

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – November 1, 2018

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, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Director of Math, Science, and Intervention Keegan Finlayson and New Fairfield Selectman Khris Hall.

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. October 18, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cynthia Ross-Zweig spoke in her role as president of the Paraprofessionals Union in support of the paraprofessionals in the district.

Dr. Jim Mellett spoke of the possibility of asking retired residents to volunteer to help and mentor students in the district. BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke in support of this idea and encouraged Board of Education members to consider this in the near future.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin referred to a recent public comment and noted that it was important to trust administrators on their decisions concerning the district. She asked everyone to use discretion when posting to social media.

- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
- There were wonderful Halloween celebrations in the schools.
 - Last week was bus driver appreciation week. She thanked the bus drivers for all their help during the early dismissal at the Middle School/High School last week.
 - There will be a pizza party for the Civil Air Patrol students to thank them for their work with defining the path from MHHS to the Fire House for emergencies.
 - Thanked Ann Tortora for the wonderful paraprofessional training.
 - There was a CIRMA audit this week regarding school safety. The report will be reviewed when it comes in.
 - The administrators are working on goal setting with all staff members.
 - Dr. Cosentino went to Western Connecticut State University to hang signs regarding the need for substitute teachers.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
 Junior Representative Sophia Ligouri reported on the following:
- Congratulated the Girls Cross Country Team for winning the State Class M championships.
 - The Field Hockey and Boys and Girls Soccer teams have all qualified for CIAC tournament.
 - The fall play "Fools" will be held on Friday, November 16th and Saturday, November 17th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this committee met and discussed the Math curriculum at the secondary level.
 2. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met immediately preceding this meeting. The purpose of this committee is to allow for a discussion of topics at a more informal setting. It was noted that Dr. Cosentino will reach out to real estate agents in town to get them more engaged in the activities going on in the schools. There is now a New Fairfield Schools Facebook page.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on October 23rd. They are waiting for an RFQ for the potential school renovations.
 2. Calendar Committee - Dr. Cosentino, Peggy Katkocin and representatives from each bargaining unit met to discuss the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. There is a concern about getting enough days in case of weather emergencies. They discussed religious holidays and the possibility of starting before Labor Day.
 3. School Start Time Committee - This committee did not meet. The next meeting will be Monday, November 19th at 4 p.m.
 4. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met last week and discussed the CIRMA audit and the pros and cons of mutual aid during executive session.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Secondary Mathematics Curriculum - Director of Math, Science, and Intervention Keegan Finlayson spoke of the Big Ideas curriculum for Grades 6 to Algebra 2 and the timeline for implementation and professional development for this program. He spoke of the course assessments and timelines for the math unit. Special education was also discussed. Dr. McKinnon spoke of the performance tasks and the criteria for placing students in advanced classes.

B. Curriculum Development & Revision 2018-2023 - Dr. McKinnon spoke of the formal curriculum development and revision plan and noted that it is a blueprint for learning. He spoke of the written, tested and taught curriculum. He spoke of ways to ensure that students are meeting their predicted levels. Dr. McKinnon thanked Joel Pardalis for all his help with this plan.

C. BOE 2019 Regular Meeting Dates - Dr. Cosentino presented the calendar of meetings for 2019 for the Board of Education regular meeting and subcommittee meetings.

D. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)

1. Policy 3542 - School Lunch Service
2. Policy 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection
3. Policy 4111.3/4211.3 - Minority Recruitment and Selection
4. Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal
5. Policy 5113.2 -Truancy
6. Policy 5141 - Student Health Services
7. Policy 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations
8. Policy 5141.4 - Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
9. Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6162.51 - Conducting Surveys in Schools

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 October 25, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Cosentino noted that Business Manager Craig McClain will be retiring at the end of this calendar year and wished him well and thanked him for his service.

B. Approval of Grant Applications

1. 2018-2019 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants
2. 2018-2019 Title III Grant
3. 2018-2019 Title IV Grant

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2018-2019 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants, the 2018-2019 Title III Grant and the 2018-2019 Title IV Grant as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. McKinnon explained the uses for these grants and noted that they are applied for by the district every year.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to move Action Items C and D to Item XII after Executive Session. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Education Association July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022 - Executive Session

D. Paraprofessional Grievance Hearing - Executive Session

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

Rick Regan spoke of how impressed he was with the new Culinary Arts facility at the high school.

Kimberly LaTourette thanked everyone involved in Fright Night at MHHS. She thanked Andrea Einhorn for offering additional paraprofessional training. She encouraged everyone to really look at the budget to determine needs for the upcoming year. She also thanked the administrators at both Consolidated and MHHS for welcoming the high school teachers into their building during the emergency early dismissal at the high school on October 30th.

Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to attend the Communications-Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting that meets at 6 p.m. before the first BOE meeting of the month. The purpose of this meeting is to allow for a less formal discussion of issues in the district. Anyone interested in discussing a topic at this subcommittee meeting can contact a BOE member or Central Office.

Samantha Mannion reminded everyone that the next Special Education Ad Hoc subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Stephanie Strazza noted that she was very impressed with the NEASC visit and with the wide variety of programs offered at the high school.

Kathy Baker thanked Dr. McKinnon for the curriculum update.

Greg Flanagan thanked Dr. Sanzo and everyone involved with the NEASC visit.

Dominic Cipollone congratulated the board and everyone involved for a successful NEASC visit. He thanked the paraprofessionals for all their hard work.

Peggy Katkocin thanked everyone involved with the curriculum update.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PARAPROFESSIONAL GRIEVANCE

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. and invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Kevin Merrick, Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Cille Grabert and Stacie Killian into the first part of the Executive Session relating to the paraprofessional grievance and to invite Craig McClain into the second part of the Executive Session discussing documents related to negotiations. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:12 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion that the New Fairfield Board of Education ratify the agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Education Association which will run from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 and to authorize the chairman to sign the agreement. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

The Board thanked the entire negotiating team.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion that the Board of Education agree to settle the grievance with Employee S and to allow the Superintendent to settle this grievance. The Board will revisit sick days after the workman's compensation board has made their decision. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to allow Employee C to look for a volunteer at either the Middle School or High School to switch positions with her for a one-time non-precedent setting event. The person with whom she will share positions will be shared with Dr. Cosentino as soon as possible. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. Dominic Cipollone 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