbury Old Timer's Association

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$2000 from the Danbury Old Timer's Association for the purchase of additional wireless receivers for Pixellot System – initial amount - \$828, and

a contribution towards the purchase of a wind screen logo for tennis courts - \$1172. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

D. Continuation of Health Benefits

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to authorize the Superintendent to offer continuation of health insurance benefits for teachers who notify the intent to resign by Friday, April 5, 2019. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. Non-Resident Student Request (Executive Session)

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Aline Fogle spoke of her concerns regarding cuts to the budget. Board members Peggy Katkocin and Ed Sbordone explained the budget process and thanked Ms. Fogle for coming to the meeting and giving her opinion. They encouraged everyone to attend the BOF meetings.

Dr. Cosentino spoke in support of the administrators and noted that a Special Education administrator and a Curriculum administrator were already cut from the budget.

Dr. McKinnon spoke as a taxpayer of New Fairfield and reminded everyone of the progress that has been made and the importance of keeping New Fairfield moving forward.

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

- Peggy Katkocin encouraged members of the public to get involved in the budget process and if they feel that something is important, they need to let the BOF know. She thanked Wes Marsh and Anthony Yorio for attending tonight's meeting.
- Greg Flanagan thanked Dr. Sanzo for all his hard work and value to his position. He further thanked BOF members Wes Marsh and Anthony Yorio for coming to tonight's meeting to give explanations and guidance. He noted that he hopes the district can maintain the momentum.
- Kathy Baker asked about the policy for vaping at the high school.
- Dominic Cipollone asked about the policy for vaping. He spoke in support of the administrators.
- Rick Regan thanked Ms. Fogle for coming to the meeting and giving her public comment. He noted that the high school concert was great. He also asked about the Accountability report and it was noted that it will be presented at the April 4th meeting.
- Kimberly LaTourette thanked the administrative team and the art students for the wonderful drawings. She encouraged everyone to see the play Cinderella. She also noted that vaping is also a concern for middle school students.

- Ed Sbordone thanked Board of Finance members Wes Marsh and Anthony Yorio for attending the BOE meeting and for all their hard work during the budget process.
- Samantha Mannion spoke in support of the administrators and noted that her comments during the budget process were not meant to suggest otherwise.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-RESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL ISSUE CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF A TEACHER

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss a non-resident student request and a personnel issue concerning employment of a teacher and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:57 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the students' request to attend New Fairfield Middle School and Consolidated School through the end of the 2018-19 school year, scheduled for June 18, 2019, without tuition and with transportation provided by the family. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos