

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – December 6, 2018

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

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone and Greg Flanagan

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson and High School English Teacher Karon McGovern.

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. November 1, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. November 29, 2018 - Special Meeting - tabled until next meeting

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to amend the agenda for tonight's meeting to add Action Item F "Approval of Grant Application- School Security Competitive Grant-Round 4" and to switch the order for Information Items E and B. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Jim Mellett asked for feedback regarding his previous suggestion of having retired residents mentor students. Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that the idea was positively received by the Board of Education and they are awaiting feedback from the Administration. Dr. Mellett further spoke of textbooks and standardized testing in the schools.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - None
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
 - Will be appointing a new Director of Business and Operations. She is looking for an interim high school principal and it is hopeful that someone

will be in place by January 2, 2019 until June 30, 2019. A posting for a permanent replacement will be done in February or March.

- Dr. Pat attended the State Teacher of the Year Celebration at the Bushnell.
- Holiday concerts will be held at the schools on December 12th and 19th.
- Attended Michelle Dawson's AP Literature and was very impressed.
- Attended a meeting of the Magnet School with Board member Rick Regan. Rick Regan spoke of the Magnet School (K-5) and noted that New Fairfield sends approximately 18 students (3 per year). He spoke of Danbury's concern of overcrowding and thus would like to send more Danbury students to attend the Magnet School. Since the number of Danbury students is based on a ratio of students to other districts, they would like to see more students from other towns attend.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- The National Honor Society hosted a blood drive and collected 53 pints of blood.
- The Chamber Singers will have their Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 19th at 7 p.m.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum – Kathy Baker noted that this committee met and discussed three new high school courses.
2. Special Education Ad Hoc – Samantha Mannion noted that this Ad Hoc committee is disbanding due to lack of attendance.
3. School Start Time Ad Hoc - The last meeting of this committee was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting of this committee will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 4 p.m. in the high school. They hope to finalize the plan at this meeting.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on November 14th and discussed the Safety Committee and Boat dock fees.
2. Parks and Recreation Committee - Kimberly LaTourette noted that Parks and Rec met on November 5th and discussed the Turkey Run, Tree Lighting, Haunting on the Hallow, the Holiday Light Fight, Day Camp fees and Non-resident parking fees at the Town Beach.
3. Permanent Building Committee - The meeting of November 27th was cancelled.
4. Safety - Ed Sbordone noted that the Safety Committee met on November 14th and discussed the School Safety and Security Committee update. He noted that everything is running smoothly with the bus service. There were also updates on the SRO, food service and a review of accidents and injuries.
5. School Security and Safety Committee - The last two meetings were cancelled. The committee is currently waiting for the results of the CIRMA audit. There is a meeting on December 11th at 7:30 p.m.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Say Something - Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of the “Say Something” anonymous reporting system that will launch for Grades 6-12 in early 2019. He noted that this system is given free of charge through the Sandy Hook Promise. He noted that the system can be accessed through calling, website or a mobile app. Training for students will begin in January.

B. Technology Update - Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes introduced herself and gave a brief description of her background. She spoke of the technology needs of the district and the roles and responsibilities of the IT Team. She spoke of the new Connecticut law regarding student data privacy and the need to have all vendors in compliance. Other topics discussed by Dr. Fildes included Library Media and Technology, SIS (Student Information Systems) and the need to update equipment in the district. She spoke of Infinite Campus and the possible switch to Power School.

Dr. Fildes thanked the entire IT Team and especially Paul Gouveia for their hard work.

C. Panorama – Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Fildes spoke of the family survey results from the recent Panorama survey. The participation rate for this survey was 31.4% which is relatively high.

Dr. Fildes noted that the results were generally positive and spoke of the difference between strong positives and “somewhat” positives. She noted that questions focused on the climate of the schools.

Dr. McKinnon spoke of areas that the district should focus on and spoke of state required questions. He spoke of next steps and data for social emotional learning. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the uses for this data.

D. Secondary Mathematics Curriculum (Second Review)

E. Local Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Abuse Prevention Council Grant

F. New Course Approval (First Review)

1. Interior Design - Tabled

2. What It Is to Be a Young American - High School Teacher Karon

McGovern spoke of this course regarding social change over the 21st century. This class is through the UConn Early Experience and will be offered to 12th graders. Students that successfully complete this class will receive college credit. Dr. Sanzo spoke of Mrs. McGovern’s credentials and the process of getting this class approved through the University of Connecticut.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Director of Business and Operations

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino announced the retirement of Business Manager Craig McClain and wished him well in the future. Dr. Cosentino spoke of the

process for finding a replacement and gave a brief job description for the Director of Business and Operations.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Dr. Richard Sanzo as Director of Business and Operations, effective January 1, 2019. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for November 29, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. New Fairfield Public Schools 2019-2020 Revised Calendar

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of concerns regarding the school calendar and the desire to have more continuity. A committee was formed to review the calendar and make some suggestions.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised 2019-20 school calendar as presented. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Board of Education Policies

Samantha Mannion gave a brief description of the following policies.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of Education policies listed below as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

1. Policy 3542 - School Lunch Service
2. Policy 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection
3. Policy 4111.3/4211.3 - Minority Recruitment Plan
4. Policy 5113 - Attendance/ Excuses/Dismissal
5. Policy 5113.2 - Truancy
6. Policy 5141 - Student Health Services
7. Policy 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations
8. Policy 5141.4 - Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
9. Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6162.51 - Conducting Surveys in Schools

E. Acceptance of Donation

1. New Fairfield Booster Club and New Fairfield Softball

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$3429.70 from the New Fairfield Booster Club and New Fairfield Softball to purchase a new Nevco scoreboard for the softball field. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Sanzo thanked the New Fairfield Booster Club and New Fairfield Softball for this donation.

F. Approval of Grant Application

1. School Security Competitive Grant - Round 4

Dr. Cosentino gave a brief description of this grant that will be used for cameras.

MOTION: Stephanie Strazza made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval for the Superintendent to apply for the School Security Competitive Grant - Round 4 in the amount of \$370,694.45, with \$152,244.21 coming from the State Grant and a local match of \$218,450.24. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

- Rick Regan - Thanked everyone involved in Computer Science Education Week
- Kim LaTourette - Thanked everyone involved in the Veteran's Day ceremonies at the schools, especially Meeting House Hill School. She also spoke of Unified Sports and the adaptive specials classes. She further wished Craig McClain the best of luck in his retirement and congratulated Dr. Richard Sanzo on his new appointment.
- Stephanie Strazza thanked everyone involved in Social and Emotional learning.
- Kathy Baker noted that the Middle School conferences were very organized and enjoyable.
- Peggy Katkocin spoke of adaptive classes and noted these were possible in part due to the late President George H.W. Bush.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos