

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, April 27, 2020,
at 5:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

MINUTES – April 27, 2020

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, 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 and Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Athletic Director Mary Stolle, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

I. CALL TO ORDER: Network Administrator Paul Gouveia explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

A. 2020-2021 Budget

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of possible scenarios in response to requested budget cuts from the Board of Finance. She noted that the BOE was originally asked to cut \$437,600 and has subsequently been asked to cut an additional \$375,000. There was a discussion among the members of the BOE regarding these cuts that included staff reorganization, buying text books and supplies with this year’s budget, the possibility of charging \$1,000 tuition per year per child for out of district employees to send their children to the district, reduction of the gifted program and reducing the capital and nonrecurring account. Specific positions that may be cut from the budget include the administrative assistant for Central Office, School Security Director and Middle School Enrichment teacher. There was a discussion of the amount of certified and noncertified staff that has been reduced.

Members of the BOE expressed their concerns with budget cuts, especially in light of COVID-19 and the possibility that students will need additional intervention when schools reopen. There was a brief discussion of the role of the Athletic Director. It was suggested that every effort should be made to keep positions that directly impact students, and thus, it was suggested that the Board decrease the amount put into the Capital and Nonrecurring account. It was suggested that it would be helpful to give the BOF the metrics of the impact of these cuts and how they would affect the district.

There was a discussion about how much money a 2.94% increase would equate to for an average house in New Fairfield. It was noted that there are some new initiatives to help taxpayers that are having trouble paying taxes due to COVID-19.

Dr. Sanzo cautioned the Board to not bring the Capital and Nonrecurring budget down to zero as it could create an increase for future years.

Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli noted that there were six out of district teachers from the Middle School who enrolled their children in the district. Since then, three of these teachers have moved to New Fairfield.

Chairman Peggy Katkocin encouraged residents to reach out the Board of Finance via Public Comment at the Zoom meetings or email to let their opinions known.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos