

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

MINUTES – October 20, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, New Fairfield High School Principal James D’Amico, New Fairfield High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary Principal Allyson Story, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

Paul Gouveia 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. October 6, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
 - B. October 12, 2022 - Special meeting - approved by consensus
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the unrest in society lately and asked families to speak to their students about proper behavior and being courteous.
 - B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the following:
 - Spoke of the success of the STEAM Program at MHHS.
 - Thanked Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz for her wonderful presentation at the joint BOE/BOF meeting on October 12th.
 - A breakfast was held in honor of Bus Drive Appreciation Week.
 - The budget process has begun.
 - The first Data Day was held on October 19th.
 - Student Representatives for the BOE will be back in November.

C. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on October 20th and reviewed budget vs. actual for payroll and non-payroll accounts. They reviewed the projected budget and discussed utility expenses and special education expenses. The Google vault reconciliation was reviewed with no problems. The budget calendar for 2022-2023 was discussed.

D. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on October 19th. Since he was unable to attend, he will give a report of this meeting at the next regular BOE meeting.

2. Parks and Recreation - Kimberly LaTourette noted that this commission met on October 17th. Upcoming events include the Tricks and Treat event on Friday, Oct. 28th, the Turkey Run on November 20th and the Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 26th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Academic Growth and Achievement Report 2022

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby spoke of Academic Growth and Achievement for the entire district and noted that New Fairfield fared better than most districts in the State in response to the pandemic. She spoke of ways to look at the data and gave statistics of how the pandemic affected growth. Many administrators spoke of achievement and growth for English Language Arts, Math, and Science for their respective schools.

Chairman Dominic Cipollone thanked all administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and everyone involved in education for their hard work.

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

Carrie DePuy noted that the construction for the high school is on schedule. High School Principal James D'Amico noted they will probably not be able to use the current high school after this school year ends.

Carrie DePuy noted that it is hopeful that the demolition and abatement for the old Consolidated School will be completed by early January. The punch list for the MHHS/Consolidated School is being completed. They are also working on a bus route for the MHHS/Consolidated Campus.

Allyson Story noted that the playground at Consolidated/MHHS is being installed.

C. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)

1. Policy 5145.511- Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
2. Policy 6140 - Curriculum
3. Policy 6172.6 - Distance Education

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for October 13, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

B. Acceptance of Grant

Casey Aiezza gave a brief description of the benefits of Trampoline Fitness. This equipment can be used for students in both Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School.

1. American Heart Association, Inc.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the acceptance of the American Heart Association, Inc. Kids Heart Challenge and American Heart Challenge grant in the amount of \$1,772 to support the Trampoline Fitness project at Consolidated School. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

C. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Greg Flanagan thanked the administrators and teachers for tonight's presentation. He spoke of his excitement regarding the improvement of academic achievement.

Ed Sbordone noted that the New Fairfield Rebels will be playing against Joel Barlow this Friday. Both teams are currently undefeated.

Kim LaTourette thanked the PTO parents for all the upcoming activities.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:31p.m. for the purpose of discussing a paraprofessional leave of absence request and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw into the Executive Session. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Mei-Chih Chen's request for an unpaid leave of absence, commencing Monday, October 24, 2022, through Friday, November 4, 2022, with a return to work on Monday, November 7, 2022. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos