

Town of New Fairfield
Board of Finance
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES
Board of Finance/Board of Education Joint Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2022
7:00 PM
New Fairfield Community Room
33 Route 37

Board of Finance members present

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Mark Beninson
Thora Perkins
Dave Coleman, Alternate
Chris D'Esposito, Alternate
Greg Williams, Alternate

Board of Finance members absent

Michael Cammarota
Cheryl Reedy
Claudia Willard

Board of Education members present

Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman
Tim Blair
Kathy Baker
Greg Flanagan
Kimberly LaTourette
Samantha Mannion
Ed Sbordone
Stephanie Strazza

Board of Education member absent

Amy Johnson

Call To Order

Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Wes Marsh noted that three regular BOF members will not be in attendance for this meeting and have appointed the following alternate members to serve in their absence:

- Michael Cammarota - Dave Coleman
- Cheryl Reedy - Greg Williams
- Claudia Williams - Chris D'Esposito

Other Town officials and Educators present

Dr. Kenneth Craw, Superintendent of Schools
Carrie DePuy, Director of Business and Operations
Katherine Matz, Pupil Personnel Director
James D'Amico, New Fairfield High School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, New Fairfield Middle School Principal
Allyson Story, Elementary Principal
Melissa Busnel, Special Education Supervisor

Also Present

Attorney Andy Bellach - Shipman and Goodwin

Presentation by Director of Pupil Personnel Director

Board of Education Chairman Dominic Cipollone noted that the purpose of this meeting is to get a greater understanding of the laws regarding special education and how they pertain specifically to New Fairfield.

Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz introduced herself and gave a brief description of her background pertaining to Special Education. She also introduced Attorney Andy Bellach from the firm of Shipman and Goodman. Ms. Matz spoke of the Special Education laws and how they affect the budget and noted that the district is required to fund services for every student that is identified as needing services. Other topics of discussion included the difference between IEP and 504 plans and the rules regarding services for gifted and talented students. There was a brief description of the STRIDES program and it was noted that qualified students are eligible for the program until the day they turn 22.

Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the team effort of all educators and spoke not only of the legal obligations but also the moral and ethical obligations for special education students. He applauded staff members for their hard work on behalf of the special education community.

Board Member Comments

Members of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education thanked Ms. Matz for her thorough presentation. BOF Chairman Wes Marsh asked members of all board to direct any questions regarding the program to Superintendent of School Dr. Kenneth Craw.

Public Comment

Selectman Lori-Ann Beninson asked about the role of the family members. Katherine Matz noted that decisions are made with the collaboration of the families.

Adjournment

Kathy Baker made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion - **All in favor**