

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812.

MINUTES – January 19, 2023 - 6:30 PM

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, New Fairfield High School Principal James D’Amico, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal Michael Chapleau, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, New Fairfield Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Elementary Principal Allyson Story, Elementary Assistant Principal Rob Spino, Elementary Assistant Principal Steven Groccia, Elementary Assistant Principal Jennifer Hilderbrand, Director of Facilities Phil Ross, Athletic Director Mark Ottusch, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca, Supervisor of Special Education Melissa Busnel and BOF Chairman Wes Marsh

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S 2023-2024 Budget

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2023-2024. He thanked the administration and staff for all their hard work with the budget.

Main points of the presentation included:

- District and Budget Priorities which include promoting a healthy learning environment, providing high quality instruction and curriculum, and continued academic growth;
- Return on Investment and future needs. It was noted that New Fairfield had a higher rate of growth than other districts in the State since the pandemic;
- Outstanding Accomplishments in the schools, as well as arts and athletics were discussed.

Budget Assumptions include:

- Enrollment and class size goals;
- Negotiated contractual increases;
- Support of learning recovery;
- Carries forward 10 positions previously funded by emergency relief grants;
- Included increased costs of goods and services due to inflation;
- Responds to Special Education mandates.

Dr. Craw spoke of requests that were not included in the budget for both payroll and non-payroll and noted that there were staffing decreases done in previous years, including a decrease in two administrators since 2019. He spoke of other ways to possibly fund positions including grants. The Superintendent's recommended operating budget for 2023-2024 is \$45,551,674 which is a percent increase of 5.99% (\$2,573,922) over the 2022-2023 budget of \$42,977,951. It was noted that 1/3 of increase is due to additional positions throughout the district.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy showed a chart with a breakdown of budget increases. She spoke of deductions already made to non-payroll expenses before this presentation. The amount requested for Capital Improvements is \$343,575 which includes issues that need to be addressed due to State mandates. It was noted that the BOF has recommended that \$95,000 of the 2021-2022 surplus will be given to the BOE for capital requests. Total Debt Service for 2023-2024 is \$7,064,588.

Next Steps

Upcoming budget workshops for the BOE are scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th, Wednesday, January 25th and Tuesday, January 31st. The BOE will vote on their budget on Thursday, February 2nd and will present it to the BOF on Saturday, March 4th.

Dr. Craw noted that the budget presentation can be found on the BOE website.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos