

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – December 21, 2020

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

ABSENT: None

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, High School Assistant Principal Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Building and Grounds Phil Ross and Athletic Director Mark Ottusch

Network Administrator Paul Gouveia 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 6:40 p.m. immediately following the budget presentation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 3, 2020 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. MHHS MAJOR MINORS HOLIDAY PRESENTATION - Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia spoke of Facebook events put together by students and staff at MHHS. These include story readings, music performances and physical education. A virtual recording of a song by Ms. Burger’s music class from Meeting House Hill School was presented.

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

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

- The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting required to get approval for the school building project was held last week. She noted that the ZBA is stipulating that as part of the approval process for the building project that trailers be removed from the back of the high school. These trailers include emergency equipment for the high school among other things. The deadline to remove these trailers is September 1, 2021. Dr. Sanzo noted that he, along with the

Director of Building and Grounds Phil Ross and Zoning Enforcement Officer Evan White, will be walking the grounds to find alternate locations for the trailers.

- Thanked everyone of the hard work this year and wished everyone Happy Holidays!

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

- Spoke of the many virtual programs throughout the district.
- It is hopeful that the district will return to full in-person learning for grades PreK-8 and hybrid for the high school on January 4th. She encouraged everyone to practice safe COVID guidelines during the break.
- EdAdvance has a childcare program for days when school is fully remote.
- Encouraged families that need anything over break to contact her via email.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and encouraged everyone to practice gratitude in the new year.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Remote Learning Update - Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby gave a quick update on remote learning. The district went on full remote learning last week after the snow day and will stay on remote learning until January 4th. Prior to closing, the district had a percentage of 52% of students on remote learning. There was a brief discussion of the process of switching back and forth from in-person to remote learning.

B. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update - Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave an update on the building project and noted that the project is going through the town's regulatory boards. The Permanent Building Committee voted to move to the third phase of design. He spoke of what is included in the design phase and possible add alternates. There will be some 3D models of the projects done after the holidays.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Rick Regan - Asked for a year-to-year report of PSAT and SAT scores.

Kimberly LaTourette - Gave an update of the Parks and Rec meeting of December 14th. She encouraged everyone to look into their virtual programs. She thanked everyone involved with the Major Minors presentation at MHHS and encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process.

Samantha Mannion - Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ed Sbordone - Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Stephanie Strazza - Thanked the Major Minors for their performance. She acknowledged the Equity Action Team and volunteered to give an update on these meetings in the future.

Kathy Baker - Encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process and thanked everyone for their hard work this year.

Greg Flanagan - Wished everyone Happy Holidays and encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget. He suggested that taxpayers get their information from budget meetings instead of social media.

Dominic Cipollone - Thanked everyone for their work this year and wished everyone a wonderful 2021!

Peggy Katkocin - Thanked fellow Board members and administrators. She wished everyone a very Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to stay safe over the holidays.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos