

NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEW FAIRFIELD, CT

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 21, 2026

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

ABSENT: Kathy Baker and Amy Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh, and BOF member Rick Regan

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2026-2027. Topics reviewed at this meeting included the budget for Curriculum, Technology, and Central Office. The requested budget is \$53,591,293 which represents an increase of \$2,279,374 or 4.44% over the 2025-2026 budget. He noted that the requested budget is offset by non-tax revenue. He compared this budget to requested budgets for surrounding towns in Fairfield County and noted that the average requested increase is 5% compared to the 4.44% for New Fairfield.

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Kris Woleck spoke of Curriculum and Instruction throughout the district and spoke of the many accomplishments throughout the district, noting that this is the third year of the five-year curriculum plan. She spoke of the Pre-K to 12 Curriculum and Instruction Leadership Team.

Curriculum

- Implementation of the K-12 Science curriculum (NFPS model)
- Launch of NFPS Curriculum Blueprint (Eduplanet)
- Mapping of digital literacy learning (AI guiding principles)

Instruction

- Development of K-5 mathematics computation fluency probes
- Expanded Orchestra Program in all schools
- NFPS AI Student Group
- Power School Data portfolio launched
- NFPS AI Work group

Wellness

- Anxious Generation Community Read

Members of the Board of Education asked questions of Dr. Woleck, specifically how students that don't meet goals are supported. There was a brief discussion of interventionists and curriculum coaches.

Technology

Director of Technology Paul Gouveia spoke of the following accomplishments in Technology spanning all of the grade levels:

- Secured over \$891,000 in grant money for technology for both the Town and the Schools;
- Continued to grow and support STEAM Team initiatives;
- Accelerated access to AI for both students and staff;
- Thwarted multiple Cybersecurity threats;
- Upgrading of devices;
- Reclaiming of four Middle School classrooms and outfitting them with technology;
- Modernized the Human Resources process;
- Expanded the One-to-One Student access for technology.

New Initiatives for Technology include growing and supporting the AI Working Group, maintaining the 3/6/9 Grade Chromebook model, and optimizing purchases of ED Tech to support high quality instruction. Mr. Gouveia thanked his team for all their hard work and noted that response times for fixing computers has been drastically reduced. He spoke of cost containment and efficiencies to keep the cost of technology as low as possible.

Members of the Board of Education asked questions of Mr. Gouveia. There was a brief discussion of the small Technology staff compared to other districts. Carrie DePuy spoke of Technology grants that can offset the price of the computers.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of the budget for Central Office and noted that it is reduced by \$950 (.16%) due to reduction in Financial and Human Resources software, legal fees, shared financial services and membership dues. She spoke of the accomplishments of the shared services agreement.

There is an increase in the amount requested district wide of \$136,985 for transportation, utilities, and copier rentals. There was a brief discussion of Sherman tuition revenue.

The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room. The Building and Grounds budget and the Capital Improvement plan will be discussed. Budget information is available on the district website.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

BOF Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the anticipated Medical costs increase of over 5% that should be reflected in the 2027 budget.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos