

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, via zoom.

MINUTES – July 31, 2024

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair and Samantha Mannion

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Director of Building and Grounds Phil Ross, Athletic Director Mark Ottusch, First Selectman Melissa Lindsey and BOF member Wes Marsh

Broadcast Coordinator Quintin Flower explained the procedures for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone, including members of the public.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Presentation and Discussion regarding Stadium Lighting, Turf and Track Replacement
- B. Discuss and Vote on Stadium Lighting Replacement Plan
- C. Discuss and Vote on Turf and Track Replacement Plan

Superintendent of School Dr. Ken Craw gave a brief overview of the recent Field Fees Committee meeting regarding Stadium Lighting, Turf and Track Replacement. He spoke of the original timeline for the replacement of the lighting but noted that recent routine inspections showed that the lighting poles were structurally compromised. As a result, the stadium was closed for safety reasons as of July 19, 2024.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy showed pictures of the current structural condition of the lighting poles. She spoke of the impact and alternate plans of not having lighting on the field for both the high school sports and youth programs. Athletic Director Mark Ottusch spoke of the impact of rearranging sporting events without lights.

Carrie DePuy noted that the total funding request for the stadium is \$1,590,000, with the breakdown of \$640,000 from the BOE Field Fees account towards lights, turf and track and the balance of \$950,000 from an Additional Appropriation from the BOF, which will cover the balance of the turf track and lights and includes a small balance for contingency as well as the assumption that the asphalt will need to be replaced.

Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross spoke of the process for testing and replacing the track. He noted that the new lighting will be brighter which will allow for better safety. Carrie DePuy spoke of the next steps for the project.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to approve the Stadium Lighting Project as presented with funds not to exceed \$425,000 from the BOE 211 Account. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to approve the Stadium Turf and Track Replacement Project as presented and to authorize the Superintendent to request an additional appropriation from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in the amount of \$950,000. Any unused funds will be returned to the Town's General Fund. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

Ed Sbordone thanked the many elected officials that attended the Field Fees Committee meeting on July 29th.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Sue Huwer seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos