NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at the New Fairfield Community Room at 33 Route 37

MINUTES – October 15, 2026

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman),Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

ABSENT: Kathy Baker and Amy Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, High School Principal Dr. Katherine Blore, Middle School Assistant Principal Steven Groccia, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, and Director of Buildings and Grounds Joseph Lombardozzi

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 17, 2026- Regular meeting- Approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report- Chairman Dominic Cipollone spoke of concerns regarding the water main break in the High School on October 15th. He assured everyone that the cause will be investigated.

B. Superintendent's Report- Dr. Kenneth Craw thanked all the staff at the High School and Middle School for going above and beyond their duties during the emergency water main break on October 15th. He noted that the remediation company is finished and school will be in session on October 16th.

Dr. Craw spoke of the new "Seniors and Veterans VIP Program" which gives veterans and New Fairfield residents over 65 a card giving them access to sporting events, plays or any school event. Dr. Craw thanked Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, and Kathy Hull and Maureen Jendras from the Senior Center for making this program happen.

C. Student Representative Report

Khloe Seiferth introduced herself at the new Junior Representative to the Board of Education. She gave the following report:

- College Representative visits at the High School began on September 14th.
- The Club Fair was held on October 6th during Lunch Waves.
- Applications for the National Honors Society were submitted on October 1st.

- The Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 7pm to 10pm.
- The NF High School Music Department Butter Braids fundraiser orders are due by November 6th.
- The Texas Roadhouse fundraiser for the Class of 2028 will be held from Oct. 19th to November 11th.
- The College and Career Center will host Financial Aid Information Night on November 9th.
- A Field trip to the Connecticut State Community Colleges will be held on Nov. 16th for Juniors and Seniors.
- Juniors will take their final PSAT on October 22nd.
- The deposit for the Junior trip to Washington, DC is due by October 30th.
- Volley for a Cure will be held on October 19th.
- The Powder Puff Football Game for Junior girls vs. Senior girls will be held in memory of NFHS alumni Thomas Ford.
- The Fall play "*Attach of the Killer Man from the Sun*" will run from Oct. 23rd to 25th.
- The 2027 Yearbook is now officially on sale.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management

Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on October 15th and discussed the following:

- Reviewed budget vs. actual to date and everything is on track for the fiscal year.
- Reviewed the New Fairfield Middle School Facilities Study. The first draft recommendations of the Phase approach should be available soon.
- Bids have been submitted for the Bus Lot and will be reviewed by the PBC soon.
- Transfers totaling $176,643 were approved by the subcommittee and recommended to the full board for approval.
- Budget calendar meeting dates have been recommended to the full board.

2. Policy

Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on September 23rd and discussed four policies. Two of these policies will move forward at tonight's meeting. The subcommittee discussed devising a system to review existing policies.

3. Special Education Ad Hoc

Kim LaTourette noted that this subcommittee met on October 1st. Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul and her staff discussed goals and district priorities for Special Education

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance

Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on September 23rd and discussed:

- Request for Proposals for the auditors were due on October 14th.
- The BOF approved their Fraud Policy.
- The BOF had a lengthy discussion of the possibility of Municipal Leasing vs. buying for capital expenditures.
- Medical claims for July and August are $293,000 over budget.
- The unassigned fund balance is approximately $246,000.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission- The Parks and Rec Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, October 19th was cancelled. A special meeting is scheduled for October 26th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2025-2026 Standardized Testing Report

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck spoke of the variety of strategies and tools to monitor communication skills, collaboration skills, and critical thinking skills. Dr. Woleck spoke of test scores including participation rates, AP scores, SAT scores, and scores for high need students. She further spoke of next steps including curriculum and instruction focus and multi-tiered student supports,

B. NFPS Facilities Update

Director of Buildings and Grounds Joseph Lombardozzi and Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy gave a presentation about Capital projects to be completed in 2026-2027. They showed pictures of renovated classrooms and offices at the Middle School. Security enhancements will be discussed in Executive Session. The Bus Lot project will start in the Spring.

C. 2027-2028 District Calendar

Dr. Craw spoke of a draft calendar for 2027-2028 and noted it is very similar to the 2026-2027 calendar. There was a brief discussion of early dismissal days. It was decided that this will be looked into further.

D. Policy #5142-School Safety Preparation, Response and After Action

E. Policy #3231-Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students

Samantha Mannion noted that these policies need to be updated to be compliant with CABE.

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 October 13, 2026, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

B. Budget Transfers

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested FY 26 or FY27 budget transfers as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.
IN FAVOR: Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

C. District Priorities

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the District Priorities as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

D. Budget Calendar

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Budget Calendar as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-None

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
Greg Flanagan spoke of his frustration with the water main break at the high school.

Kimberly LaTourette thanked the Food Service team for providing food for the BOE meeting.

Peggy Katkocin suggested contacting the Permanent Building Commission about the water main break.

The entire BOE thanked the High School staff for their hard work after the water main break.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SAFETY AND SECURITY
MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:06 pm to discuss Safety and Security and to invite Carrie DePuy, Joseph Lombardozzi, and Dr. Craw into the Executive Session. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:24pm. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos