

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special workshop meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield High School Library/Media Center, 54 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – October 29, 2020

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, and Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. DINNER

IV. REVIEW ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Currently, we do not have any staff or student cases of COVID-19. Any staff members or students who are in direct contact with someone who is positive need to quarantine for 14 days or take care of children who are home/quarantined. We also have a shortage of subs and service providers (Speech, SPED teachers...), and this is a common issue within Connecticut. We may have to start moving people around to stay open. Concern was expressed about Halloween and Thanksgiving. The Board reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the superintendent and board members, and Dr. Cosentino said that this may be a good piece to bring back during her mid-year evaluation.

Dr. Cosentino provided a copy of the CABE School Governance Position Statement (Spring 2016) and referred to pages 4-6. She highlighted specific items, including the chain of command, seek the Superintendent's recommendation, make decisions based on data, and delegate to the Superintendent responsibility for all administrative functions except those specific for the Board. She reminded the Board that members do not make individual decisions, that the Board functions as a team – a nine-member board. Dr. Cosentino suggested that this be reviewed and discussed in January if needed. There was some discussion about the ELC decision and the public meeting that was held. What went well and what improvements we may need to make was discussed.

V. 2021-2020 BUDGET PRIORITIES

The budget process and priorities were presented and discussed. The District Vision and Mission, and the Superintendent/Board of Education Goals were reviewed. The Vision, Mission and Goals should be drivers for the budget, along with class sizes, COVID protocols, meeting student's needs, contractual obligations, grant funding, debt costs, building projects. Dr. Sanzo and the administrative team presented 14 potential investments and asked the Board to discuss and prioritize them. After the activity, the Board was asked if we would want to change the listing of any of the items or if any items may be missing. Some members advocated for the early literacy being higher on the list and for adding a Department Chair for the Fine Arts programs. Dollar values on these items will be added at the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Peggy Katkocin, Kathy Baker, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly LaTourette