

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. virtual meeting via Zoom.

MINUTES – May 27, 2021

PRESENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Kimberly LaTourette and Greg Flanagan

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ACTION ITEM

A. New Fairfield Public Schools 2020-2021 Revised Calendar

Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2020-21 revised school calendar as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

A. Review of ARP ESSER Grant

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of money that the district will receive through the ARP ESSER Grant (American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund). She presented the Board with a spreadsheet of desired positions that can be added to the district through this grant. This grant money is approximately \$2.5 million and must be spent by September 30, 2024. It was noted that any money not spent on these positions can be used for HVAC and ventilation for the schools.

Dr. Cosentino reviewed the potential positions and noted that the plan for the money must be approved by the State. She spoke of the possible challenges for hiring positions since surrounding towns will also be receiving this grant money and will be hiring similar positions. She noted that these positions will be temporary and must be added to the budget in future years if it is decided to keep them.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby and Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes spoke of positions specifically for STEAM, Literacy, and Social and Emotional Learning.

Dr. Karen Fildes spoke of a competitive grant that the district received through Columbia University for very intensive Summer work to reimagine the district post pandemic.

There was a brief discussion of funding Fine Arts in the schools. It was noted that the Board will be looking for public input and the best ways to spend the ESSER money.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to give the Superintendent approval to move forward on the highlighted areas regarding the ARP ESSER funds. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos