

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – February 20, 2020**

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

**ABSENT:** Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

**ALSO PRESENT:** Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca and BOF member Tom Garben

**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 5, 2020 - Special Meeting #1
- B. February 5, 2020 - Special Meeting #2

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to approve the minutes of the two special meetings of February 5, 2020, as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone **ABSTAINED:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin and Samantha Mannion

- C. February 6, 2020 - Regular Meeting - approve by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - approved by consensus

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Chairman’s Report - No report
- B. Superintendent’s Report - Assistant Superintendent of School Julie Luby spoke of the following:
  - There was an article about the Math Department in the Danbury News Times.

- The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school was celebrated at Consolidated School.
  - First Grade students will have a Social Studies Fair at Consolidated School on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Kindergarten Story Fair was held recently.
  - MHHS Chorus will perform at the Sound Tigers game on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - MHHS will celebrate Read across America starting the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Middle School is participating in the Scholastic “Hardest Math Problem Challenge.”
  - A Parent/Student/Staff Book Club will read the novel *New Kid* by Jerry Craft. Newcomers are welcome to join the book club. They will meet on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Unified Theatre will be performing *Back to the Future and Back Again* on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Cheerleaders took 5<sup>th</sup> place at the SWC Competition.
- C. Student Representatives’ Report  
Senior Representative Sophia Liguori noted that:
- The Girls Basketball Team will have a game at Pomperaug High School on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Wrestling Team will compete tomorrow at the Class M Divisionals.
  - Students from the Wind Ensemble will go to Sherman School on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> to have a joint rehearsal with Sherman students.
  - Parent Conferences will be held the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - There will be activities the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of the Chris Herron Wellness Week.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on February 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed budget transfers on tonight’s agenda for a vote of the full board. They also discussed the current budget and noted that the Special Education budget is being watched very carefully.

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo spoke of a retirement incentive of \$7,500 that has been offered in previous years to teachers that notify the district of their retirement by a certain date. He noted that this was an optional incentive and it is not recommended that this be offered this year due to budget constraints.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on February 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a special meeting before the regular meeting to appoint a regular member to the BOF due to a resignation. BOF Alternate Tom Garben was appointed as a full member. There was also a vote to recommend to the BOS a candidate to fill the alternate vacancy. Three very qualified members of the public expressed interest and the vote ended in a tie between two candidates. The BOS will make the decision as to who to appoint at the next BOS meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The BOF will have an update of the school building projects from the Permanent Building Committee at the March 18<sup>th</sup> BOF meeting.

Budget planning was discussed. An additional \$200,000 was added to the Medical budget. The starting point for the budget is an increase of 4.79%.

The auditor will attend the BOF meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The BOF also discussed School Safety and Security and noted that the Security Operations Center (SOC) is up and running. There was a lengthy discussion by the BOF regarding the elimination of the Director of Security position in the BOE budget.

The budget presentations to the BOF will be held on Saturday, March 7. The BOE will present at 9 a.m. and the BOS will present at 10:45 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

2. Parks and Rec Committee - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed the docks and the fields. There will be a Summer Concert series with bands. There was discussion of future plans for the Beach House/Snack Shack at the Town Beach. The next meeting will be at the Beach House on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

3. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup>. There was an update from the architect regarding the OPM. The next meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

4. School Security and Safety Committee - This committee has not recently met. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Introduction of Director of Curriculum PreK-12**

Julie Luby introduced Alyce Misuraca as the new Director of Curriculum. Ms. Misuraca thanked everyone for the opportunity and gave a brief description of her background.

### **B. Technology Update**

Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes gave an update of the Technology goals in the district and spoke of guiding principles and how they align with the Superintendent's goals. Three goals that directly relate to Technology are assessment (measuring student achievement), curriculum and high quality instruction and communication. Other topics mentioned by Dr. Fildes included Infrastructure, data, instruction and STEAM Pathways. She thanked the entire IT team for all their help with the process.

### **C. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)**

1. Policy 0200 - Goals for the Public Schools
2. Policy 3516 - Safety
3. Policy 3517 - Security of Buildings and Grounds
4. Policy 411.3/4211.3 - Minority Recruitment Plan
5. Policy 4118.112/4218.112 - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
6. Policy 5112 - Ages of Attendance
7. Policy 5118.1 - Homeless students
8. Policy 7100 - Planning

D. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update  
Dr. Sanzo noted that all programming meetings have been completed. The architects are currently working on a more detailed milestone schedule and some diagrams. The PBC is currently looking to hire a Construction Manager and a Commissioning Agent. There is a meeting with the State regarding these projects on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated February 11, 2020, as recommended by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion.  
**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

### B. FY 2019-20 Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested FY 2019-20 budget transfers as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.  
**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Dr. Sanzo gave a clarification of the Curriculum Implementation budget. It was noted that the PPS Contingency for Special Education is currently being used.

### C. Acceptance of Donation

#### 1. NFHS Rebels Booster Club

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of one Vertimax V8EX training system, with a value of \$4,595.00, designed to help athletes maximize speed and sport-specific performance. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

## IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Laura Consiglio spoke of the building project and requested that the high school be designed to make sure that there is a clear site line for traffic at the entrance to the school. She spoke of an ongoing problem of car accidents at that intersection.

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

Dominic Cipollone noted that he appreciated the Technology presentation.

Greg Flanagan thanked the Booster Club for the donation of equipment.

Ed Sbordone welcomed Alyce Misuraca as the new Director of Curriculum. He reminded everyone of the budget presentations on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Kimberly LaTourette welcomed Alyce Misuraca.

Peggy Katkocin reminded everyone to follow the chain of command and approach teachers/administrators before going to the Board of Education. She also thanked Karen Fildes for the Technology update.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos