

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 3, 2018,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – May 3, 2018**

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

**ABSENT:** Dominic Cipollone

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Khris Hall, Board of Finance Chairman Wes Mash

**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. April 24, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to add to the agenda Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing School Safety relating to a Student. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to add to the agenda Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the district response. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Selectman Khris Hall spoke as a private citizen and encouraged taxpayers to vote during the budget referendum this Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. She spoke specifically about money in the budget for school safety.

Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino announced that Art Teacher Marie Flanagan will be retiring from Consolidated School. He noted that instead of replacing her with another Art teacher that he would like to hire an additional Physical Education teacher. The students currently have gym once a week and Art twice a week. Hiring a Physical Education teacher instead of an Art teacher will allow for gym to be twice a week and Art to be once a week. Mr. Spino spoke of the importance of both Art and gym but spoke of the reasons for adding an additional Physical Education class each week.

Pat Bower spoke of a possible computer data security breach in the system.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco encouraged everyone to vote at the budget referendum this Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at MHHS between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. She asked that everyone try to understand the process in order to make an informed decision.

## **VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that she received notification about negotiations with the New Fairfield Education Association. The commencement date for the negotiations must be by August 4, 2018. Mediation date if necessary is September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Arbitration is October 18<sup>th</sup>. Generally two or three BOE members participate in this process. Mrs. Katkocin asked the BOE members to let her know by the next Board meeting if they are interested in participating.

Peggy Katkocin noted the BOF has been asking for information and metrics on programs that have been funded in recent years in order to determine the return on investment. She suggested giving presentations to the BOF to showcase the many aspects of the New Fairfield Schools.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment is this month. She noted how important the data collected from these tests is and encouraged all students to take these assessments.
- Met with the Culture and Climate Committee and they recommended inviting students that have done well and achieved to the BOE meetings for recognition.
- Six high school students received national recognition on the National Spanish Exam.
- The Middle School had 56 students take the National Spanish Exam. Of the 56 students, 29 received national recognition.
- Consolidated School students celebrated earning 100 paw prints for their PBIS program. "Fancy Day" was held as a reward.
- National College Decision Day was May 1<sup>st</sup>. The high school had 18 student athletes that committed to play at the college level.
- The Major Minors at MHHS sang the National Anthem at the Mets Game on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The high school had their spring concert on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Noted that she has met with the Administration regarding a possible anonymous reporting program.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- AP Exams begin next Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and will run through Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senior class trip to Hershey Park is scheduled for Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Buses leave the high school at 6:15 am.

Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:

- Congratulated Rit Flandreau and Emily Orloff who are being recognized at the SWC Leadership Banquet.
- Sports orientation for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders is Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the high school.
- Reminded seniors to get the form in for their SEE projects.

D. Committee Reports

1. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that the Communications/Community Outreach met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the results of the survey regarding the spring conferences at the schools. They also discussed the proposed change in school start times. There will be a meeting regarding start times on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on April 25<sup>th</sup> and reviewed four policies all regarding technology and the use of the Internet. These policies will be on as information items for the next BOE meeting.

E. Liaison Reports - None

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS** - Will vote at the next meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

A. Social Studies K-5 Resources

1. *Discover Kids* (Grades K-2)
2. *My World Interactive* (Grades 3-5)

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for April 26, 2018, as recommended by the administration.

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

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

1. Policy 3231 - Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students
2. Policy 3323 - Bidding
3. Policy 4135 - Organizations/Units
4. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

Samantha Mannion gave a brief description of each of these policies.

C. New Fairfield Public Schools 2019-2020 Calendar

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2019-20 school calendar as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

D. Approval of Grant Application

1.SDE IDEA 611 and 619 Grant

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

E. Leave of Absence Request (Executive Session)

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - BOF Chairman Wes Marsh encouraged residents to vote at the budget referendum on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. He explained the reasons for the proposed increases.

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

Kathy Baker spoke of the wonderful opportunity to chaperone the Spanish trip to Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty and the United Nations.

Greg Flanagan thanked everyone involved at MHHS with the Major Minors singing at the Mets Game. Also encouraged everyone to vote.

Douglas DeRito encouraged everyone to vote.

Rick Regan spoke of the many volunteer hours putting the budget together and encouraged everyone to vote.

Kim LaTourette spoke of the pizza delivery program sponsored by the Consolidated PTO. The MHHS PTO hosted a Paint Night that was very successful. She encouraged residents to get involved in the PTO summer programs, and noted that the online registrations for EdAdvance for the before and after-school care program opened last week.

Ed Sbordone announced that this Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> is Water Test Day at Stop and Shop from 8 a.m. to noon. He reminded everyone to vote on Saturday from 10a.m. to 8p.m.

Samantha Mannion spoke of a public Meet and Greet for the incoming Superintendent of Schools on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at the New Fairfield Library. She also praised the police officers at Meeting House Hill School.

Peggy Katkocin assured everyone that there have been no data breaches in the district.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST**

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SCHOOL SAFETY RELATING TO A STUDENT**

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE DISTRICT RESPONSE**

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive Session.

**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, 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 of Education the approval of Terry Webb's request for a continuation of his unpaid leave of absence, returning no later than May 30, 2018. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos