

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – March 15, 2018

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

ABSENT: Douglas DeRito and Samantha Mannion

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, First Selectman Pat DelMonaco, Selectman Khris Hall and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh

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. March 1, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda with the following additions: Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter to be held immediately after Public Participation and Presentation of the NFHS Culinary Arts Renovation Project to be held after the Executive Session and the addition of the following Action Items “Acceptance of Donation - Property Maintenance”, “Action on a Personnel Matter” and “Amended and Restated Meeting House Hill School Solar Power Purchase Agreement and System Site Lease Agreement”. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Weisenberger referenced an article in the Town Tribune and thanked everyone for making school safety a top priority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and to invite Attorney Peter Murphy from Shipman and Goodman and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive session. Dominic Cipollone

seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

The board came back at 7:56 p.m.

VIII. A. NEW FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS RENOVATION PROJECT

Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross and Rusty Malik from the firm Quisenberry Arcari Malik LLC spoke of the renovations to the Culinary Arts department in the high school. They described the existing facilities and improvements that will be made and showed slides and floor plans. It was noted that this is already in the budget in Capital and Nonrecurring. It is hopeful that this will be completed over the summer.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval for the culinary arts renovation project as presented by administration and Quisenberry Arcari Malik, LLC. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for agreeing to work with the Board of Education on school safety. She noted that both the BOF and BOS approved a transfer to police overtime to have officers in the schools for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. No extra appropriation is needed due to the extra money put aside in the budget in anticipation of the state budget cuts. She spoke of a possible safety audit in the schools. There will be a Public Hearing on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the high school cafeteria to discuss school safety. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
- Presented the BOE members with tote bags in honor of Connecticut Board of Education appreciation month.
 - New Fairfield High School is one of the top 100 Model UN high schools in the country.
 - The Middle School participated in "Run Ranger Run" to raise money for veterans returning to civilian life. They raised over \$2,500.00.
 - The High School presented the Addams Family musical last weekend and it was a great success.
 - There have been 8 snow days this year. If any additional days are needed, they will be made up beginning with the first day of Spring Break on April 16th.
 - There will be a Public Hearing on School Safety on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:

- Congratulated Paul Riter for winning All State at Class M Swimming competition.
- Spring sports sign up have begun.
- The SAT will be given to all juniors on Wednesday, March 21st.
- 140 Juniors attended the trip to Washington, DC.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that the subcommittee met and there are some Action Items on for tonight. The Culinary Arts renovation was voted on and the MHHS Solar Power purchase agreement will be discussed later in tonight's agenda. The subcommittee discussed the current budget and everything is on track. Additional transfers to Special Education may be required.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on March 14th and discussed the BOS and BOE requested budgets.
2. Parks and Recreation Committee - Did not meet
3. School Start Time Committee - Presentation under Information Items.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. School Start Time Presentation - Dr. Rich Sanzo and Kathy Baker spoke of the plan to look into later school start times. He noted that this is supported by many reputable organizations. They discussed the science behind adolescent sleep schedules and the benefits of later start times. They spoke of the process and complexities of making the change and the many people that would need to be involved in the process. It was noted that some surrounding communities have started this and have seen benefits. This will be discussed further at the BOE meeting on April 5th.

B. Board of Education Policies - These policies will be on for another reading for the next BOE meeting and voted on at the April 24th meeting.

1. Policy 5118.1 - Homeless students
2. Bylaw 9327.1 - Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. NFHS Culinary Arts Renovation Project - voted on earlier in the meeting.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to move Action Item F "Acceptance of Donation- Property Maintenance" ahead of Personnel Report in Action Items and to add Action Item "Amendment of Meeting House Hill School Solar Power Purchase Agreement and System Site Lease Agreement" Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion.

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

F. Acceptance of Donation

1. Property Maintenance - Dr. Roy spoke of an In-Kind donation from Marty Morgan from Property Maintenance along with John Pendergast and Eric Alviti to remove snow from the turf fields. This would involve special machinery specifically designed to remove snow. It was noted that the process will stop if at any time it is determined to be dangerous or cause damage to the field.

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of equipment and labor to clear the snow off Rebel and Stadium Turf fields in preparation for the spring athletic season with an estimated value of \$4000 from Property Maintenance to the New Fairfield Public Schools. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for March 8, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. Increasing Law Enforcement in the Schools

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board to request from the Town that additional police officers be assigned to the schools for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and in addition that the Town consider additional funding to cover a security review and safety audit including a consideration of additional officers for the 2018-2019 school year. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

It was noted that there is approximately four or five districts ahead of New Fairfield for the free safety audit.

D. Retirement Settlement

Dr. Roy noted that this would be a bonus of \$7,500 for eligible teachers with 25 or more years of service who tender their resignation by April 6, 2018.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to award the retirement settlement bonus per Article 48 for those eligible teachers who, by Friday, April 6, 2018, tender their resignation to be effective at the end of this school year. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. Continuation of Health Benefits

Dr. Roy noted that health benefits are continued until August 31, 2018, for teachers who notify the district of their intent to resign by Friday, May 25, 2018. This allows the district ample time to find a replacement if necessary.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to authorize the Superintendent to offer continuation of Health Insurance Benefits for teachers who notify their intent to resign by Friday, May 25, 2018. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

G. Action on a Personnel Matter

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to direct the Superintendent of Schools to follow through and take action on the Personnel Matter that was discussed in Executive Session. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

H. Amended and Restated Meeting House Hill School Solar Power Purchase Agreement and System Site Lease Agreement

Dr. Roy spoke of the results of the solar power installation at Meeting House Hill School and noted that the savings have not been realized as expected. As a result, we have renegotiated the contract that will allow the district to realize more savings.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full board the acceptance of the Amended and Restated Meeting House Hill School Solar Power Purchase Agreement and System Site Lease Agreement. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Samantha Kennedy thanked the Board of Education members and administrators for all their hard work specifically for the research done regarding later start times.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - Members of the Board thanked everyone involved in researching School Safety and reminded everyone there will be a Public Hearing on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria regarding school safety.

Rick Regan spoke of the success of the Spring Musical and encouraged everyone to support music and arts especially in the younger grades.

Dominic Cipollone urged everyone to pay attention to children and make sure that they are "OK."

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos