

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – June 21, 2018

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

ABSENT: Douglas DeRito

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Office Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Special Education Teachers Barbara Strashun, Katherine Matz, Lauren Pessin and several paraprofessionals.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. June 7, 2018 - Regular Meeting

The Board accepted the minutes by consensus with the following changes:

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion that the Board accept the recommendations of the Superintendent on employees A & B and that employee C's request be held by the Superintendent as per the direction of the Board of Education and to approve the non-union salary increases for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

CHANGE TO:

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion that the Board accept the recommendations of the Superintendent on all employees except employee A whose request be held by the Superintendent as per the direction of the Board of Education and to approve the non-union salary increases for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

And Rick Regan's Board member comments be changed to reflect that his question about the Superintendent's evaluation be about when it will happen instead of whether or not it was necessary.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to amend the agenda to move Item X “Board Member Comments” to after Executive Session directly prior to adjournment. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Consolidated School 2nd grade teacher Jessica Krompinger thanked Dr. Roy for bringing her to the district and spoke of her disappointment in having one of the second grade teacher’s move to first grade thus making the 2nd grade classes larger. She spoke of the need for paraprofessionals at each grade level.

Many paraprofessionals in the district spoke of the union negotiations for the paraprofessionals and specifically the compensation for paraprofessionals and noted how the pay in New Fairfield compares with surrounding towns.

Dorothy Milovic spoke of the Program of Studies and Board of Education policy 6146.11 and specifically how Grade Point Averages are calculated in the high school. She specifically spoke of how certain electives are included into the Academic Grade Point Average and others are only included in the Overall GPA and how this can affect GPA and class rank.

Laura Consiglio thanked Dr. Sanzo for the Senior March through the elementary schools. She also thanked the BOE for following through on the Superintendent’s evaluation.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of following:

- Reminded the Board that NFEA negotiations for the Teacher’s Union will begin in August. Kimberly LaTourette, Dom Cipollone, Douglas DeRito and Rick Regan will serve on this committee.
- The Middle School graduation will be held on Friday, June 22nd.
- High School graduation will be held on Saturday, June 23rd. It is requested that Board members be at WestConn by 8:45a.m. for the 10 a.m. ceremony.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Alicia Roy noted that she was proud of the many accomplishments in the district and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of Schools. She also spoke of the following:

- Thanked Student Representatives to the Board of Education Hannah Rigoglioso and Jared Przyborowski for all their hard work this year.
- 5th grade step up was held this week.
- The Consolidated School Music Share program was held this week.
- SEE Fair at the high school was held this week.

C. Student Representatives’ Report

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- The Senior breakfast was held today, followed by a march of the seniors in the halls of the elementary schools.
- High School graduation will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Graduates should arrive by 8:45 a.m.
- The 30th annual Post Grad party will be held on Saturday night.
- Final exams in the high school will be held the week of June 25th to June 29th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that they met on June 21st and discussed the high school Consumer Science project which is an Action Item on tonight's agenda. Energy forecasts were discussed and open construction projects were reviewed. The budget as of May 31st was discussed and everything is on track. There will be a small budget surplus for this year.
2. Field Fees - None

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on June 20th and discussed metrics to determine the return on investment related to money spent on education. BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke at the BOF meeting and discussed the results of the money spent on education. She thanked Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon for his hard work with these reports.

2. Parks and Recreation Committee - Kim LaTourette noted that this committee met on June 11th and approved the BOE Field Fees for the John John Pendergast Field. The beach will open June 25th. Town Day Camp is cancelled for the week of June 25th since school will be in session. The basketball court by the dog park is being redone and will have lines for pickle ball.

3. School Start Time Committee - This will be discussed further over the summer.

4. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that they met on June 19th and the Memo of Understanding was tabled. The audit for all four schools was conducted this week. It is anticipated that the report will be available on June 29th. She met with Dr. McKinnon to discuss the implementation of the Say Something reporting system.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Special Education Accomplishments

Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn spoke of the many accomplishments of the year and thanked everyone involved with helping students with special needs. She spoke specifically about the transition of students between buildings and PPTs for students that are leaving the high school but continuing their education with the district until age 21. She introduced her staff who spoke of many aspects of the special education department.

Barbara Strashun spoke of the Gifted and Talented program. Katherine Matz spoke of Professional Development. Lauren Pessin spoke of Professional Development for Paraprofessionals and student data. She also spoke of social and emotional skills and specifically Unified Sports and Theater.

B. 2017-2018 Preliminary Assessment Results - SAT, PSAT & Smarter Balanced

Dr. Alicia Roy and Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of the Smarter Balanced Test data and noted that there was a significant increase in scores for English Language Arts. Dr. McKinnon spoke of trends of data over time and how the district has increased compared to the DRG.

Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the SAT results for the Classes of 2017-2019 and noted that there has been a significant increase in scores for the district. It was noted that a representative from the College Board has inquired as to what was done in the district to gain such a significant increase.

Dr. McKinnon attributed the increase in scores to increased staff development, curriculum development, new textbooks, online tools and new courses.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for June 14, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. High School Consumer Science Project Update

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the use of \$25,000 from the Consolidated School Parking Lot project, \$25,000 from the High School Auditorium project and \$150,000 from the Junior Parking Lot paving project to fund the scope of the High School Consumer Science project as previously approved. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Ed Sbordone noted that the bids for the Junior Parking lot came in at \$150,000 less than anticipated.

C. New Textbook Adoption

1. *Bien Dit!*
2. *Une Fois Pour Toutes*
3. *¡Exploremos!*
4. *Precalculus with Limits: A Graphing Approach*

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to suspend the rules referring to the following new textbooks: 1. *Bien Dit!* 2. *Une Fois Pour Toutes* 3. *¡Exploremos!* 4. *Precalculus with Limits: A Graphing Approach*. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following new textbooks: 1. *Bien Dit!* 2. *Une Fois Pour Toutes* 3. *¡Exploremos!* 4. *Precalculus with Limits: A Graphing Approach*. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

D. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 1330. Appendix B - Use of School Facilities
2. Policy 1321.2 - Public Videotaping of Educational Activity
3. Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices
4. Policy 6141.321 - Computer: Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy
5. Policy 6141.328 - Bring Your Own Device and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the New Fairfield Public Schools.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policies 1330, 1321.2, 5131.81, 6141.321 and 6141.328. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policies:

1. Policy 1330, Appendix B - Use of School Facilities
2. Policy 1321.2 - Public Videotaping of Educational Activity
3. Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices
4. Policy 6141.321 - Computers: Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy
5. Policy 6141.328 - Bring Your Own Device and Protocol for the use of Technology in the New Fairfield Schools.

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

Samantha Mannion gave a brief overview of these policies.

E. TEACH Connecticut Partnership

Dr. Roy gave a brief overview of this program.

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to table this agenda item until the next regular BOE meeting. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

F. Leave of Absence Requests (Executive Session)

1. Custodian Request
2. Paraprofessional Request

G. Non-resident Student Request (Executive Session)

H. Superintendent's Evaluation (Executive Session)

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Many members of the public including Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke in support of the paraprofessionals. Selectman Khris Hall spoke as private citizen and thanked the administrators for their hard work and congratulated them on the increase in test scores.

X. EXECUTIVES SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing leave of absence requests and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive Session. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

XI. EXECUTIVES SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A NON-RESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a non-resident student request and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive Session. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

XII. EXECUTIVES SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive Session. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Rick Regan **OPPOSED:** Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Lidia Chaves request for an unpaid leave of absence commencing June 25, 2018, and returning no later than July 10, 2018. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Clare Raneri's request for 3 unpaid days leave of absence as specified in the written request. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the student's request to attend Meeting House Hill School without tuition and with transportation provided by the family for the 2018-2019 school year. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to accept the amendment to the Superintendent's contract pursuant to the agreement between Superintendent Dr. Alicia Roy and the New Fairfield Board of Education, both parties have agreed to, on this day June 21, 2018, to suspend the written evaluation process previously agreed to by both parties and to approve Board Secretary Kimberly LaTourette to sign the agreement. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Samantha Mannion and Rick Regan

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Rick Regan thanked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Roy for all her hard work in the district.

Kimberly LaTourette thanked Dr. Roy.

Ed Sbordone thanked Dr. Roy.

Samantha Mannion thanked Dr. Roy and spoke in support of the 2nd grade teachers and suggested looking at this further.

Kathy Baker thanked Dr. Roy

Greg Flanagan thanked Dr. Roy and spoke in support of the paraprofessionals.

Congratulated the Class of 2018.

Dominic Cipollone thanked Dr. Roy and congratulated the district on the increase in test scores. He spoke in support of the paraprofessionals.

Peggy Katkocin thanked Dr. Roy and presented her with a tree for her new home.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos