

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7:00 pm. via Zoom.

**MINUTES – April 20, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**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, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel.

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. March 29, 2021 - Special meeting - approved by consensus
  - B. April 1, 2021 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus with the revision that Dominic Cipollone seconded the motions for the approval of the agenda and the Personnel Report instead of Rick Regan as originally written.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus
- V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- VI. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the following:
    - Welcomed everyone back after Spring Break.
  - B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
    - Welcomed everyone back after Spring Break and thanked all the coaches that worked during Spring Break.
    - Thanked everyone at the Western Regional Health Clinic and Selectman Khris Hall and Health Director Tim Simpkins for all their work in putting together COVID vaccination clinics for students over the age of 16. The first clinic is Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and the second clinic is Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. A letter was sent home for to all students over the age of 16. All students over the age of 16 are encouraged to get vaccinated.

- Reminded everyone that Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> is Administrative Assistant Day. She thanked all the Administrative Assistants in all the buildings.
  - Consolidated School 1<sup>st</sup> Graders held a Social Studies Fair, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders had a Science Fair.
  - Wished all spring athletes a wonderful season.
  - Encouraged everyone to continue to adhere to COVID-19 safe practices.
- C. Student Representatives' Report  
Junior Representative Cayden Walker reported on the following:
- Juniors who took the SAT in March can find their scores on College Board.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on April 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed:
    - Quarterly summary of budget vs. actual. The budget is in line with prior years.
    - The deficit has been reduced from \$424,000 to \$350,000.
    - The School Lunch fund is projected to be in a deficit but may be made up with discussions with Aramark.
    - The Google Vault Reconciliation. There were two log accesses that were appropriate.
    - The subcommittee voted to approve to allow Dr. Sanzo to proceed with the verification of rebates from Eversource from the Middle School.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Parks and Recreation Committee - Kimberly LaTourette noted that:
    - The April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled. There will be a special meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - Online registration for Summer Camp has begun. This program is for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
    - Various sports camps will also be held this summer.
    - The Town Beach will open Memorial Day weekend. Reservations must be made online.
    - There will be some outdoor movies and concerts this summer.
  2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee will meet on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Remote Learning**

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby gave statistics regarding the number of remote learners for each school. Consolidated School has 7%, MHHS has 14%, the Middle School has 16% and the High School has 50% of its students on remote learning. The High School has asked students to make a commitment by May 3<sup>rd</sup> as to whether or not they will either be in person or remote learning throughout the rest of the year. This is due to assessment and other events where it is necessary to know how many students will be in the building.

The remote learning Kindergartners started their own class yesterday and it got off to a good start. The remote learning First Graders will start their own class next week.

- B. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)
1. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements
  2. Bylaw 9324 - Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials
  3. Bylaw 9325 - Meeting Conduct
  4. Bylaw 9325.2 - Order of Business
  5. Bylaw 9325.4 - Voting Recording
  6. Bylaw 9325.5 - Request for Information by Board Members
  7. Bylaw 9326 - Record of Meeting/Minutes
  8. Bylaw 9327.1 - Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks
  9. Bylaw 9330 - Board/School System Records
  10. Bylaw 9350 - Hearings
  11. Bylaw 9360 - School Board Legislative Programs
  12. Bylaw 9400 - Monitoring Products and Processes

C. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Rich Sanzo thanked Finance Director and Town Treasurer Ed Sbordone, Financial Assistant and Town Deputy Treasurer Linda Farinha and First Selectman Pat Del Monaco for successfully completing the sale of \$25 million worth of bonds with an interest rate of 1.63% for the school building project. This rate represents approximately half of the interest rate originally projected. The town's AAA Bond rating was reaffirmed by Standard and Poor's and official approval from OSCGR (Office of School Construction Grants Review) was received to bid the Consolidated Early Learning Academy. The CELA project is expected to officially be open for bidding this week and will remain open for the next six weeks. Awarding of the contracts for the CELA project is expected in June and construction will begin this summer.

The PBC is continuing to meet to discuss options for the bus lot. The Zoning Commission will meet on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the High School project. There is also a possibility of a combined meeting with the PBC and BOE on May 6<sup>th</sup> to approve the SCG042 for the High School project in order to submit it to the State.

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for April 15, 2021, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Acceptance of Donation

1. Kimberly Clark

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of one pallet of Kimberly Clark Professional General Purpose face masks 56,000 masks, with an approximate value of \$6,720. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

## **XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to attend the BOF meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> where the budget will be discussed and possibly the final mark-up.
- Dominic Cipollone thanked everyone involved in the vaccination clinic. He also spoke of concerns regarding and traffic during drop off and pick up at Consolidated and Meeting House Hill School.
- Kimberly LaTourette thanked the crossing guards at both Consolidated and Meeting House Hill Schools for all their hard work under very stressful circumstances.
- Greg Flanagan spoke in support of allowing out of district teachers to bring their children to New Fairfield school tuition free and noted that it is a good way to recruit top notch teachers. Kathy Baker noted that this will be discussed at the next Policy subcommittee meeting.
- Stephanie Strazza thanked the administrators and crossing guards at Consolidated and Meeting House Hill School especially during a recent fire in town.

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and to invite Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the New Fairfield Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of Brittany Goldrick, Rebecca Pendergast, Amy Primorac, Francesca Pugliesi, Jessica Smith, and Gina Tonner at the end of the 2020-21 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. I further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-mentioned staff members and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions on Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos