

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

MINUTES – October 19, 2023

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

ABSENT: Kimberly LaTourette

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Maria Kennedy, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Athletic Director Mark Ottusch, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, and Selectman Khris Hall

Video Production 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 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. October 5, 2023 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
- B. October 11, 2023 - Special meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Information Item VII.C. “Planning Commission - Plan of Conservation and Development.” Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone reported on the following:

- Encouraged adults and especially teachers to help students become critical thinkers.
- B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw
 - Invited everyone to a Community Conversation to empower and support the youth of New Fairfield on Tuesday, October 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the high school.
- C. Student Representative Reports

Senior Representative Brennan Hearty noted that:

- Upcoming college visits at the high school. More information can be found on Naviance.
- The first quarter of the year will end on November 3rd.
- There will be a financial aid night at the high school on November 8th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management

Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on Oct. 19th. Revenue and the monthly budget vs. actual are in line with previous years. There was a Google Vault reconciliation with no deficiencies. The budget surplus for the fiscal year 2022-2023 is \$13,630.00. An RFP for the bus transportation contract will be going out next week. Bids are being sought for the replacement of Rebel Turf Field and Track.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance

Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on Oct. 18th and discussed the following:

- Reviewed the five-year claim analysis for the medical plan. Claims have increased over 40% in the past two years. Many claims were over \$50,000. The fund balance of the Medical Plan is approximately \$215,000. The BOF is keeping a close eye on this. There was a Medical subcommittee meeting on October 19th.
- The BOF discussed the Planning Commission Plan of Conservation and Development.
- The vote on the Public Comment Policy was tabled until the November meeting.

2. Parks and Rec Commission

Greg Flanagan noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on October 16th and discussed Field Fees. The following events will be hosted by the Parks and Rec Commission in the near future:

- Trunk or Treat - Oct. 27th
- Turkey Run - November 19th
- Santa's Workshop - November 25th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Healthier High School Start Time

1. Update - Dr. Craw gave an overview of the status of the Healthier High School Start Time initiative. He gave a brief history of the study, the timeline for changing the times, and the benefits of a later start time. He spoke of the possibility of an 8:00 a.m. start time and 2:45 p.m. end time. Six key components to consider for the change in time include: Transportation and Budget, Traffic Flow, Athletics and Instructional Time, Town Programs, Bargaining Unit Implications and Implementation Timeline.

2. Transportation Study Report - Chris Wojciechowski from Transportation Advisory Services spoke of how the new start times would affect transportation. He noted that they are an independent advisory service with the role of giving recommendations. He noted that many surrounding districts have successfully moved the start times. Members of the Board commented on the study.

B. Board of Education 2024 Draft Regular Meeting Dates

The Board reviewed the calendar for the Board meetings and the Committee meetings.

C. Planning Commission - Plan of Conservation and Development

Dr. Craw noted that the BOE is scheduled to present recommendations to the Planning Commission on Monday, November 27th. He spoke of educational needs for the next ten years and noted that the BOE will discuss this further at their next meeting.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

There was a brief discussion of a vacant Middle School position.

MOTION: Kathy Baker motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for October 12, 2023, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Amy Johnson asked for a punch list of items for the High School and Consolidated projects. This will be provided at the next meeting.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Greg Flanagan spoke of the importance of getting accurate information regarding town information. He further thanked the entire district, including administrators, teachers, fellow Board members and staff, for their help with his daughter's recent health incident.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos