

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – December 5, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** Kathy Baker

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino and ELL Teacher Rowena Zylali

**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 21, 2019 - Regular Meeting - The minutes were approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to amend the agenda to add Agenda Item XI “Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing School Security.” Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman’s Report - Peggy Katkocin noted that:

- The water test at Consolidated School tested 95 sinks and two sinks had elevated levels. One was in a classroom and the other was in a custodian’s closet. The Town Sanitarian will put measures in to correct this.
- The Light Parade on November 30<sup>th</sup> was very successful. She thanked all the board members that participated.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- The district is always looking for substitutes. She encouraged college students that are home for break to apply.
- The Superintendent’s budget will be presented on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

- The Major Minors will be singing at the Bridgeport Sound Tigers on Dec.18<sup>th</sup>.
  - First Student will be showing a new school bus on Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. There will be a toy collection for Toys for Tots.
- C. Student Representatives' Report  
Senior Representative Sophia Liguori noted that:
- DECA will host Rebel Idol on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be a Day of Code during the school day on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be an Open House on December 11<sup>th</sup> for Sherman students who may be interested in attending New Fairfield High School.
  - The Wind Ensemble will perform on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this committee met and discussed new textbooks for Physics and Culinary Arts. They also discussed moving the Civil Air Patrol to the afternoon.
- E. Liaison Report
1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that PBC met on December 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed the building project. Dr. Sanzo will discuss this later in the meeting.
  2. School Security and Safety Committee - The next meeting will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update - Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo noted that the PBC met on December 5<sup>th</sup> and narrowed down the list of Owner's Representatives to two firms (Morganti Group and Colliers). Interviews for OPM firms will be scheduled for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. These interviews will held in Executive Session with BOE members welcome to attend.

The interviews for architect firms will be held on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:45p.m. Four architect firms will be interviewed.

The PBC is continuing to work with OSCGR on the priority list. Dr. Sanzo noted that reimbursement rate has been raised ½ of percentage point to 38.22%.

The BOS referred this project to the Planning Commission who gave a positive vote for both projects.

### B. English Language Learners Update

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby introduced ELL (English Language Learner) Teacher Rowena Zylali and gave a brief description of her background and her role in the district. Ms. Zylali thanked the district for the opportunity to teach ELL. She spoke of assessments and placements tests and the procedure for determining which students are English Language Learners. She spoke of State guidelines and the testing of Early Learning Center students. Ms. Zylali also spoke of the process of training other educators to teach ELL.

- C. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)
1. Policy 5141.214 - Student Sunscreen Use
  2. Policy 5144.4 - Discipline - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

- D. New Textbook Adoption (First Reading)
1. *Physics of the Universe* - Julie Luby gave a brief description of this textbook.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for November 26, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

### B. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 1331 - Smoke Free Environment
2. Policy 3432/3433 - Budget and expense report/Annual Financial Statement
3. Policy 4112.5/4212.5 - Security Check/Fingerprinting
4. Policy 4112.51/4212.51 - Employment reference checks
5. Policy 4122 - Student teachers
6. Policy 4131 - Staff Development
7. Policy 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Referral to the police
8. Policy 6111 - School Calendar
9. Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6159 - Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program
11. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Student Program

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

### C. Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee 2020 Meeting Dates

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee 2020 meeting dates as presented. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

### D. New Textbook Adoption

1. *The Culinary Professional*

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to suspend the rules referring to the following new textbook *The Culinary Professional*. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following new textbook, *The Culinary Professional*. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

E. Civil Air Patrol Scheduling Revision

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Civil Air Patrol Scheduling Revision as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

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

- Kimberly LaTourette thanked everyone that participated in the Light Parade. She noted that Winter Wonderland will be held at Consolidated School on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.
- Rick Regan spoke of the Math curriculum, specifically Big Ideas and the Early College Experience. He spoke of articles in the *Town Tribune* that show student athletes signing intent to play at college. These articles usually show a picture with the coaches and families of the athlete. He suggested that this be done with students that received academic, music and art awards, and scholarships too.
- Stephanie Strazza noted that she enjoyed participating in the Light Parade. She also noted that in addition to the Major Minors performing at the Sound Tigers game, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus will be performing during intermission.
- Greg Flanagan congratulated the Varsity Football team. He spoke of the Math curriculum and is encouraged that the district is reaching out to other schools in the DRG to get ideas about improving math scores.
- Dominic Cipollone noted that he enjoyed the Light Parade. He spoke in favor of the ECE (Early College Experience) and also noted that he appreciated the ELL presentation. He reiterated the need to have Math instruction every day.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss School Security and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos