

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – August 4, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**ABSENT:** Greg Flanagan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. June 15, 2022 - Special meeting - approved by consensus
- B. June 20, 2022 - Special meeting - approved by consensus

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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Aline Fogle asked about furniture and equipment that may be left over from the old Consolidated School building and suggested holding a tag sale for community members and have the proceeds go towards the building project.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- Welcomed Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw to his first official BOE meeting.
- Noted that he is looking forward to a successful 2022-2023 school year.

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

- Thanked everyone for the warm welcome to the district.
- Spoke of the successful leadership retreat held in the district recently and thanked Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby for putting together the agenda for the retreat.
- Thanked Alyce Misuraca for her presentation during the retreat.
- Spoke of an "Entry Plan" for the district. He will present the Board with a written draft at the next BOE meeting.

D. Committee Reports

1. Special Education Ad Hoc- Stephanie Strazza noted that this committee met on August 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed staffing for the district. They discussed the possibility of adding another section to the ELC program.

#### E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF is met on June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed:

- An update on the school building projects and noted that everything is on time and on budget.
- The BOF voted to keep O'Connor Davies as the Town's audit firm.
- The BOF formed a subcommittee for long-term capital planning.
- They discussed the possibility of having in-person office hours for the BOF. Any decisions regarding this were tabled.
- The BOF voted in favor of an additional appropriation for an additional SRO officer at the new CELA building. There will be a Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center to vote on this additional appropriation. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- A presentation for from the PPS Director to the BOF was tabled.
- They discussed projects that may be funded with ARPA funds.
- They decided to have in-person BOF meetings at least once per quarter.
- There was a discussion of possible changes to the Public Comment policy which was met with a lot of controversy. No decisions have been made regarding this yet.

### **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Craw spoke of the school building updates and noted that both projects are on time. Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy showed pictures of the progress of both schools. There was a brief discussion of when the school will be open for teachers to set up classrooms.

#### B. Enrollment

The Board reviewed enrollment for the 2022-2023 year and it was noted that there is a possibility that there may be an additional 25 students over what was anticipated.

Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz discussed enrollment for ELC. She spoke of the number of Special Education students and compared to the number of typical peers. Currently, the budget allows for six sections with three in the morning and three in the afternoon with 16 seats in each section. She spoke of the possibility of adding additional students or an additional section if parent referrals necessitate more Special Education eligible students. There was a brief discussion of the possibility of not having an integrated program. It was decided that no decision needs to be made at this point. Samantha Mannion asked for a list of implications for the program if it were to become a non-integrated program.

### **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 July 28, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Board of Education Policy

Suspension of the Rules (referring to Policy 6141.52)

1. Policy 6141.52 - Challenging Curriculum Policy

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policy 6141.52. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Samantha Mannion gave a brief explanation of the need for changes to this policy.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policy 6141.52 as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Acceptance of Donation

1. Anonymous Donation to NFHS Boys' Swim Team

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$1,000 for the Boys' Swim Team for the 2022-23 school year. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

2. New Fairfield Youth Basketball Inc.

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$10,000 to be used for the replacement of the High School and Middle School gym scoreboards. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Aline Fogle encouraged the BOE and the classroom teachers to schedule a time for elementary students to meet with teachers and visit their schools before the first day of school. She spoke in favor of having an additional ELC section and spoke of her support of bringing back specials to the ELC program.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Kimberly LaTourette encouraged everyone to rest and relax before the start of the school year.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos