

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

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

**MINUTES – February 21, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**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, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson,

**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. February 7, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

**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 E. Committee of the Whole - Administrator Interviews. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jim Mellett spoke of movements in learning and how they affect education in this country.

High School Teacher Kim Salta thanked the Board of Education for approving the international trips to Costa Rica (2019) and Belize (2020) and noted that many students were interested.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report – None

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

- Attended the National AASA Conference last week and received good ideas regarding school safety. She spoke about one of the keynote speakers Dr. Bill Daggett and his talk on the future of education.
- She spoke of an initiative shared by Region 7 where students are given \$100.00 scholarships to spread kindness. It was suggested that this may be able to be done in New Fairfield.
- Spoke of the State Budget and how it will impact New Fairfield.
- The interview process for the high school principal is almost complete.
- Thanked Director of Building and Grounds Phil Ross and his staff for fixing the heat at Consolidated School and also for cleaning up of the ice and snow after the recent storms.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Junior Representative Sophia Liguori reported on the following:

- Course registration for next year is currently in progress.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Washington DC trip for juniors is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Blood Drive on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- There will be a bake sale to raise funds for the Costa Rica trip this Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Stop and Shop.

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- Wrestling hosted the SWC Championships.
- Some students qualified for championships in Indoor Track.
- Girls Basketball will play at Holy Cross High School.
- New Fairfield will host the SWC Diving Championships.
- Registration for Spring Sports is open online now.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met today and discussed the following:

- Reviewed summary of budget vs. actual and the Capital and Nonrecurring fund report.
- There will be a special meeting of the Business Operations/Resource Management subcommittee on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to discuss the Educational Specifications from the firm of Quissenberry Arcari Malik.

2. School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee - Rick Regan noted that this subcommittee met on February 13<sup>th</sup> and approved a presentation to give to the full board at the March 7<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. He reminded everyone that if school start times are changed, it will affect only the high school and possibly the middle school but not the elementary schools. He noted that attendance at these meetings is usually low and discussed the possibility of changing the time for the subcommittee meetings.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF meeting of February 20<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to weather and was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. He reminded everyone that the budgets will be presented to the BOF on Saturday, March 2.
2. Parks and Recreation Commission - Kathy Baker noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on February 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:
  - Boat slip renewal forms were mailed to boat owners.
  - The docks will be repaired and some slips may be widened.
  - The parking attendant will be at the Town Beach only on Sundays after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sip and Stroll is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be a Summer Concert Series on Memorial Field every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
  - Kayak Paddleboard Day will be held on either July 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Discussion of possibly having an Oktoberfest.
  - The Parks and Rec Commission has decided not to have the Haunting on the Hollow this year.
3. School Safety and Security Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee will meet on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Communication Plan - Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes spoke of ways to increase communications for all members of the community. Examples of ways that communication has been improved are:

- Dr. Cosentino and Dr. Fildes met with a group at the Senior Center and explained aspects of the budget.
- There will be informal updates at BOE meetings.
- Facebook Live sessions with possible virtual building tours.
- Dr. Cosentino met with the Girl Scouts.

B. Responsive Classroom - Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story spoke of the core beliefs of Responsive Classrooms and the six guiding principles for the program. She spoke of the current status in New Fairfield and the process of training staff in this program. She spoke of how the students are affected by Responsive Classrooms and the many ways that learning is improved through this program. Members of the BOE asked questions of Mrs. Story regarding this program.

C. New Textbook Adoption (Second Review)

1. AP Environmental Science

D. Board of Education Policies (Second Review)

1. Policy 1250.1 - Classroom Observations
2. Policy 4112.5/4212.5 - Security Check/Fingerprinting
3. Policy 4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers

4. Policy 5141.21 - Administering Medication
5. Policy 5141.221 - Pediculosis
6. Policy 5144.1 - Physical Restraint/Seclusion/Exclusionary Time Out
7. Policy 6171.3 - Placement of Special Education Student (Out of District)
8. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Personnel Report**

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

### **B. New Fairfield Prevention Council Attitudes and Behaviors Student Survey**

Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the New Fairfield Prevention Council and their desire to give a survey to students. She spoke of a discussion held at the last BOE meeting asking to add questions about vaping and also questions about sleep habits. Mrs. Katkocin noted that this survey does not include questions about sleep since it only deals with addictive behaviors. She also noted that there is currently one question about vaping but it is hopeful that more will be added in the future.

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Attitudes and Behaviors Student Survey as recommended by the New Fairfield Prevention Council. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### **C. Suspension of the Rules**

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

### **New Course Approval**

#### **1. College Math Topics**

Keegan Finlayson gave a brief description of this course.

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

D. High School Educational Specifications Support for Start Time Change

Dr. Cosentino noted that QA+M will design the educational specifications as if the high school and middle school will arrive and leave at the same time and allow for this situation in the future but this does not mean that the district will be committed to changing the start times.

**MOTION:** Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full board that the educational specification for New Fairfield High School include considerations for site development that would allow for the middle school and high school to have the same start and end time, thus supporting the high school in having a later start time. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Committee of the Whole - Administrator Interviews

Dr. Cosentino noted that comprising a Committee of the Whole will allow a quorum of the BOE to meet as a committee with it being a public meeting.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full board that the Board of Education operate as a Committee of the Whole with regard to administrator interviews with regard to the high school. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

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

- Stephanie Strazza thanked Allyson Story for her presentation.
- Kathy Baker spoke in support of having the Responsive Classroom for grades K-12.
- Greg Flanagan spoke in support of continuing the Responsive Classroom to the Middle School.
- Dominic Cipollone thanked Dr. Karen Fildes and Allyson Story for their presentations.
- Rick Regan spoke in the support of professional development especially for the Superintendent and the AASA Conference.
- Kimberly LaTourette thanked Allyson Story and James Mandracchia for all they do for MHHS. She is looking forward to hearing about the Costa Rica trip after Spring Break. She spoke of a fundraiser called Run Ranger Run that supports military personnel returning to civilian life and encouraged participation.
- Ed Sbordone reminded everyone of the budget presentations for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The BOE will present their budget at 10:45 p.m.
- Samantha Mannion encouraged members of the community to read and review any proposed policies and make any comments before they are up for vote.
- Peggy Katkocin encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos