

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – June 15, 2022

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Amy Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 2, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathy Baker thanked everyone who participated in the “Surprise a Senior” and all the events related to graduation. Graduation will be held this Friday, June 17th with the Post Grad party to follow.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:

- Noted that this is the last meeting of the school year, and the Board will not meet in July.
- He noted that this is the last meeting for Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and wished her well in all her future endeavors.

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

- Congratulated all the graduates.
- Thanked the community for all who supported the Senior Class, especially with the SEE projects.
- Thursday, Friday and Monday are early dismissal days.
- Congratulated the Girls’ Lacrosse Team for winning State Champions for the fifth consecutive year.
- The district has received SBAC preliminary data and is showing significant growth in Math and ELA.
- Noted that this was her last meeting and thanked the BOE and the entire New Fairfield community for all their help and support during her tenure at New Fairfield.

C. Student Representative Report - None

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on June 15th and reviewed the current year's budget. The budget falls in line with previous years. The projected year-end may have a deficit, but it is better than last year. He spoke of the bids for the food service which is required every five years. The new food service company will be Chartwells.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that the Policy Subcommittee met on June 8th and discussed three state mandated policies related to Gifted and Talented students. Two of the policies are on tonight's agenda for approval. The third policy needed to be tabled due to a requirement that the district cannot comply with. They are waiting for an opinion from the legal department.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF is meeting tonight at 7:30 for their regular monthly meeting. They also met on June 13 for an information and training session regarding full inclusion and respect for people with disabilities. The Director of Special Education and her staff have been invited to speak at the July 20th BOF meeting.
2. Parks and Recreations Committee - Greg Flanagan noted that the first outdoor movie of the year, Encanto, will be held on Friday, June 17th. There will be a concert on Memorial Field on June 30th. The Town Beach will be open full-time beginning June 20th. Beach passes are available online or in the Parks and Rec office.
3. School Security and Safety Committee - This committee met on June 13th and discussed two items that will be discussed later in the meeting in Executive Session.

VII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Cosentino gave an update on the school building project. Furniture, fixtures and equipment and technology selections are being made in the near future. The Consolidated/MHHS building is getting ready for the Fall 2022 opening and the staff is busy moving from the original building.

Dr. Cosentino noted that the Zoning Commission did not approve the bus lot at the former Consolidated School. The PBC will be meeting next week to discuss alternative options.

VIII. **INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. School Start and End Times

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the school start and end times for the 2022-23 school year as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IX. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Appointment of Assistant Principals of Consolidated and Meeting House Hill Schools

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Jennifer Hilderbrand as Assistant Principal of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School, effective July 1, 2022. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Steven Groccia as Assistant Principal of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School, effective July 1, 2022. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Allyson Story introduced both Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia and gave a brief description of their respective backgrounds. Both Jennifer and Steve gave a brief description of their backgrounds and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for June 13, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Kathy Baker spoke of the resignation of James Mandracchia and wished him the best of luck in his new position.

C. STRIDES 2022-2023 Revised Calendar

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the STRIDES 2022-23 revised school calendar as presented. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. End-of Year Closeout for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board of Education authorize the Director of Business and Operations to make all necessary line-item transfers to the FY22 education budget to ensure that no object is negative and that a report of such transfers made under this authority be presented to the Board of Education Business Operations/Resource Management Subcommittee in August 2022. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board of Education authorize the Director of Business and Operations to mitigate any final budget deficit in the FY22 Board of Education budget by, first, requesting additional excess cost grant funds be credited to the Board of Education budget by the town treasurer, second, utilizing up to \$125,000 from the non-lapsing account for unanticipated special education expenses, and, third, applying appropriate special education expenditures to the FY23 IDEA grant. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Board of Education Policies

Suspension of the Rules (referring to Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1)

1. Policy 6141.5 - Advanced courses or Programs, Eligibility criteria for enrollment
2. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1 as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Reduction in Force - Executive Session

G. Hiring and Assignment of an Additional Full-time SRO in the Schools - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Greg Flanagan welcomed both Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to Consolidated/MHHS and thanked Dr. Pat Cosentino for all her hard work during her tenure as Superintendent of Schools and wished her well in the future.

Ed Sbordone wished Dr. Pat Cosentino the best of luck in the future.

Stephanie Strazza welcomed Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to Consolidated/MHHS and thanked Dr. Pat Cosentino for all her hard work during her tenure as Superintendent of Schools and wished her well in the future. She spoke of the wonderful step-up ceremony for the 2nd graders.

Kimberly LaTourette congratulated the seniors on their graduation encouraged the teachers and staff to have a very relaxing summer.

Dominic Cipollone welcomed Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to the district.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REDUCTION IN FORCE

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at approximately 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Reduction in Force and School Security and Safety and invite Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at approximately 8:07 p.m. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board that as a result of administrative restructuring at Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School, the Principal position has been eliminated and the 2022-23 position will be Assistant Principal at Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School for Robert Spino. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the hiring and assignment of an additional full-time SRO for the New Fairfield School. District. Stephanie Strazza **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:09 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos