

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – December 20, 2018

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

ABSENT: Kathy Baker and Stephanie Strazza

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Business Manager Craig McClain, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson and High School English Teacher Karon McGovern.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the New Fairfield High School Chorus performed a series of songs for the Board of Education.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. November 29, 2018 – Special Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. December 6, 2018-Regular Meeting- The minutes of the meeting were approved by consensus with the following corrections- School Start Time meeting was not actually cancelled due to lack of quorum but instead were unable to elect officers. Under Board member comments, Rick Regan reminded everyone that it was Computer Science week but there was no actual event.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked the many members of the community that work for the town, central office and fellow residents that sit on other boards. She also thanked her fellow board members and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino wished everyone Happy Holidays and spoke of the following:

- A leadership committee has started. Administrators were asked to recommend staff members to join this committee and approximately 30 staff members were recommended. Approximately 25 staff members attended the first meeting. The purpose of this committee is to establish leadership skills.
- The budget is being comprised and will be presented on January 3rd. A communication plan for the budget is also being comprised. There will be a presentation of the budget to staff members on Monday, January 7th at 3:45 pm.
- The process for interviewing for the interim High School Principal has begun.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- On December 21st the Student Council is hosting a Hot Chocolate Sale and an ugly sweater Christmas Day with all funds being donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- The Incoming Program of Studies will be held on Thursday, January 10th for current 8th graders and their parents.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays!

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management – Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met immediately prior to this meeting. Outgoing Business Manager Craig McClain reviewed the budget as of November, 2018 and everything is in line with expectations. Mr. Sbordone thanked Craig McClain for all his hard work and wished him well.

2. School Start Time Committee – Rick Regan noted that this Ad Hoc committee became official as of last Tuesday. He was elected chairman of this committee. Mr. Regan noted that the regular members are Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone, Kathy Baker and Dominic Cipollone. He explained the reasons for exploring later start times. It was noted that this will not go into effect until the 2020-2021 school year.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on December 19th and there was a presentation about school test scores by Dr. Jason McKinnon and Dr. Richard Sanzo. The audit report has been submitted and there were no deficiencies for either the town or the BOE. There will be a BOF audit subcommittee meeting on December 21st at 3:00 pm in the Town Hall Annex Conference Room.

2. Parks and Recreation – Kimberly LaTourette noted that Parks and Rec met on December 10th and discussed the following:

- The Great Holiday Light Fight was very successful.
- It is hopeful that the boat docks at the marina will be fixed soon.
- The P&R Commission is looking into ideas for serving food at the Town Beach.

- Day Camp fees will remain the same for this summer.
 - The commission is looking into the return on investment for the Haunting on the Hollow.
3. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee did not meet. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. NESDEC Enrollment Projections - Dr. Cosentino spoke of the decline in enrollment for the schools and the difference between the number of students in higher grades and the lower grades. She spoke of how this affects the budget and noted that there is not always an economy of scale with expenses. It was noted that this decrease in enrollment is common throughout surrounding areas except for Danbury. There was a brief discussion of the challenges of consolidating services with surrounding towns.

B. New Course Approval

1. Interior Design - High School Principal Dr. Sanzo gave a brief description of this one semester course and noted that it is hopeful that this can be approved at the next regular BOE meeting.

C. New Course Approval

1. What It Is to Be a Young American - It was noted that this course will include both English and Government Studies. Chairman Katkocin spoke of the importance of teaching civics in the schools.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for December 13, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. Secondary Mathematics Curriculum

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Secondary Mathematics Curriculum as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee 2019 Meeting Dates

This subcommittee will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm except for the month of July.

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee 2019 meeting dates as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

D. After-hours Security Guard for New Fairfield High School/Middle School

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the hiring of an unarmed security guard for after school activities. This Security Guard would be stationed in the high school entranceway. This would be for 35 hours per week from 3pm to 10pm Monday through Friday. This is a contracted employee through the firm of Securitas.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to allow the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Securitas for an after-hours security guard for New Fairfield High School and Middle School. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. Retirement Incentive for NFEA Members (Executive Session)

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to move this to Item XI after Executive Session. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

Rick Regan spoke of application dates for the Magnet School. He also noted how impressed he was with the Music concerts and the World Language Honor Society inductions. He spoke of much needed updates in the high school auditorium and hoped that they would be addressed in the near future.

Kim LaTourette spoke of her recent visit to Consolidated School. She spoke of the wonderful Music Concert at the high school and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ed Sbordone wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Craig McClain for his years of service to the district.

Samantha Mannion wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Craig McClain.

Greg Flanagan thanked Dr. Sanzo for bringing the High School Chorus to tonight's meeting. He also spoke of a proposed charge for students at MHHS to participate in the play. He also thanked Craig McClain for his service.

Dominic Cipollone noted that he was very impressed with the concert at MHHS. He also spoke of a proposed charge for students at MHHS to participate in the play and the proposed limit of 50 students. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays thanked Craig McClain for his service.

Peggy Katkocin wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Craig McClain.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING RETIREMENT INCENTIVES

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. to discuss retirement incentives for NFEA members. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board to allow the Superintendent to develop a retirement incentive plan for NFEA members for this year only. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos