

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room at 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812.

**MINUTES - October 6, 2022**

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

**ABSENT:** Kathy Baker and Amy Johnson

**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 Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary Principal Allyson Story, Elementary Assistant Principal Steven Groccia and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

**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. September 15, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to add Agenda Item D2 Liaison Reports "Board of Finance." Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Aline Fogel spoke of their concerns regarding parking issues at the Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- Use of time for the 80-minute blocks at the high school and the best use of instruction time for K-12 students.

B. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the following:

- Spoke of the opportunity he had to be part of the learning walks at the high school.
- Spoke of the installation of the new playground for Consolidated/MHHS campus.
- Gave an update regarding his entry plan.

C. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Stephanie Strazza noted that this committee met on September 27<sup>th</sup>. They discussed potential textbooks for courses at the high school. There was an update on the Science of Reading. The Social Studies curriculum will be discussed at a future meeting.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met recently. There are three policies on tonight's agenda for first reading and three policies up for a vote.

3. Special Education Ad Hoc - Stephanie Strazza noted that this committee met on October 6<sup>th</sup> and discussed upcoming needs and how it relates to the budget. They also discussed the new IEP format that is required by the State to be used since July 1, 2022.

D. Liaison Reports

1. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee has not yet met this school year.

2. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. They discussed the surplus for both the Town and the BOE. They also discussed the unusually low balance in the Medical Reserve Fund and discussed the optimal balance for the reserve fund. It was noted that there will be a joint meeting with the BOE on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss special education.

## **VII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Suspension of Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee

Dominic Cipollone spoke of suspending this subcommittee and focusing instead on the School Start Time Subcommittee.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. New Fairfield High School Start Time Subcommittee

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to restart the New Fairfield High School Start Time Subcommittee and with the new name New Fairfield High School Start Time/End Time Subcommittee. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

It was noted that this subcommittee will research only the start and end times at the high school and not the other schools.

## **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. New Fairfield High School Master Schedule Update - High School Principal James D'Amico spoke of the Scheduling Committee and specifically the prioritization and parameters for the instructional day. They analyzed the current schedule and focused on what is currently working well.

B. Budget Calendar 2022-2023 - Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of meeting dates for the upcoming budget cycle and noted that they for the most part mirror last year's dates.

C. New Fairfield High School /Consolidated School Building Project Update  
James D'Amico noted that they have been giving tours to staff members and invited any interested Board of Education members to tour. He noted that the response to the tours has been very positive. There was a brief discussion of the current parking situation at the high school.

Carrie DePuy spoke of a punch list for items that are being repaired at the new Consolidated School.

D. Transportation Update - Carrie DePuy spoke of improvements to the parking situation at the Consolidated/MHHS Schools. There was a brief discussion of the bus back up on Middleton Drive.

E. Board of Education Policies (*First Reading*)

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

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 29, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Board of Education Policies

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policies listed below as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

1. Policy 5113.2 - Truancy
2. Policy 5141.4 - Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
3. Policy 5144.4 – Discipline - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

C. CT DOT Distracted Driving Survey

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval to grant permission for the CT DOT Distracted Driving Survey to be conducted electronically in grades 9 through 12. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. New Textbook Adoption

**MOTION:** Stephanie Strazza made a motion to suspend the rules referring to new textbook adoption of Pop, Rock, & Soul Reader, 4th Edition; and American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3, 6th Edition. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Stephanie Strazza made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following new textbooks: Pop, Rock, & Soul Reader, 4th Edition; and American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3, 6th Edition. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Joe Barata spoke of concerns regarding the buses on Middleton Drive and asked that the school district ask parents to send their students on the bus whenever possible.

Kim St. Jean spoke of concerns regarding the bus situation on Middleton Drive.

Kyle Willeford spoke of concerns regarding the bus situation on Middleton Drive.

Aline Fogel thanked the staff members for their hard work with the bus situation and spoke of frustrations with the logistics of combining the two elementary schools.  
Maria Gorniakova spoke of issues with the buses on Middleton Drive.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Members of the Board assured everyone that they are working hard to come up with a solution for the bus issues and asked everyone to be patient during the transition period.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos