

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

### **MINUTES – December 4, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion

**ABSENT:** Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

**ALSO PRESENT:** Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, High School Principal James D'Amico, Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul and BOF member Rick Regan

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS**

Amy Johnson nominated Dominic Cipollone to serve as Chairman of the Board of Education.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman of the BOE. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF CLOSING THE NOMINATIONS:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion. **IN FAVOR OF DOMINIC CIPOLLONE AS CHAIRMAN:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion

Kathy Baker nominated Samantha Mannion to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to close the nominations for Vice Chairman of the BOE. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF CLOSING THE NOMINATIONS:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion. **IN FAVOR OF SAMANTHA MANNION AS VICE CHAIRMAN:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion

Samantha Mannion nominated Kimberly LaTourette to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education.

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to close the nominations for Secretary of the BOE. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF CLOSING THE NOMINATIONS:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion. **IN FAVOR OF KIMBERLY LaTOURETTE AS SECRETARY:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 6, 2025 - regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Approved by consensus.

## VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eric Alviti, Frank Rizzo, Larry Roccamo, and Pat Toth all spoke in support of renaming the baseball field at New Fairfield High School “Garbowski Field” in honor of Michael and Joe Garbowski. Eric Alviti gave some examples of the amount of time the Garbowski family has volunteered for the baseball program. He spoke of the pride that players have when a field is named in honor of someone.

Chairman Dominic Cipollone read an email from New Fairfield Baseball President Ken Bennett also in support of renaming the baseball field Garbowski field.

## VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone thanked the rest of the Board for their support in reelecting him Chairman.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck gave a report in Dr. Craw’s absence. She spoke of the following upcoming events:

- Many Holiday concerts are coming up at the schools.
- Kindergarten registration began on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There have been two discussion sessions for the book *The Anxious Generation*. The next one will be held on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all families of PreK- Grade 12 students.

C. Student Representative Report

Senior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- Western Connecticut State University held an onsite admission day on November 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an onsite admission day for Naugatuck Valley Connecticut Community College on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The National Honor Society held a Blood Drive on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The yearbook is on sale until January 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for advertisements is January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Post Grad committee is creating a gratitude wall. Messages can be purchased for a price of \$3 for one and \$5 for two. Proceeds will help defray the cost of Post Grad activities.
- There will be an upcoming Model UN Conference in Hartford.
- Mid-terms will be held from January 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. The second quarter will end on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The National Honor Society is offering peer tutoring.

Junior Representative Hailey Lofaro spoke of the following:

- The Veterans’ Day ceremony was held on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The DECA Powder Puff game was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Over 600 food and personal care items were collected at the DECA Food Drive.
- All Payments for the Junior Class trip to Washington DC are due by February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- There will be a Chamber Singers, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band concert on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Strings concert will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this subcommittee met and discussed new State Standards for Social Studies. There is a 5-year plan for curriculum.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on November 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the policy regarding the facilities and specifically the fields. A new draft of this policy will be discussed at the next meeting. They further discussed the process for approving policies and will amend bylaws so that three readings will no longer be required for approving a policy.

3. Special Education Ad Hoc - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met tonight and discussed literacy, and a requirement by the State that mandates the district to evaluate all children to see if they are in need of services. There will be an Information Night for families on February 18<sup>th</sup> about transitions from one school to the next and the transition beyond high school. There will be a Parent Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> to help families understand the IEP Process and another meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss technology that supports students in the district.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Greg Flanagan noted the BOF met on November 19<sup>th</sup> and elected Wes Marsh to serve as the Chairman. They adopted a Medical Fund Reserve policy and approved the calendar of meetings for 2026. A BOE liaison will be appointed at the next regular meeting.
2. Parks and Rec Commission - Greg Flanagan noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on November 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed the process for demolition for the Snack Shack at the Town Beach. They will decide on price increases for Day Camp and boat slips at the next regular meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that the propane issue is ongoing. Colliers and the PBC are working on next steps for this. The Bus Lot issue will be discussed at the Planning Commission meeting and will go to a public meeting in January. It is hopeful that this will go out to bid in the spring. The sunshades are installed at the playground at the Elementary School. She thanked the PTO for this donation.

B. EduPlant Launch

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck gave a presentation on EduPlant and how it helps define the vision of a learner and give a blueprint for curriculum. This program gives a detailed map of the standards and allows users to view the specifics of what is taught in various subjects.

C. Baseball Field Recognition

Dominic Cipollone thanked all the residents who made comments about renaming the Baseball Field. He spoke of the options available to honor individuals. He noted that a decision will be made at the next regular BOE meeting.

D. Board of Education Policy (*Second Reading*)

1. Policy 1321.2 - Public Videotaping of Educational activity

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

1. Bylaw 9311 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies
2. Bylaw 9312 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws
3. Bylaw 9313 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Administrative Regulations

**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 December 1, 2025, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.  
**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion.

B. BOE 2026 Regular Meeting Dates

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2026 Board of Education Regular and BOE Subcommittee meeting dates as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.  
**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion.

C. NFEA Retirement Incentive

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to award the retirement settlement bonus per Article 48 for those eligible teachers who, by Monday, February 2, 2026, tender their resignation to be effective at the end of the school year. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was a discussion of possibly having Special Education Ad Hoc meetings via Zoom to allow for more families to attend. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Greg Flanagan spoke in support of renaming the Baseball Field Garbowski Field and spoke of the positive impact this would have on the players.

Peggy Katkocin spoke in support of renaming the Baseball Field Garbowski Field.

Dominic Cipollone welcomed Peggy Katkocin back to the Board of Education.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, and Samantha Mannion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos