

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – September 19, 2017

PRESENT: Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon; High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo; Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia; Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn; Business Manager Craig McClain; Director of Mathematics, Science, and Interventions Keegan Finlayson; and High School teachers Cathy Hall, Bonny Marsicano and Angela Stolfi

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. September 5, 2017- Special Meeting

MOTION: Susan Starr made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017, special meeting as presented. Jay Voss seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

B. September 7, 2017- Regular Meeting

MOTION: Amy Tozzo made a motion to amend the minutes of the September 7, 2017, regular meeting to include the following two things to the Public Comment made by Mr. Rick Regan: To include “create a comprehensive Superintendent evaluation system” and to “start the search for a new Superintendent of Schools.” Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the minutes of September 7, 2017, as amended. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

C. September 11, 2017- Meeting

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017, meeting as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve

Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item G "Non-Resident Student Request" with a corresponding Executive Session to discuss. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Samantha Kennedy approached the Board about the possibility of delaying start times for the High School and Middle School. Chairman Burfeind suggested putting this on the agenda at the next Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 6pm on Thursday, Oct. 5th.

Kim LaTourette asked about the District Vision and specifically the status of the Superintendent's contract and the search for a new Superintendent.

Nicole Roemer spoke of her disappointment of the removal of the Strings Music program at Meeting House Hill School.

Laura Consiglio asked about the K-3 Reading curriculum discussed at the Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting and requested that this be discussed at the next Curriculum Subcommittee meeting, specifically complying with State standards. Ms. Consiglio further discussed the District Vision and noted that this should not be left up to the Superintendent or current board members and noted that the search for the new Superintendent should start as soon as possible.

Patrick Bower asked about a timeline for the Superintendent search.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report- Chairman Steve Burfeind reminded everyone that the BOF will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 7:30 p.m. The BOE will present their contingency plan.
- B. Superintendent's Report- Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
 - MHHS had the first Family Picnic and it was a great success.
 - MHHS celebrated "Constitution Day."

- MHHS students who read the most books over the summer participated in a pie throwing at teachers and administrators to celebrate their reading achievement.
- All four schools have completed their Open House and they were all well attended with positive feedback.

C. Student Representative Reports

Dr. Roy gave the Student Representative report in their absence:

- The fall athletic season has started.
- The High School Counseling Dept. will host a College Financial Aid Planning evening on Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Seniors and their parents are invited to attend.
- Underclass photos will be taken on October 3rd and 4th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on September 19th and discussed the following:
 - Spoke of security at the student parking lot at the high school and the possibility of getting cameras through a grant. This grant was voted by the subcommittee to move to the full board.
 - Budget transfers were discussed and were voted to send to the full Board.
 - There were unallocated funds of \$294,620 at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, which are included in the \$600,000 amount accounted for in the BOF budget contingency plan.
 - The current year 2017-2018 budget was reviewed and everything is on track.
2. Special Education Ad - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on Sept. 13th and discussed K-3 Reading assessments, the current status of the Special Education budget in regard to the State budget, the possibility of a Special Ed Parent Teacher Association and an update of Unified Sports and Theater. There was also a presentation on the Life Skills program.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Parks and Rec Commission - Steve Burfeind noted that this commission met on Sept. 11th and discussed the Field Fees structures in regard to indoor facilities. The new turf field is currently under construction. There is a possibility of a new basketball court by the playground/dog park area.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Student Achievement Results Presentation (Part I) – Dr. Roy began the student achievement results presentation providing an overview of the results and stressing the continued focus of the district on improvement. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon then discussed assessment results for the Smarter Balanced tests for Grades 3-8 for English Language Arts and compared New Fairfield's results with other districts in the DRG (District Reference Group) and also with students in the same cohort. Director of Mathematics, Science, and Interventions Keegan Finlayson spoke of the Math results for the Smarter Balanced testing. There was a discussion of Professional

Development and ways to help students who have not met the standard. Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia spoke of data at MHHS and how it is used by teachers to support advancing student achievement.

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of PSAT and SAT results for high school students and noted that the test was revised in 2016 to align with the Common Core structure. He reviewed scores from the Class of 2017 and compared them to the Class of 2018. These scores were also compared to the DRG and National average.

High School teachers Cathy Hall, Bonny Marsicano and Angela Stolfi spoke of Rebel U, which will be implemented in the next couple of weeks. Rebel U is a series of structured mini lessons designed to help students improve PSAT and SAT scores.

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the Advanced Placement (AP) Courses at the high school and noted that New Fairfield currently offers 21 AP courses. These courses are college level courses given to high school students. Students who do well on the AP exams may receive college credits. There was a brief presentation on how to improve AP scores and it was noted that some AP courses have been reworked at the high school based on changes from the College Board. Samantha Mannion inquired about the percentage of students who score a 4 or 5 on the AP exams, the levels that are above the standard and more likely used to grant college credit as the number of students taking AP courses increases.

B. IDEA Annual Performance Report - Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn spoke of a performance plan required by the State in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act. This performance plan is based on 17 indicators and is intended to improve educational services for children with disabilities. Ms. Einhorn noted that upon review of the data of these indicators, the State assigns each District to one of four categories. It was noted that New Fairfield met the requirements on all indicators and scored in the highest category.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated September 14, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

B. 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget Transfers

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested 2017-18 FY budget transfers as presented. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

C. PreK Curriculum

MOTION: Amy Tozzo made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the PreK Curriculum as presented. Kevin Hearty seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

D. Before and After School Programs

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to offer a before- and/or after-school care program in the district, offered through EdAdvance and with no cost to the district, based on the interest of families. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

It was noted that this program would not start until next school year.

E. Approval of Grant Applications

1. Cowles Charitable Trust Grant

MOTION: Amy Tozzo made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Cowles grant application in the amount of \$5,202. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

It was noted that this grant is primarily used to cover the stipend for the coordinator of the program.

2. School Security Grant - Round 3

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval for the Superintendent to apply for the School Security Grant in the amount of \$122,442.74, with \$50,287.23 coming from the state grant and a local match of \$72,155.51. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

F. Approval of Unpaid Leave of Absence Request (Executive Session)

G. Non-tuition student request (Executive Session)

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AN UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PUROSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PUROSE OF DISCUSSING THE EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PUROSE OF DISCUSSING A NON-RESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. to discuss an unpaid leave of absence request, strategy for collective bargaining, evaluation of the Superintendent and a non-tuition student request and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

The Board came back from Executive Session at 9:52 p.m.

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the unpaid leave of absence request for Sue Halliday per Section 7.6 of the secretaries' contract to extend from January 2, 2018, through January 2, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the student's request to attend New Fairfield Schools Early Learning Center with tuition and transportation provided by the family until no later than October 31, 2017. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

XIV. ADJOURNMENT- Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos