

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2019,
at 8:11 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – May 2, 2019

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

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Khris Hall, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh, State Representative Ken Gucker, Rusty Malik (Quisenberry Arcari+Malik) and Chuck Warrington (Colliers)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m. (immediately following the BOE Special meeting regarding the proposed building projects)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. April 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item F.3. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request, Action Item G. Nonresident Student Requests and Agenda Item XII Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing a Nonresident Student Request. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report – Peggy Katkocin spoke of the following:

- Reminded everyone about the budget vote this Saturday, May 4th.
- Noted that the district received a verbal NEASC report. This will be shared with the public as soon as the written copy is received.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- Congratulated the High School Music Department did a fabulous job at last night's performance.
- Congratulated the Major Minors of MHHS for their performance at Citi Field.
- Thanked the building principals in honor of Principal Appreciation Day on May 1st.
- Staff Appreciation Day is next week.
- Nurse Appreciation Day is next week.
- Reminded everyone that there will be tours of Consolidated School and the High School beginning at Consolidated School at 10 a.m. If anyone is unable to attend, they can call Central Office to arrange a private tour.
- Reminded everyone of the budget vote this Saturday, May 4th from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and stressed that this only for the budget and not the building projects.

C. Student Representatives' Report- None

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met on April 29th and discussed new textbooks for both Chemistry and Algebra. They also discussed a new course proposal for pre-algebra. Rick Regan noted that this committee also discussed the Next Gen Accountability and this discussion will continue at a meeting in the near future.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on April 24th and discussed two potential new policies. Two other policies are on the agenda tonight as Action Items.
3. School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Rick Regan noted that this committee met on May 2nd and discussed how a later start time could affect sports and bus scheduling. Athletic Director Mary Stolle gave some statistics regarding student athletes. This is the last School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee until September.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on May 2nd and voted to close out five school construction projects. The close out of these projects is on tonight's agenda for the BOE to consider as well.
2. Technology - Rick Regan noted that he met with Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes on April 8th got an update of the following items:
 - The schools and the town will be switching over to a new technology infrastructure and it is hopeful that this will be completed by July.
 - The migration from to Power School from Infinite Campus is targeted to be done by the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.
 - There was a conference this month with CEN (Connecticut Education Network Strategic Planning Committee)
 - Spoke of a workshop on cyber security for both the town and schools.
 - Spoke of a recycling program for technology.
 - Spoke of Pilot programs at MHHS with interactive white boards and library technology resources.

- Became a district partner with of ISTE (International Society for Technology and Education).
- Spoke of State standards for Technology.
- Put out a bid for new Chrome books and laptops

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Debt Service and Operational Savings for NFHS/Consolidated School Building Projects

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo gave a presentation regarding the proposed building projects and provided a timeline. He spoke of the NEASC report and noted that the district was verbally informed that they will receive a warning due to the condition of the buildings. This warning could affect the accreditation of the high school. He showed a schedule of the current debt service and operational costs and spoke of savings that could be realized by building new schools. He noted that heating and utility costs would be lower as well as the savings for possible reduction in staff. He spoke of economies of scale and the advantages of building two projects at once. He noted other advantages of building new were less disruption to the students during construction and energy efficiency. He noted that building new would ensure that the buildings are the correct size.

Rusty Malik from the firm of Quisenberry Arcari+Malik (QA+M) noted that his firm recently completed two similar projects. He spoke of the cost estimates and noted that the figures were very conservative and were worst case scenarios. He spoke of combined savings with building two schools and noted that they would work with the State to get as much reimbursement as possible.

Chuck Warrington from Colliers spoke of the advantages of doing two projects and once. He noted that each building would be a separate bid but the district may be able to share resources and hire the same vendors thus saving money.

Dr. Sanzo gave a schedule of the annual tax increase which included the operational savings. He spoke of the “cost of doing nothing” and noted that annual capital improvements could cost more than the cost of bonding.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino encouraged all taxpayers to get involved in the process and stay informed. More information will be put in the Town Tribune in the near future.

B. New Textbook Adoption (First Review)

1. *Chemistry in the Earth System*
2. *SRA Essentials for Algebra*

C. New Course Proposal (First Review)

1. Pre-Algebra

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 April 25, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Ed

Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Cosentino noted that the reduction in force for two administrators was strictly due to the budget and **not** lack of performance.

B. New Textbook Adoption

1. High School Biology- *The Living Earth: Integrating Biology and Earth Science*

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion recommend to the full Board the adoption of the high school biology textbook - *The Living Earth: Integrating Biology and Earth Science*. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of Education policies listed below as presented. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

1. Policy 4112.52 - Criminal History Record Information
2. Policy 5132 - Dress and Grooming

D. Closeout of School Construction Projects

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the school building projects:

1. 091-0029EC - New Fairfield High School
2. 091-0030RR - New Fairfield High School
3. 091-0031EA/RR - Consolidated School
4. 091-0041A/CV - New Fairfield Middle School/High School
5. 091-0043CV - New Fairfield High School

Herein identified for public school purposes and certifies that:

- a. The projects have been accepted by the architect and construction management firms;
- b. All change orders for these projects have been reviewed by the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and final determination letters for all change orders have been issued;
- c. The grants received for these projects do not represent a duplication of funding and that funds received do not exceed 100% of the total cost of the projects;
- d. All bills for the projects have been paid or funds to pay such bills are deposited in a separate escrow account;
- e. The total sum noted in this application was expended for the school building projects herein described, and

f. Application is hereby made under provisions of Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended for payment of the school building project grant due based on the completion of the projects described herein. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Approval of Grant Application

1. SDE IDEA 611 and 619 Grant

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the application for the State Department of Education IDEA 611 and 619 grant. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Leave of Absence Request (Executive Session)

1. Custodian Request #1
2. Custodian Request #2
3. Paraprofessional Request

G. Non-resident student request (Executive Session)

1. Request #1
2. Request #2

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – John Rogers asked about the impact on the tax rates from the building projects. Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that important information regarding the projects will be forthcoming and discussed at a future meeting. Details will be published on the district’s website.

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

Rick Regan:

- Spoke of the wonderful concert at the high school. He encouraged everyone to take the tour of the buildings on May 4th and reminded everyone to vote at budget referendum also on May 4th.

Kim LaTourette:

- Thanked Kelly Burger, James Mandracchia and Allyson Story for coordinating the Major/Minors singing at Citi Field.
- Thanked everyone involved with bringing Chris Herren to speak at the high school about substance abuse. She encouraged parents to speak to their children about this subject.
- Thanked Phil Ross and his staff for everything they do for the buildings. Encouraged everyone to take the building tours on May 4th.

Ed Sbordone:

- Encouraged everyone to take the building tour on May 4th and to also attend the May 7th meeting at 7:00 p.m. regarding the building project.

Samantha Mannion:

- Spoke of Consolidated School and noted that over half of the windows don't close. Encouraged everyone to go on the tour of the buildings.

Stephanie Strazza:

- Encouraged everyone to vote at the budget referendum on May 4th.

Greg Flanagan:

- Spoke in support of the building projects and noted that it is an investment in the community.

Kathy Baker:

- Spoke in support of the building projects.
- Noted that she was at the high school on May 1st for Decision Day and it was good to see the excitement of the students.
- Encouraged residents to volunteer for or support the Post-Grad party.

Peggy Katkocin:

- Spoke in support of the building projects.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-RESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing leave of absence requests and non-resident student requests and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session.

Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Martha Piedrahita's request for an unpaid leave of absence commencing April 29, 2019, returning to work no later than July 1, 2019. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Lidia Chaves' request for an additional unpaid leave of absence commencing May 20, 2019, returning to work on June 1, 2019. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the

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

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Mary Lucille Grabert's request for an unpaid leave of absence, returning to work on August 26, 2019. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the students' request to attend New Fairfield High School through the end of the 2018-19 school year, scheduled for June 18, 2019, without tuition and with transportation provided by the family. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the students' request to attend New Fairfield High School and New Fairfield Middle School through the end of the 2018-19 school year, scheduled for June 18, 2019, without tuition and with transportation provided by the family. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos