

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**MINUTES – June 3, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** Samantha Mannion

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh

Assistant Broadcast Coordinator Quinten Flowers explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. May 20, 2021 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
  - B. May 27, 2021 - Special meeting - 6 p.m. - approved by consensus
  - C. May 27, 2021 - Special meeting - 7 p.m. - approved by consensus
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus
- V. **NEW FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER SINGERS** - The High School Chamber singers gave a virtual presentation.
- VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh explained the specifics of the proposed budget for both the Town and the Schools for the fiscal year 2021-2022. He encouraged everyone to vote this Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Meeting House Hill School.
- VII. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. Chairman’s Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the following:
    - Encouraged everyone to vote for the budget on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - Thanked Eric Alviti for organizing a ceremony in honor of the naming of the Lacrosse field after Coach Marty Morgan.

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

- Congratulated Marty Morgan.
- Congratulated the Boys Lacrosse Team for winning the SWC Championship.
- Congratulated High School Track athletes.
- Spoke of the wonderful production of "Working" presented by the High School players.
- The last three days of school will be ½ days for students.
- Reminded everyone to vote at the budget referendum on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Thanked the Physical Education staff for wonderful Field Days.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby spoke of SBAC testing. She noted that the participation rate for both Meeting House Hill School and the Middle School was excellent.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Junior Representative Cayden Walker reported on the following:

- Congratulated all New Fairfield athletes on a wonderful Spring season.
- Final exams will begin next week.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that his subcommittee met and discussed:

- ECE (Early College Experience) course, Introduction to Allied Health Professions through UConn.
- New textbook proposals for *Introduction to Law* and *Better Business*.
- SAT scores in the district.
- Ways to improve academic performance including increasing professional development and ways for students to access curriculum. There was a discussion of block schedules at the high school. They also discussed use of ESSER Funds.

2. Policy - Kathy Baker noted that this subcommittee met and discussed the two policies that are on tonight's agenda as Information Items.

E. Liaison Reports

1. School Security and Safety Committee - No report

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. ARP ESSER Grant

Dr. Cosentino noted that approximately \$2.5 million will be received through the American Relief Plan and Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds. She spoke of the restrictions for these funds. There was a discussion of the plan for these funds and ways to ensure that the addition of positions does not create a fiscal cliff once the funds are no longer available. The programs will be assessed on a regular basis to make sure that they are successful.

B. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)

1. Policy 4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers
2. Policy 5141.4 - Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
3. Policy 6159 - Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program
4. Policy 6171 - Special Education

C. Board of Education Policies (First Reading)

1. Policy 4118.112/4218.112 - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
2. Policy 5145.5 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment
3. Bylaw 9160 - Student Representation on Board of Education

D. New Course Proposal (First Reading)

1. ECE Introduction in Allied Health Professions

High School Principal James D'Amico gave a brief description of this course.

E. New Textbook Adoption (First Reading)

1. *Introduction to Law* - 6th Edition (2019)

2. *Better Business* - 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2018)

Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca asked the Board to table the approval of the *Introduction to Law* textbook since they will be looking into finding one textbook that would be digitally compatible.

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

Dr. Sanzo noted that the bidding on the CELA project is complete. Bids were opened last week and are currently being reviewed. The PBC is expected to vote on options for the bus lot on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Board members are encouraged to attend the June 8<sup>th</sup> PBC meeting and the special meeting of the Zoning Commission on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> where the options for the bus lot will be reviewed.

Approval to go out to bid for the high school project was received by the State. It is hopeful that they will go out to bid next week.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 27, 2021, as recommended by the administration. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Board of Education Policy

1. Policy 5118.111 - Tuition for Students and Staff Members

It was noted that this will not affect current staff members.

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policy 5118.111 – Tuition for Students and Staff Members as presented. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza **OPPOSED:** Greg Flanagan, **ABSTAINED:** Dominic Cipollone

C. Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract - Executive Session

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Kimberly LaTourette thanked the Chamber Singers. She thanked BOF Chairman Wes Marsh for explaining the budget process. She encouraged everyone to vote at the referendum on Saturday.

Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to get out and vote at the budget referendum on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dominic Cipollone explained his reasons for abstaining on the vote for the BOE policy for tuition for staff members. He congratulated student athletes especially Lacrosse and Track athletes. He further congratulated Marty Morgan on having the field named after him. He congratulated Janet Carrubba on being named Teacher of the Year.

Greg Flanagan encouraged taxpayers to vote at the referendum on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. He congratulated Marty Morgan. He further congratulated the high school seniors on their graduation and thanked everyone involved in putting the Senior Prom together.

Stephanie Strazza thanked the Chamber singers and encouraged everyone to get out and vote at the budget referendum on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulated Marty Morgan and thanked Eric Alviti for putting the ceremony together.

Peggy Katkocin congratulated Janet Carrubba on being named Teacher of the Year.

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SUPERINTENDENT'S END-OF-YEAR GOALS**

### **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE EVALUATION AND CONTRACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's end-of-year goals and the evaluation and contract of the Superintendent of Schools. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos