

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – September 20, 2018**

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

**ABSENT:** Dominic Cipollone

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn and Fifth grade teachers Matt Schlosser and Stephanie Taylor

**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. September 6, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda by consensus with the addition of an Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Police and the addition of item #7 “Technology Committee” under Liaison Reports. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dorothy Milovic spoke of Policy 6146.11 “Grade Weighting and Class Rank” and specifically how it could affect the Academic Grade Point average vs. the Overall Grade Point average. Members of the Board of Education spoke of this and noted that it is currently on the agenda as a second reading for Board of Education policies but the goal at this point it to clarify the wording of the policy and not necessarily change the way that the high school GPA is calculated.

Samantha Kennedy spoke in support of later start times in the High School and Middle School and quoted research noting benefits of getting more sleep for teenagers.

## VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that:
- Open Houses have been successful so far.
  - She welcomed Sophia Liguori as the Junior Representative to the BOE.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Consentino spoke of the following:
- Thanked MHHS for the wonderful picnic on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Panorama family survey will be sent out next week.
  - A RFQ (Request for Qualifications) was in today's paper for a facilities study for the projects at the high school and Consolidated School.
  - Anyone interested in filling the vacancy for the Board of Education must submit a letter to Central Office by noon on Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - A purchase order for the tennis courts was signed this week.
  - Welcomed the two student representatives.
  - There will be a town wide evacuation of the schools on September 25<sup>th</sup> that will result in some road closures.
- C. Student Representatives' Report  
Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:
- On Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> following the school evacuation, there will be a BBQ for all seniors. She thanked the NFHS PTO for sponsoring this tradition.
  - Underclassmen photos for grades 9-11 will be taken on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Junior Representative Sophia Liguori reported on the following:
- Congratulated the High School Yearbook staff for earning first place nationally from the American Scholastic Association for the 2018 yearbook.
  - The online scheduler for conferences will go live on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. An email will be sent to families with information.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed the budget vs. actual for 2017-2018 which yielded a surplus of \$68,020.78. The subcommittee voted to ask the BOF to allocate 100% of the surplus to the BOE Capital and Non-recurring fund. They also discussed budget vs. actual for the current year and special education expenditures.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on September 12<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the surplus for 2017-2018. They voted to send a formal request to ask Dr. Cosentino to come to the next BOF meeting to explain possible uses for the surplus.
  2. Parks and Recreation - Meeting of September 10<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.
  3. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that Dr. Cosentino presented a plan for an RFQ and feasibility study.
  4. Safety- Ed Sbordone noted that the Safety Committee met on September 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:
    - School Safety and Security update.

- Everything is running smoothly with the buses so far this year.
  - Discussed having SROs in all four schools.
  - Everything is running smoothly with the food service.
  - Baseline reports were completed for all athletes to have in the event of a concussion. Mary Stolle is making sure that all parents review the concussion policy.
  - Reviewed accident reports with nothing out of the ordinary.
  - There will be an evacuation drill on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.
5. School Start Time Committee - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met on September 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be some questions about start times on the upcoming family survey. Dr. Cosentino and Dr. McKinnon met with the bus company to discuss possibly time changes. There was a brief discussion of making this committee an ad hoc committee of the BOE.
  6. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met this week. The Memorandum of Agreement with the school district and the State Police has come back to the committee with commentary and has been added to tonight's agenda as an action item. The safety auditor attended this meeting and discussed details.
  7. Technology - Rick Regan noted he met with Director of Technology Karen Fildes and Network Administrator Paul Gouveia and discussed being in compliance with the Student Policy Act. He spoke of getting written agreements with vendors regarding compiling with student's privacy.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Field Trip to Boston**

Fifth grade teachers Matt Schlosser and Stephanie Taylor spoke of an overnight trip to Boston for fifth grade students scheduled for Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. They spoke of the sites that will be seen and how it ties into the curriculum.

### **B. NEASC Visit - October 21<sup>st</sup> 1-5 p.m.**

High School Principal Dr. Rich Sanzo noted that he and the NEASC Steering Committee Mr. Ed White and Mrs. Jean Gephart will give a presentation in preparation for the NEASC visit at the next BOE meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. He officially invited the Board of Education members to the Opening Ceremonies for the NEASC on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### **C. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)**

1. Policy 5114 -Appendix
2. Policy 6159 -Individual Education Program/Special Education Program
3. Policy 6161.3 -Comparability of Services
4. Policy 6163.3 -Live Animals in the Classroom
5. Policy 6163.32 -Live Animals in the Classroom-Service Animals
6. Policy 6171 -Special Education
7. Policy 6146.11 -Grade Weighting and Class Rank

These policies will be voted on at the next BOE meeting of October 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion of Policy 6146.11 (Grade Weighting and Class Rank) and whether or not it should be looked at. Dr. Sanzo explained the process of grade weighting and noted that there are many different ways to calculate grade weighting and each high school does it differently. It was decided to discuss this further at the Policy Subcommittee meeting in October.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 14, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

### **B. Approval of Grant Application**

#### **1. Primary Mental Health Grant - Special Friends**

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full board the submission of the Special Friends Grant application to the State Department of Education in the amount of \$19,876. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

### **C. Superintendent 2018-2019 Goals and Evaluation Timeline**

Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of her SMART goals for the year 2018-2019. There was a discussion of specific feedback and ways to measure improvement.

**MOTION:** Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Superintendent 2018-19 Goals and Evaluation Timeline. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

### **D. Memorandum of Understanding with State Police - Executive Session**

## **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Scott March spoke of the prior public comment regarding Policy 6146.11 and asked the Board to consider changing the way that Academic GPA is calculated.

**X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** - The Board members made the following comments:

- Rick Regan reminded everyone that there is a vacancy on the BOE. A letter must be submitted by noon on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and would have to appear before the Board at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Greg Flanagan encouraged families to participate in the family surveys. He spoke of the Policy concerning GPA weighting and encouraged members of the public to send ideas and concerns to BOE members
- Kimberly LaTourette encouraged families to participate in the family surveys. She also thanked everyone at Meeting House Hill School for the Back to School picnic.
- Kathy Baker spoke of the wonderful High School Open House.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE POLICE**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Police and to invite Dr. Cosentino into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:39 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion that the Board of Education accept and approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of the State Police and the Town of New Fairfield Board of Education and to authorize the Superintendent to sign this agreement on their behalf. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos