

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019, immediately following the Superintendent's Budget Presentation in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – December 19, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** Stephanie Strazza

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel, High School Principal James D'Amico, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Selectman Khris Hall

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. December 5, 2019 - Regular Meeting - The minutes were approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to amend the agenda to move agenda Information item VII A. Holiday Chorus to before Public Participation. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**HOLIDAY CHORUS** - Members of the High School Chorus sang a sample of songs that were song at the recent Holiday Concert.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- Spoke of the wonderful performance of the MHHS Chorus at the Bridgeport Bluefish game.

- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
- Thanked the staff members of all the schools and employees of the bus company for their cooperation regarding the weather event on December 18<sup>th</sup> that caused students to be sent home late from school.
  - Thanked Phil Ross and his entire staff and public works for all their hard work during the ice storm on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Thanked high school student Grace and her friends for delivering three car loads of toys to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
  - Wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- C. Student Representatives' Report  
Junior Representative Nicholas Thiel Hudson wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the budget vs. actual expenditures. There are no major changes since last time. It is a tight budget year with the Special Education budget being closely monitored.
- E. Liaison Report
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that BOF met on December 18<sup>th</sup>. A presentation by the PBC and a discussion of the BOE surplus were on their agenda, but both were tabled until the January 15<sup>th</sup> BOF meeting due to a scheduling conflict.
  2. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on December 10<sup>th</sup> and voted to hire JCJ architect firm for both the high school and Consolidated School projects. This is subject to contract negotiations. They also met on December 18<sup>th</sup> and further discussed the scope of the architect.
  3. Parks and Rec Commission - Kim LaTourette noted that Parks and Rec met on December 9<sup>th</sup>. They spoke of the many successful events that were held recently. There will be an increase in the boat slip fees for this year. The Blue Raiders Swim Team will be suspended for a year. They also discussed the best option for software for the office.
  4. School Security and Safety Committee - This committee met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed the master plan. There was also a discussion of the Say Something and training initiatives.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update**

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo noted that the PBC met on December 18<sup>th</sup> and reconfirmed the decision to hire JCJ Architects for both the high school and Consolidated School projects. He noted that he met with representatives from JCJ, along with Colliers, to discuss the scope of the project. There will be special meeting of the PBC on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> to conduct the Owner's Representative's interviews.

### **B. New Textbook Adoption (Second Reading)**

1. *Physics of the Universe*

**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 December 12, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**B. Board of Education Policies**

- 1. Policy 5141.214 - Student Sunscreen Use
- 2. Policy 5144.4 – Discipline - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education policies listed as presented. 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** - Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli showed a picture of the feathers that were unveiled for the Wingman project.

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

- Rick Regan thanked the Chamber singers for a wonderful concert. He commented that he liked the STEAM curriculum.
- Kim LaTourette thanked Public Works and everyone involved in cleaning up after Tuesday’s storm. She thanked the Civil Air Patrol for attending the Wreaths Across America in Sherman on December 15<sup>th</sup>. She also congratulated MHHS Music Teacher Kelly Burger and the Major Minors on their recent performance.
- Ed Sbordone wished everyone Happy Holidays. He encouraged Board members to take a careful look at the proposed budget.
- Samantha Mannion wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Kathy Baker spoke of the recent football banquet and how impressed she was by the student athlete speeches.
- Greg Flanagan spoke in favor of the STEAM curriculum and complimented the school community.
- Dominic Cipollone spoke in favor of the STEAM program.
- Peggy Katkocin noted that a lot was accomplished this year and thanked the Board, Administration as well as the BOS and BOF.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss a Leave of Absence request and School Security and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, 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 8:08 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Priti Vasaria's request for an unpaid leave of absence of 5 days – January 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9, returning to work on January 10, 2020. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, 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 8:09 p.m. Kathy Baker 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