

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield High School Auditorium, 54 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – April 23, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** Samantha Mannion

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Interim Principal Michael Clarke, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Reading Teacher and Instructional Coach Roseann Petruso, Consolidated School Teacher Jennifer Parker, Special Education Supervisor Katherine Matz, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh, BOF member Anthony Yorio, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Khris Hall, Rusty Malik (QA+M), Angela Cahill (QA+M) and Chuck Warrington (Colliers)

**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. April 4, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus with the amendment that Dr. Cosentino's trip to Finland was in April, not August.

B. April 9, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - approved by consensus

**V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - CABA COMMUNICATIONS AWARD**

CABA Representative Francis Walton presented New Fairfield with the Bonnie B. Carney award and explained the criteria for receiving this award. Dr. Cosentino thanked everyone involved with earning this award.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

## VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the proposed school construction projects and responded to some comments made at a recent BOF meeting regarding the role of the Permanent Building Committee. She noted that the PBC is not involved until the project is approved by referendum.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- Noted that she reached out to a New Fairfield family that recently incurred a tragedy and offered thoughts and prayers on behalf of the school district. The family will let the Superintendent know if anything can be done to help in the near future.
- Noted that April 24<sup>th</sup> is Administrative Professional's Day and thanked all the administrative professionals throughout the district.
- Thanked Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross for work that was done at Consolidated School over Spring Break.
- Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> is "Purple Day" to end the silence and stigma of substance abuse. Chris Herren will speak to the high school students during the day and again for the public in the evening. Dr. Cosentino encouraged parents and students to attend.
- Meeting House Hill School students will be singing at the Mets Game on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The "Say Something" initiative started today. This program comes from the Sandy Hook Promise and allows students to anonymously report suspicious behavior.
- Dr. Cosentino spoke briefly of her trip to Finland. She will do a formal presentation about this experience in the near future.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Research Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and approved to bring budget transfers and the transportation contract to the full board. They also reviewed budget vs. actual expenditures and everything is in line.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF met on April 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the proposed high school and Consolidated School projects and several cost options. They also discussed the medical plans. Votes on the medical plan were tabled until a future meeting.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission - Kimberly LaTourette noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on April 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed the boat docks and who would be responsible for closing the fields in case of inclement weather. They also discussed ensuring that there are parking spots available for community residents at the dog park and the playground. The Sip and Stroll will be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be summer concerts at the gazebo on Memorial Field.

3. Permanent Building Committee - The last PBC meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 p.m. immediately prior to the BOE meeting.

4. School Security and Safety Committee - Dr. Cosentino noted that a lot of progress has been made regarding safety in the schools. A lot of money has been put into the proposed 2018-2019 budget for safety. She encouraged everyone to support the budget that includes the added safety features.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Social Emotional Learning/Zones of Regulation - Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino spoke of an initiative at Consolidated School that gives outlines for the behavioral expectations for students. He introduced Consolidated School teacher Jen Parker who explained that the program uses a tier approach. All students are involved in this initiative in the beginning and then additional resources are given to students as needed.

Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner spoke of the process for implementing this initiative and noted that they have already seen results and specifically fewer office referrals. She spoke of the timeline for this initiative and next steps.

### B. NFHS/Consolidated School Concept Design and Cost Estimates

Dr. Sanzo introduced Rusty Malik and Angela Cahill from QA+M and Chuck Warrington from Colliers to speak of the proposed building projects for both Consolidated School and New Fairfield High School.

Mr. Malik gave a recap of the facility needs and enrollment projections. He spoke of educational programs along with security needs and space needs. Common themes from other districts that can be applied to New Fairfield were discussed. There was a brief discussion of the challenges of the existing buildings and sites and the cost of doing nothing.

Options for the High School include:

1. Option 1- Multiple Capital projects throughout the next 5-10 years. The challenge to this option is that most of the projects must be done in the summer and there is usually no economy of scale with doing one project at a time. There would be little or no State reimbursement to this option.
2. Option 2 - Renovate as new. It was noted that the State will most likely not give a reimbursement for this option.
3. Option 3 - New facilities. This would allow for an upgraded floor plan with plenty of site room. There would be little disruption to class time and would allow for a reconfiguration of the parking lot. Building new facilities would likely be eligible for State reimbursement.

Options for the Consolidated School include:

1. Option 1- CIP - Capital Improvement Projects. There would be little or no State reimbursement to this option.
2. Option 2 - Renovate as new. It was noted that the State will most likely not give a reimbursement for this option.
3. Option 3 - New facilities (Early Learning Academy). This would include building a new school possibly behind MHHS. There was a discussion of possibly housing some students in Meeting House Hill School. This would allow for a reconfiguration of the parking lot. Building new facilities would likely be eligible for State reimbursement.

Members of the Board of Education asked questions regarding the different scenarios for both schools. It was suggested that questions from residents be made public on the district website. It was also suggested that a "Building Tab" be created on the district's website to give information.

There will be school tours on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. starting at Consolidated School. It was also noted that there will be a public forum regarding these projects on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room at 33 Route 37. The public is encouraged to get involved in the entire process.

C. New Textbook Adoption (Second Review)

1. High School Biology - *The Living Earth: Integrating Biology and Earth Science*

D. Board of Education Policies (Second Review)

1. Policy 4112.52 - Criminal History Record Information
2. Policy 5132 - Dress and Grooming

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for April 11, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested 2018-19 FY budget transfers as presented. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Ed Sbordone noted that all the transfers were payroll to payroll or non-payroll to non-payroll.

C. New Fairfield Health Department/BOE Memorandum of Understanding

1. MOU Regarding the Planning and Implementation of Emergency Mass Vaccination and/or Dispensing Countermeasures

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the MOU regarding the planning and implementation of emergency mass vaccination and/or dispensing countermeasures and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign this MOU. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

2. MOU Regarding the Food Services for Health Department Staff and Volunteers during a Public Health Emergency

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the MOU regarding the food services for health department staff & volunteers during a public health emergency and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign this MOU. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic

Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Transportation Contract Extension

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the transportation contract extension and amendment between the New Fairfield Board of Education and First Student, Inc., July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2024. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, CILU #9 Custodians, Maintenance and Groundskeepers- July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 - Executive Session

F. Non-Resident Student Request - Executive Session

G. Letter of Support for the School Violence Prevention Program Grant - Executive Session

H. Reduction in Force - Executive Session

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Many members of the public spoke in support of the proposed building projects. Main topics discussed included the need to get the entire community involved, the long term savings and the costs of doing nothing to the buildings. There was a suggestion of possibility separating the high school and Consolidated School projects.

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

- Rick Regan spoke in support of the building project and noted that the high school will get a lot of use out of the new culinary area before if and when it needs to be moved.
- Kim LaTourette thanked Rob Spino, Karen Gruetzner and Jen Parker for their presentation on Social Emotional Learning/Zones of Regulation and noted that it is very easy to implement.
- Ed Sbordone noted that there will be school tours on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. starting at Consolidated School. He noted that there will be BOE meetings on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all residents to come to the meetings and get involved.
- Stephanie Strazza thanked the Consolidated School Administrators for the Social Emotional Learning/Zones of Regulation presentation and spoke in support of this program.
- Kathy Baker thanked the First Selectmen Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Khris Hall, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh and BOF member Anthony Yorio for coming to tonight's meeting and for all their hard work with improving the infrastructure of the town.

- Greg Flanagan spoke in support of the building project and noted that something needs to be done and encouraged everyone to get involved to come up with the best solution for the buildings.
- Dominic Cipollone thanked members of the other boards for getting involved and encouraged residents to get involved in the process. He spoke in support of the Social Emotional Learning/Zones of Regulation.
- Peggy Katkocin spoke in support of the building projects and noted that it is a sign of a healthy community to have proper facilities. She thanked members of the other boards that have been attending meetings. She noted that she along with First Selectmen Pat Del Monaco and BOF Chairman Wes Marsh will be at the Food Center on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and at the New Fairfield Library on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions from the public regarding the proposed budget for 2019/2020. She encouraged everyone to get out and vote at the budget referendum.

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

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-RESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST**

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A GRANT APPLICATION RELATED TO SCHOOL SECURITY**

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REDUCTION IN FORCE**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:59 p.m. to discuss documents relating to custodian negotiations, a non-resident student request, a grant application related to school security and a reduction in force and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:31 p.m. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board to ratify the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, CILU #9 Custodians, Maintenance and Groundskeepers - July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the students' request to attend Meeting House Hill School and Consolidated School through the end of the 2018-19 school year, scheduled for June 18, 2019, without tuition and with transportation provided by the family. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Education to sign, on behalf of the Board, a letter of support for the School Violence Prevention Program grant. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the New Fairfield Board of Education nonrenew the administrator contract of Joel Pardalis at the end of the 2018-19 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. I further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Joel Pardalis and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions on Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the New Fairfield Board of Education nonrenew the administrator contract of Keegan Finlayson at the end of the 2018-19 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. I further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Keegan Finlayson and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions on Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the New Fairfield Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of Michele Schwarz at the end of the 2018-19 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. I further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Michele Schwarz and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for other data which may be

forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions on Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos