

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2017,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room,
33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT

MINUTES – September 5, 2017

PRESENT: Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito (arrived 7:33 p.m.), Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino and Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Steve Burfeind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ACTION ITEM

A. 2017-2018 Budget Contingency Plan as Requested by the Board of Finance

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss plans to possibly reduce the 2017-2018 Education budget due to possible state budget reductions that will affect the Town of New Fairfield. It was noted that the Board of Finance met at a special meeting on August 30th to discuss contingency plans for both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. At the Board of Finance meeting, it was determined that approximately \$2.2 million may be cut from the state. The BOF discussed ways to make up this deficit and noted that \$600,000 would come from the 2016-2017 surplus. Another \$500,000 could possibly come from the General Fund which would leave \$1.1 million to be made up by the Town and the BOE. The BOF sent a request to both boards asking for a contingency plan to cut \$800,000 from the BOE and \$300,000 from the Town. It was noted that this is a request and cannot be mandated from the BOF since the budget has already been passed by the taxpayers.

There was a lengthy discussion among the members of the Board of Education regarding the best plan of action for this contingency. It was noted that budget cuts were already made to the original budget and that an advisory question on the ballot noted that a majority of the voters thought that the BOE budget was too low.

Suggestions for the budget cuts included operational freezes, budget line deletions and project delays. The Board spoke of project delays and the consequences of waiting to do these projects.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to inform the Board of Finance that the Board of Education strongly opposes any further reductions in educational funding in the district. However, since the Board of Education was asked to provide a contingency plan, the Board recommends the following 2017-2018 budget contingency plan totaling \$800,000 in budget line deletions and project delays as requested by the Board of Finance at a special meeting on August 30th due to possible state budget reductions: Capital Expenditures to be put on hold: HS/MS Auditorium Renovation Project (\$155,000), Consolidated Water Storage Project (\$45,000), Consolidated Parking Lot Project (\$102,000), High School Family and Consumer Sciences project (\$278,000), High School Locker Room Renovation (\$20,000) and Salaries for High School Science Teacher that will not be filled (\$93,199) and Unappropriated Salary fund (or other remaining funds) (\$106,801). The BOE further moves that this contingency plan is not binding and they reserve the right to revisit this plan when the state budget is approved. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

IV. ADJOURNMENT- Steve Burfeind made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos