

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2017,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – October 19, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**ABSENT:** Douglas DeRito

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain and Director of Mathematics Science and Interventions Keegan Finlayson

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Steve Burfeind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. October 5, 2017- Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Amy Tozzo made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2017, regular meeting as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as presented. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nicole Roemer spoke of her disappointment with the reduction of the Stings Music program at Meeting House Hill School and asked about the process of cutting this program.

Rick Regan spoke in favor of the String program at MHHS and spoke in support of hiring a search firm for the new superintendent.

Laura Consiglio spoke in support of proper screening evaluations and particularly screening for dyslexia and asked about the Special Education quarterly review.

Scott March spoke in support of Arts and Music in schools and specifically the Strings program at MHHS.

## **VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Steve Burfeind noted that the next BOE meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> instead of Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both the November 16<sup>th</sup> BOE and the Business Operations subcommittee meetings are cancelled.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
- Over 600 students took the PSAT at the high school.
  - Seniors and parents attended a program regarding the College Application process. Dr. Roy thanked Stephanie Romano and all the guidance counselors for their work with this event.
  - Next week, MHHS students and staff will celebrate their differences as part of an anti-bullying campaign.
  - A complaint with the Office of Civil Rights has been closed amicably without findings. The resolution for this complaint involves training which has been mostly completed.
  - Thanked everyone that participated in the update of the District Vision.
  - The National Honor Society induction will be held on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this event.
- C. Student Representative Reports  
Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski spoke of the following:
- Spirit Week will begin on October 30<sup>th</sup> with a theme of board games.
  - The Homecoming game will be held on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parent/Teacher conferences will be held next week.
- D. Committee Reports  
1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that the subcommittee met tonight and voted to recommend to the full Board the closing of two building projects. The Business Manager presented the budget vs. actual budget report. There was a discussion of Special Education non-payroll expenses specifically increased cost for transportation and tuition. It may be necessary to address this further in the future.
- E. Liaison Reports  
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the Board of Finance met on October 18<sup>th</sup> and spoke of a special audit and noted that there was a misclassification of certain line items and specifically grants. Mr. Sbordone noted that this problem has been rectified and stressed that it is important that everything is categorized into the proper account.  
The BOF received a legal opinion that noted that Capital and Nonrecurring money cannot be used for operating expenses. Another legal opinion noted that money in the Medical Fund can be used to make up revenue shortfalls.

The BOF also reviewed the surplus at their Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The overall surplus for the Town and BOE is approximately \$647,000 with approximately \$295,000 from the BOE operating budget.

The BOE also noted that there is still no approved State budget and discussed the governor's proposed budget and how it will affect New Fairfield.

Members of the BOE discussed the BOF meeting. Amy Tozzo clarified a comment made by a BOF member at their Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and noted that the transfer was made at a BOE meeting. Chairman Steve Burfeind spoke of the BOF meeting and noted that corrective actions have been made. Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to watch the BOF meeting.

2. Parks and Rec Committee - Steve Burfeind noted that the Parks and Rec Committee met on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the marina, waterfront and the Town Beach.

3. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on October 10<sup>th</sup> and voted to increase a purchase order by approximately \$4,900 to drill an additional well at Meeting House Hill School.

4. Safety - Susan Starr noted that the Safety Committee met on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The district has applied to the State for Round 3 of a school security grant in the amount of \$122,000. Plans were discussed for the districtwide school evacuation drill which was successful. Bus Company First Student stated that the school year is off to a good start. Susan Starr reminded drivers to maintain a safe distance behind school buses. The School Resource Officer noted that the crossing guard was very diligent. The committee also reviewed work place injuries and student injuries. The next Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Student Achievement Results Presentation (Parts I, II & III) – Dr. Roy noted that the application was approved from the State so this will be the last year for Science CMT and CAPT scores. Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of old standards and Next Generation Science Standards. He compared New Fairfield scores to DRG scores and State scores. Dr. McKinnon also spoke of the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards and professional development to teach the standards.

Director of Mathematics Science and Interventions Keegan Finlayson spoke of the 5-year Next Generation Science Standards and Implementation. He spoke specifically about the Foss textbooks and professional development for respective grades. Samantha Mannion asked how this curriculum can be modified for special needs students.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated October 12, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

B. Closing of Two Building Projects

1. 091-0031- Consolidated School
2. 091-0041- New Fairfield Middle School

Dr. Roy noted that project 0031 for Consolidated School including the roof and gymnasium and was completed in 1997. Project 0041 is from June of 1999 and includes the lower Middle School project.

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept the following school construction projects as complete: 091-0031- Consolidated School and 091-0041- New Fairfield Middle School. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN**

**FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

C. Strings/Music Program

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the addition of a .2 strings program at Meeting House for the current school year. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy noted that she received notification that New Fairfield will receive a new Title IV grant for Student Support and Academic Enrichment. This is a federal grant and is non-competitive in the amount of \$10,000. Dr. Roy inquired with the State and was told that this grant could be used for a Music Strings teacher.

There was a presentation of the Music curriculum offered both during and after school for each school in the district. Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia spoke of the Music opportunities at MHHS. There was a discussion of not offering an in-school strings program for the Middle School. The Board discussed consistency of the Strings program and the amount of students interested in this opportunity.

D. New Board Member Conference

Chairman Burfeind spoke of this conference that will be held in Rocky Hill, CT for a price of \$95/per person. Reservations can be cancelled until November 30<sup>th</sup> with a refund except for a \$10 cancellation fee. There was a discussion of the value of this conference and whether or not it would be more beneficial to host a workshop in district.

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the reservation of four seats for the CAFE new board member conference that is occurring on December 7, 2017. Kevin Hearty seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Ed Sbordone and Susan Starr. **OPPOSED:** Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss - **MOTION DENIED**

#### E. Superintendent Search Consulting Services

A committee of four BOE members was formed to look into consulting services for the new Superintendent of Schools. Doug DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Amy Tozzo and Ed Sbordone researched the three firms and came up with the following recommendations:

- Ray Associates - only serves districts with 2600 students or more,
- CES (Cooperative Educational Services),
- CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education).

The committee spoke of the timing of the search, the process and the attributes of each firm.

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion that the BOE go into contract with CES for the Superintendent search for an amount not to exceed \$18,000, which will include the initial fee of \$13,900 and any additional costs for advertising up to \$18,000. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

#### **IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Amy Tozzo asked to have answers to the questions that Nicole Roemer asked during Public Participation regarding the Strings Music Program available at the next BOE meeting.

Amy Tozzo encouraged residents to attend the BOF meetings especially during budget time.

Amy Tozzo asked about an OCR (Office of Civil Rights) complaint that was mentioned during Dr. Roy's Superintendent report earlier in this meeting and asked if the Board could go into Executive Session to discuss specifics of this complaint. There was a discussion among Board members as to whether or not this issue needs to be discussed since the issue has been closed. Amy Tozzo asked that Board members be notified of any OCR complaints as soon as they come in.

Dominic Cipollone thanked Nicole Roemer for bringing the issue of the Strings Music Program to the Board's attention.

Samantha Mannion spoke of her disappointment in cutting the Special Education contingency money.

**X. ADJOURNMENT-** Steve Burfeind made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos