

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

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

MINUTES – June 6, 2019

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

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Interim Principal Michael Clarke, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Special Education Supervisor Katherine Matz and Architect Rusty Malik (QA&M)

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. May 16, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. May 30, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - WCSU 2019 DISTRICT PARTICIPATION AWARD

Chairman Peggy Katkocin introduced Dr. Catherine O’Callahan from Western Connecticut State University who presented the New Fairfield School District with an award for the 2019 District Participation award for all the help that New Fairfield gave to WCSU in their elementary program. She especially thanked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino for all her support in their department.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amanda Lombard thanked the BOE and Administration for listening to her concerns regarding the configuration of next year’s 2nd grade class. She further thanked Dr. Sanzo and Mr. Spino for meeting with her and providing clarification regarding the plan for next year’s 2nd grade.

Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino thanked Mrs. Lombard for kind words and gave a brief description of the plans for next year’s 2nd grade.

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the following:
- Noted the passing of former high school substitute Mr. Fred Izzo and offered condolences to his family.
 - Spoke of the success of the SINGAMIGJIG that included choruses from MHHS, Middle School and High School.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
- Thanked all the music, art and physical education teachers for all the special events that go on this time of year.
 - Congratulated both the Girls and Boys Lacrosse teams that will be going to the State Championships this Saturday, June 8th.
 - Thanked everyone involved in the success of Relay for Life.
 - Congratulated the 2nd, 5th and 8th graders on step up.
 - Thanked the PTOs of all the school for all their hard work.
 - Noted that graduation for the New Fairfield High School Class of 2019 will be on Saturday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m. at WCSU.
 - Congratulated the Shining Stars and Celebration of Excellence winners. She thanked Kara Mehler and Julie Gorman for their hard work in putting these together.
- C. Student Representatives' Report - None
- D. Committee Reports
1. Curriculum - Kim LaTourette noted that this committee met and received an update on Foundations and Spelling Connections. Fifth Grade teacher Mr. McCormick and some students did a presentation on the Spelling Connections program. There was an update on the High School English and Social Studies curriculum.
 2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on May 24th and discussed multiple policies. They are on tonight's agenda as action items.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on June 6th and voted unanimously to close out the Meeting House Hill School project. This is on tonight's agenda as an action item.
 2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee will meet on June 11th.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Introduction of Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Cosentino introduced Julie Luby as the new Assistant Superintendent of School and gave a brief description of her background. Mrs. Luby thanked everyone for the opportunity.

B. Introduction of Director of Curriculum Pre K-12 - Dr. Cosentino introduced Lori Ferreira as the new Director of Curriculum Pre K-12 and gave a brief description of her background. Mrs. Ferreira thanked everyone for the opportunity.

C. Superintendent Goals - End of Year Progress - Dr. Cosentino spoke of her 13 SMART goals and the progress as of May 28, 2019, and discussed action steps for the future. Specific topics discussed included improvement of test scores, professional development, creating a positive community, new equipment for technology and safety, passing a reasonable budget and working well with the Board of Education. There will be a special meeting on Thursday, June 13th to further discuss the Superintendent's goals. The goals will be available online for anyone to view.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 30, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. New Textbook Adoption

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following textbooks: *Chemistry in the Earth System* and *SRA Essentials for Algebra*. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. New Course Proposal

MOTION: Kim LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new course-Pre-Algebra. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Grades K-2 Foundations Program

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Grades K-2 Foundations Program. Kim LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kim LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the Grades K-2 Foundations Program. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Grades 3-5 Foundations Program

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Grades 3-5 Spelling Connections Program. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the Grades 3-5 Spelling Connections Program. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to referring to Policies 4112.6/4212.6, 5142.2, Reg. 6142.101, 6172.111 and the 7000 Series. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policies 4112.6/4212.6, 5142.2, Reg. 6142.101, 6172.111 and the 7000 Series as amended. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Samantha Mannion gave a brief description of these policy changes.

G. Closeout of MHHS School Construction Project

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the school building project 1. 091-0042RNV/E - Meeting House Hill School herein identified for public school purposes and certifies that: a. The project has been accepted by the architect and construction management firms; b. All change orders for this project has been reviewed by the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and final determination letters for all change orders have been issued; c. The grants received for this project do not represent a duplication of funding and that funds received do not exceed 100% of the total cost of the project; d. All bills for the project have been paid or funds to pay such bills are deposited in a separate escrow account; e. The total sum noted in this application was expended for the school building project herein described, and f. Application is hereby made under provisions of Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended for payment of the school building project grant due based on the completion of the project described herein. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

H. Approval of Educational Specifications

1. New Fairfield High School
2. Consolidated Early Learning Academy

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo spoke of a meeting with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and noted that they have agreed to provide the district with a 37.86% reimbursement rate for Consolidated School. They will also allow any

renovations for MHHS that will be required in order to combine campuses to be eligible and there will not be a payback provision on the MHHS project that was just closed out.

Dr. Sanzo also noted that DAS is very supportive of the proposed High School project. The reimbursement rate for this project is still at 27.86% but DAS is willing to help with ADA accessibility concerns.

A more detailed explanation of the Educational Specifications will be provided at the June 20th BOE meeting.

Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of a meeting in Hartford on May 20th that was attended by members of the BOE, BOF and BOS that was very successful. She thanked members of the BOF and BOS for their support of this project.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Educational Specifications for New Fairfield High School dated June, 2019. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Educational Specifications for Consolidated Early Learning Academy dated June, 2019. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

I. New Fairfield Public School 2020-2021 Calendar

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2020-21 school calendar as presented. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

J. Approval of unpaid Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

K. Non-Union Salaries and Benefits - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John McCartney complimented the BOE and administration and commented on how well the BOE, BOF and BOS as well as the Permanent Building Committee work together. He spoke of the proposed building project and encouraged resident to take a tour of the buildings and noted that the next tour will be given on Saturday, June 8th.

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

Rick Regan:

- Encouraged everyone to read the Educational Specifications for the proposed school projects.

Kim LaTourette:

- Thanked everyone involved in the Celebration of Excellence honoring the teachers in the district.
- Spoke of the success of the Middle School Band and orchestra concert and the SINGAMIGJIG and the Band Jam.
- Thanked everyone involved in the Field Days.
- Encouraged everyone to attend the SEE Fair on June 11th.

Ed Sbordone:

- Welcomed Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby and Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira to the district.

Stephanie Strazza:

- Welcomed Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby and Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira to the district.
- Spoke of the success of the concerts.

Kathy Baker:

- Volunteers are still needed for the Post Grad party on June 15th. She encouraged anyone interested to volunteer.

Greg Flanagan:

- Welcomed Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby and Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira to the district.
- Thanked the entire BOE as well as members of the community for all their support and condolences on the death of his mother.

Peggy Katkocin:

- Spoke of the success of the MHHS music concert.
- Welcomed Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby and Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira to the district

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss a leave of absence request and non-union contract negotiations and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the unpaid leave of absence request for Susan Farmer per Section 7.6 of the secretaries' contract for one month's time to be taken by August 31, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the non-union salary increases for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos