

***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

**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

**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

### **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**