

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2019,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – November 6, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, High School Science Department Chair Jean Gephart and High School Science teacher Kim Salta

**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. October 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting – approved by consensus.

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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report – Peggy Katkocin noted that:

- Dr. Cosentino sent a letter to the Connecticut State Department of Education noting that the referendum to build a new high school has passed and thus the district is requesting a delay of enforcements of the violations.
- Congratulated all the board members for being reelected to the BOE.

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

- Congratulated all the board members that were reelected.
- Thanked Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby for a wonderful professional development day on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a lot of celebrations at all the schools for Veterans Day. The schedule will be sent to board members during the week.

C. Student Representatives' Report- None

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone spoke of a new course on Human Genomics. He also spoke of the importance of having Math instruction every day.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that there is one policy on tonight's agenda for second reading and 11 policies for first reading.
- E. Liaison Report
  1. Parks and Recreation - Kimberly LaTourette noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> and discussed the following:
    - Pickle Ball lines have been painted on the basketball courts at the high school.
    - The Trick or Treat event on October 25<sup>th</sup> was a great success.
    - The Turkey Run will be held on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - The Tree Lighting and Holiday parade will be held on Saturday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - The Great Light Fight voting will be held on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - The next meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission will be on Monday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> and discussed the RFQ and RFP for the OPM (Owner's Project Manager). The committee narrowed the list of architect firms for the building project down to approximately 6 firms. The committee is meeting tonight and is further reviewing the architect firms and the RFP for the OPM. Chairman Pete Viola has resigned from the PBC and George Martignetti was elected chairman at the Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  3. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on Oct. 21. They are still awaiting information regarding the grant. There was a presentation by Dr. Gabe Lomas from Western Connecticut State University regarding his regional crisis team. Dr. Lomas asked the district to consider becoming part of the consortium.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update - Dr. Cosentino noted that the PBC is meeting tonight and will be narrowing down the list of architect firms and will start the interview process soon.

B. NESDEC Enrollment Projections - Dr. Cosentino noted that enrollment projects are available on the district website. She noted that the district is leveling off regarding enrollment and that the building projects should bring new families and students into the district. She noted that she is starting to work on a marketing campaign.

C. Board of Education Policy (Second Reading)

1. Policy 51180 Nonresident Students

D. Board of Education Policies (First Reading)

1. Policy 1331- Smoke Free Environment
2. Policy 3432/3433- Budget and expense report/Annual Financial Statement
3. Policy 4112.5/4212.5- Security Check/Fingerprinting
4. Policy 4112.51/4212.51- Employment reference checks

5. Policy 4122- Student teachers
6. Policy 4131- Staff Development
7. Policy 5114- Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Referral to the police
8. Policy 6111- School Calendar
9. Policy 6142- Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6159- Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program
11. Policy 6172.1-Gifted and Talented Student Program

E. New Course Approval (First Reading)

1. Human Genomics - Julie Luby gave a brief description of the Human Genomics half-year course and introduced Science Department Chair Jean Gephart and Science Teacher Kim Salta. Mrs. Gephart spoke of the course and gave a brief description of the training that Mrs. Salta got at Jackson Laboratories. Mrs. Salta spoke of the dynamics of this course including what can be learned and the type of genes that will be reviewed. It was noted that DNA samples are destroyed by the lab at the end of the course and that students may opt out of DNA testing without penalty.

F. Board of Education 2020 Regular Meeting Dates -The Board reviewed the meeting dates for both the regular BOE meetings and the subcommittee meetings.

## 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 31, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. Approval of Grant Applications

1. 2019-2020 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the 2019-20 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

2. 2019-2020 Title III Grant

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the application for the 2019-20 Title III Grant. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

3. 2019-2020 Title IV Grant

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the application for the 2019-20 Title IV Grant. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

C. Acceptance of Derx Foundation Grants

1. Middle School Breakfast Club

2. Middle School Student News

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the acceptance of the Derx Foundation Grants in the amount of \$17,000: \$8,000 for the Middle School Breakfast Club and \$9,000 for the Middle School Student News. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone.

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** Samantha Kennedy congratulated Board members that were reelected. She spoke of the Gifted and Talented programs at both MHHS and the Middle School and asked the district consider making it more challenging and engaging for students.

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

- All members noted that they were please with the election results and glad that the board is able to continue the good work that they have been doing.
- Kathy Baker will be attending a forum at Fairfield Wood Middle School on November 7<sup>th</sup> about the dangers of vaping.
- Dominic Cipollone spoke of the need for a road map for curriculum specifically Math and STEM classes.
- Rick Regan thanked the Town Tribune and specifically Sarah Opdal for the election coverage.
- Kimberly LaTourette spoke of the amazing job done by all the schools to celebrate Veterans Day.
- Ed Sbordone congratulated everyone that was reelected and noted that he is looking forward to the school building projects.
- Samantha Mannion thanked everyone in the community for reelecting her and her fellow members on the Board.
- Peggy Katkocin noted that many incumbent candidates were reelected and noted that this is due to the good working relationship among the three major boards.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos