

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – October 16, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

**ABSENT:** Greg Flanagan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, High School Principal James D’Amico, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, and Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy

**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. September 30, 2025 - regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Approved by consensus.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the home/school connection and encouraged families to get involved in their students’ education by asking questions every day.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the Community Read of the book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Staff members have been meeting at various times to discuss the book and there will be a discussion open to the public on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. sponsored by the Elementary School. A discussion solely for families of students will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> sponsored by the High School/Middle School.

C. Student Representative Report

Senior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- October 17<sup>th</sup> - World Language Department Field Trip to the Met
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Senior Kick Start
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> - Parent/Teacher conferences
- October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Fall Play “Clue”
- November 1<sup>st</sup> is College Application Fee Free Day for Connecticut.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> - Fall Vendor Festival at the High School
- November 12<sup>th</sup> - CTE Career Road Show
- November 19<sup>th</sup> - Connecticut Community College Visit Day

Junior Representative Hailey Lofaro spoke of the following:

- October 20<sup>th</sup> - Student Empowerment Day Conference
- The PSAT will be held soon.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on October 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Assumptions
- Budget vs. Actual as of September 30<sup>th</sup> encumbrances. Approximately 78% of the yearly budget has been encumbered for this year compared to 70% for the same time last year. The reason for the increase was that the district prepaid the First Student Bus contract to get a discount.

E. Liaison Reports - None

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that playground repair is completed and is ready for inspection.

B. Student Outcomes 2025

High School Principal James D'Amico gave a presentation showing the variety of pathways taken by the students of the Class of 2025. He showed a graph that entailed the number of students attending four-year colleges, two-year colleges and military, employment, or other pathways. He spoke of the colleges that are most attended by New Fairfield students of the Class of 2025 and how the high school is incorporating "Student Voice" to support students and make the transition from high school as smooth as possible.

C. New Fairfield Public Schools 2026-2027 Draft Calendar

Dr. Craw spoke of the latest draft of the 2026-2027 calendar and noted that it is on for first read tonight and will be on the agenda as an action item in November. It was noted that the STRIDES program will follow the same calendar.

D. FY 2027 Budget Assumptions

Dr. Craw noted that the budget is a "needs" based budget and spoke of parameters that affect the budget including district goals, class sizes, and a commitment to capital projects.

E. Board of Education Policies (*Second Reading*)

1. Policy 5131.1 - Bus contract
2. Policy 5118.2 - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
3. Policy 5144.12 - Challenging Behavior response policy

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for October 9, 2025, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

B. Acceptance of Donation

1. New Fairfield Diamond Club

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the New Fairfield Diamond Club donation of \$3,961.83 to purchase a new sound system for the baseball field.

Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

## 2. New Fairfield Baseball Club

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the New Fairfield Baseball Club donation of \$1,500 to purchase clay for the varsity softball field. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

### C. Shared Services MOU

Dr. Craw spoke of the model of the shared services.

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to authorize the Superintendent to enter into the Shared Services agreement with the Town as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

### D. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Paraeducators of CSEA, Chapter 141 SEIU Local 2001, CTW- July 1, 2025-June 30, 2029

Dr. Craw noted that the agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Paraeducators has not yet been ratified. The tentative agreement was agreed upon in August, but no date has been set for the contract to be ratified.

## IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jennifer Pappas asked for the reason why the Paraeducators contract has not yet been ratified.

## X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board will discuss the paraeducator agreement and a propane update at a meeting soon.

## XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Sue Huwer asked about the contract for the fixing of the propane at the high school.

Samantha Mannion spoke of the good working relationship of the current BOE and hoped that the same board will be in place after the election. She reminded everyone to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Stephanie Strazza encouraged all to attend the play “Clue” at the high school from Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Amy Johnson thanked Principal James D’Amico for the presentation. She reminded everyone that that Homecoming Football game will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Board thanked Stephanie Strazza for stepping up to fill the vacancy on the Board until the election.

## XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO PARAEDUCATORS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - No Executive Session was necessary

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Amy Johnson seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos