

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2019,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – October 3, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** Kathy Baker

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Selectman Khris Hall and BOF Chairman Wes Marsh

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. September 16, 2019 - Special Public Hearing - approved by consensus
- B. September 19, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to add Agenda Item E.3. Liaison Report “Parks and Recreation Committee Report.” Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Chairman’s Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the proposed building project and encouraged residents to become informed of the issue and to get out and vote.
- B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
  - Thanked the custodial staff on behalf of Custodial Day.
  - Thanked the four building principals in honor of October being National Principal’s month.
  - Noted that on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, the high school will be having a Food Festival with Food Trucks and bands from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- The Middle School is having Cow Chip Bingo.
- Reminded everyone of the importance of being grateful and kind to each other.

C. Student Representatives' Report

High School Principal James D'Amico introduced Nicholas Thiel Hudson as the Junior class representative to the Board of Education.

Junior Representative Nicholas Thiel-Hudson noted that:

- Congratulated the Rebel Marching Band for finishing ahead of Danbury at the Trumbull Band competition.
- Congratulated Sophomore Claire Kuntz who will be traveling to California to participate in a CPTV competition.
- Mr. D'Amico will be working with students to bring back the Student Senate.
- The PTO will be sponsoring a Food Truck Festival on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the PSATs on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the seniors will be participating in many workshops related to college and career readiness.
- Financial Aid Night will be held on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this subcommittee met and discussed the Math curriculum. He spoke specifically about data analysis and noted that this is a critical area that students should study.
2. Communications/Community Outreach - This meeting was cancelled.
3. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed two policies that will be brought to the full board in the near future.

E. Liaison Report

1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on September 24<sup>th</sup> and unanimously approved a RFQ (Request for Quote) for Architecture Services. If the referendum passes, the RFQ will be sent out on October 7<sup>th</sup> and will be due back on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on September 25<sup>th</sup> and had a grant status update. The subcommittee discussed an update on the SOC, Say Something, and Training Initiatives in Executive Session.
3. Parks and Recreation Commission - Kimberly LaTourette noted that this committee met on September 24<sup>th</sup> and had a presentation regarding the software MaxGalaxy. They will be hosting the following events in the near future: Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Tricks and Treat; Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> - Turkey Run; Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Parade and December 5<sup>th</sup> - Great Light Fight.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Mathematics Self Study - Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby gave an overview of the self study of the Math Curriculum for all grades and showed a brief video entitled "Why Math Matters." She spoke of the team that was recently put

together that is comprised of 21 educators from every school and every grade who will work to find ways to improve Math scores. This committee met on October 1<sup>st</sup> and formed the following five subgroup work teams:

- Curriculum and Resource Alignment,
- Instruction,
- Assessment and Data,
- Attitudes and Perception,
- How are we like and unlike other districts.

Mrs. Luby spoke of the roles of each subgroup and noted that they will meet again on November 5<sup>th</sup> to reassess what has been done.

#### B. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update

Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone that the vote for the proposed school building projects will be this Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### 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 September 26, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stephanie Marlow thanked Dr. Karen Fildes for setting up Power School. She also spoke about a video released on Facebook regarding conceptual drawings designs from the MHHS project and noted that the drawings ultimately changed. She further spoke of her concerns about the safety of Consolidated School multi- purpose room.

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

- Dominic Cipollone spoke of the importance of the well being of the students and encouraged everyone to vote at the October 5<sup>th</sup> referendum.
- Greg Flanagan referred to an editorial in the *Town Tribune* stating that elected officials clapped during an inappropriate comment during the Public Hearing of September 16<sup>th</sup>. He clarified that this never happened and referred to the video tape that is on the website.
- Stephanie Strazza noted that the proposed building projects are a big decision for the town and asked everyone to decide what is best for the students before voting.
- Rick Regan noted that no matter the outcome of the vote, money must be spent to fix the schools. He thanked the BOE for initiating the process for the building project.
- Kimberly LaTourette welcomed Junior Representative Nick Thiel-Hudson to the Board. She also thanked Dr. Cosentino and Dr. Sanzo and everyone involved in putting together the proposal for the building project. She also spoke of her

concerns of having a Staff Day on Yom Kippur and suggested that the calendar committee look into having this on another day.

- Ed Sbordone spoke in support of the building projects and thanked everyone that worked on proposals. He welcomed Nick Thiel-Hudson to the Board as the Junior Representative and encouraged him to participate in meetings.
- Samantha Mannion spoke of her frustration with the lack of civility on social media regarding the proposed building project and encouraged everyone to take a higher ground.
- Peggy Katkocin thanked the members of the Board of Finance as well as, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Selectman Khris Hall for their support of the proposed projects. She further thanked Dr. Cosentino and Dr. Sanzo for their many hours of work on these proposals. She encouraged voters to seek out information from reliable sources and not social media.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos