

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – June 2, 2022

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

ABSENT: Kathy Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel and Athletic Director Mark Ottusch

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. May 19, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved by consensus with the addition of Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the new Director of Business and Operations.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:

- Spoke of dyslexia and encouraged early screening for students.
- Spoke of the events in Uvalde, Texas and encouraged everyone to stay vigilant.

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

- Thanked Julie Luby and everyone involved in the district-wide art show and “Sing A Ma Jig.” The art show will run every day until June 8th.
- Wished the Girls’ Lacrosse Team good luck in the State Games.
- Introduced Carrie DePuy as the new Director of Business and Operations.
- There are 11 more days left of school for the students.
- Sent well wishes to the residents of Uvalde, Texas and assured everyone that security will be extra tight at the New Fairfield Schools.
- Congratulated Melissa Busnel and Angie Mahoney on the STRIDES ribbon cutting.
- Congratulated Paraprofessional of the Year Diane Rambadt and Teacher of the Year Kyle Kressu.

C. Student Representative Report

Junior Representative Grace DeMarco spoke of the following:

- Girls’ Lacrosse will play tomorrow night at home at 5 p.m.

- The Art Show was a big success
- The Band Jam will be held on Wednesday, June 8th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Stephanie Strazza noted that this committee discussed the block schedules, including a hybrid model. There was an update on the Science of Reading, including dyslexia and early language disorders and mandates for curriculum. A Reading Task Force has been development to research this.

E. Liaison Reports - None

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Training of Athletic Coaches

Athletic Director Mark Ottusch gave a presentation regarding the rules and regulations for certification for all coaches in the district and what is needed for continuing education and training.

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Strings Program

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the Strings Program and noted that this was not in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She spoke of the challenges of financing the Strings Program and noted that next year's budget will be extremely tight since the ESSER funds will no longer be available. There was a discussion of whether or not to have a Strings Program and it was noted that a part-time strings teacher can be hired for now but there will be a greater need in the future as participation increases. The Board discussed participation rates for the Strings Program.

B. School Start and End Times - Tabled until a future meeting.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 26, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. 2022-2023 Budget Adjustments

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 Budget Adjustments as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. STRIDES 2022-2023 Calendar

Dr. Cosentino noted that the STRIDES calendar needs to be adjusted to coincide with the Naugatuck Valley Community College calendar in order to allow students to take classes there if desired.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 STRIDES school calendar as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. New Fairfield Public Schools 2022-2023 Revised Calendar

Dr. Cosentino noted that a data day in March needs to be changed.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 revised school calendar as presented. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion.

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

E. Healthy Food Certification

Dr. Cosentino noted that the district will be moving to a new food company and the consultant recommended taking the reimbursement per meal.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend that the full Board that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Child Reading Leave Request - Executive Session

G. Reduction in Force - Executive Session

H. Non-Union Salaries and Benefits - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Stephanie Strazza thanked Consolidated School Resource Officer Jason Casavecchia for his extraordinary help with a student.

Samantha Mannion congratulated the STRIDES Program on their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CHILD REARING LEAVE REQUEST

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REDUCTION IN FORCE

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

MOTION: Stephanie Strazza made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Child Rearing Leave request, Reduction in Force, Non-Union Contract Negotiations and Appointment of Director of Business and Operations to invite Dr. Pat Cosentino and Jessica Krompinger (Child Rearing Leave Request) into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** 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 8:07 p.m. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** 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 approval of the extended child rearing leave request for the 2022-23 school year for Jessica Krompinger. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion **OPPOSED:** 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 that as a result of the budget process, the carpenter position has been eliminated and the 2022-23 position will be Day Custodian at New Fairfield High School for Rudolph Sarro. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the non-union salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Ms. Carrie DePuy as Director of Business and Operations, effective July 1, 2022. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos