

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2020,
at 7:00 pm. via Zoom.

MINUTES – November 4, 2020

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel and Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone, including members of the public.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. October 15, 2020 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
 - B. October 29, 2020 - Special meeting - approved by consensus
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin noted that Consolidated and Meeting House Hill Schools are on remote learning until tests results are back. She encouraged everyone to remain vigilant with following the COVID-19 guidelines.
 - B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
 - Spoke of the protocol for putting schools on all remote learning. She spoke of the procedures for contact tracing. It is hopeful that schools will be in-person by Monday, November 9th. She encouraged families to make plans for childcare in case of closure.
 - Spoke of a call with Governor Lamont as of 5 p.m. today. It was noted that COVID-19 cases are increasing in Connecticut. There will be rolling back of restrictions to Phase 2.1.
 - Thanked all school nurses and administrators for all their work.

- Spoke of the possibility of EdAdvance offering full day childcare for situations when schools are closed. This will most likely be held at Meeting House Hill and there will be a fee. Information about this will be sent home to families soon.
- New Fairfield Health Director Tim Simpkins is contacting sports coaches for elementary age athletes to announce that all games and practices are cancelled. This does not include the high school sports.
- Encouraged everyone to remain vigilant with COVID guidelines.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that the Curriculum subcommittee met and discussed the following:

- There was a presentation from High School Principal James D'Amico about the High School Pathway program. This program aligns with graduation requirements.
- Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby spoke of the U.S. News and World Report and noted that New Fairfield High School is ranked 40 out of 162 schools in Connecticut.
- Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca spoke of assessments and specific data. They discussed having Math instruction every day.
- Discussed the book series *The Killing Series* and noted that they were a nice compliment to the Social Studies curriculum.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that there are two policies and four bylaws that are on tonight's agenda for a vote. There are many policies that are on the agenda for a first reading. The subcommittee is currently doing an audit of all the policies.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on October 21 and discussed the following:

- A summary of the medical plan and claims to date.
- The BOF approved an amount of \$625,540.89, which represents 100% of the FY2019/20 BOE expenditure surplus and prior fiscal year encumbrance closeouts provided this transfer may be expended by the BOE for unanticipated COVID-19 and special education expenditures, and if not so expended shall be expended for capital expenditures.
- Dr. Rich Sanzo spoke of additional expenditures and staffing needs due to COVID-19. He noted that administrators throughout the district have agreed to two furlough days resulting in a savings of approximately \$25,000.
- Dr. Sanzo further spoke of additional expenses due for building cleaning and PPE. There may also be more expenses because of the need for more ventilation. To date, it is estimated that additional expenses due to COVID is equal to about \$1.4 million. To offset this, the district is hoping to receive approximately \$200,000 from the ESSER grant and approximately \$185,000 in Coronavirus relief. This is in addition to the \$625,540.89 that was just approved from prior year surpluses. There is also the possibility that there may be some FEMA reimbursement money available.

2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that a meeting was held on Monday, October 19th. Most of the meeting was held in Executive Session regarding the school building project.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Remote Learning - Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby noted that there are currently 307 students on remote learning which represents approximately 14% of the school population. The feedback regarding remote learning is that it is working very well.

B. 2021-2022 Budget Calendar - Dr. Sanzo reviewed the budget calendar for meetings for the 2021-2022 budget. There will be budget workshops with BOF members invited and encouraged to attend.

C. NESDEC Enrollment Projections - Dr. Sanzo spoke of enrollment projections for this year. He noted that the actual number is 15 fewer students than what was projected last year. Possible reasons may be COVID related since some families may have opted to delay Kindergarten for this year. He spoke of a possible increase in enrollment for next year with students at Consolidated School that did not attend Kindergarten this year. Dr. Cosentino spoke of data that shows a disparity with success of remote learning between students among different ethnicity and social status.

D. BOE 2021 Regular Meeting Dates - The Board was given the meeting dates for review and will vote at the next regular BOE meeting. There was a brief discussion of whether or not to keep the Communications/Community Outreach subcommittee. This will be voted on at the next BOE meeting.

E. Board of Education Policies (First Reading)

1. Policy 4118.231/4218.231 - Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
2. Policy 5131.6 - Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
3. Bylaw 9000 - Rule of Board and Members (Powers, Purpose, Duties)
4. Bylaw 9010 - Limits of Authority
5. Bylaw 9012 - Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education
6. Bylaw 9020 - Public Statements
7. Bylaw 9030 - Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff and Students
8. Bylaw 9040 - Board Related Responsibilities

F. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update - Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave an update on the building project and noted that the design development phase for Consolidated School has been completed. The PBC invited the BOE members to attend their meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:30 p.m. The architecture firm will present an overview of the CELA project. Budget estimates for the CELA project are on track. Design development drawings were recently submitted to the estimators and cost estimates will be available soon.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for October 29, 2020, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. BOE Policies

1. Policy 5112 - Ages of Attendance
2. Policy 6141.3272 - Electronic Resources
3. Policy 6145.1 - Extra Class Activities- closed forum
4. Policy 6145.2 - Interscholastic Competition

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education policies listed above as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board will discuss whether or not to continue the Communications/Community Outreach subcommittee.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Board members encouraged everyone to stay safe and to continue to practice COVID-19 guidelines.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos