

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – October 4, 2018

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

ABSENT: Kathy Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Business Manager Craig McClain, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, High School teachers Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia and Jean Gephart, and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh,

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER - A vacancy was created on the Board of Education by the resignation of Douglas DeRito. The position was advertised and the following three candidates applied: Denise Fucito, Stephanie Strazza and Tom Weisenberger. Each candidate gave a brief description of his or her qualifications and reasons for applying for this position. The Board was given the opportunity to ask questions of each candidate.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the election of a new BOE member. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

The Board came back from Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

A paper ballot was given and Stephanie Strazza was unanimously appointed to the Board of Education. **IN FAVOR OF STEPHANIE STRAZZA:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Recording Secretary Suzanne Kloos swore Stephanie Strazza in as a member of the Board of Education.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. September 20, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the following additions: Action Item: F: Approval of Grant Applications; Action Item: G: Memorandum of Agreement with State Police; Action Item: H: Approval of Unpaid General Leave of Absence with Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Police and Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Unpaid General Leave of Absence. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VIII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of concerns for members of the public regarding the school calendar, specifically the number of days off recently. She noted that this will be discussed more in the spring.

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

- Agreed with concerns regarding the school calendar and has spoken to the administration regarding possible changes.
- The Superintendent's first newsletter will go out on October 5th.
- Director of Building and Grounds Phil Ross gave an update on the following capital projects:
 - The high school culinary arts program should be completed in a few weeks and came in \$65,000 below budget. The renovation to the lower student parking lot is completed and came in at over \$100,000 under budget. He spoke of a potential replacement for the tennis courts at the high school and the possibility of concrete tennis courts. He spoke of the 20 year warranty for this project and the cost of the courts.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- Invited Board members to attend the National Honor Society Induction on Tuesday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m.
- Juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 10th.
- Spirit week will be held the week of October 15th.
- The NFHS PTO will host a Rebel Food Truck festival on Sunday, Oct. 14th. All members of the community are welcome to attend.
- The Homecoming Pep Rally will be held on Friday, Oct. 19th and the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this committee met and discussed the curriculum development and revision plan for 2018-2023.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met last week. There was a preliminary review of 11 new policies that will be up for first reading soon. There are seven policies on for action for tonight's meeting.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on September 25th and discussed the High School Culinary Arts renovation and discussed an RFQ for possible renovations for Consolidated and the High School.
2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met last week and there was a presentation from the vendor for the grant. Another draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Police and the BOE and recommendations from the committee to the BOE will be discussed in Executive Session.

IX. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. NEASC Overview - High School Principal Dr. Rich Sanzo and High School Science Department Chairman Jean Gephart spoke of the upcoming NEASC visit and the importance of being an accredited school. They spoke of the Mission Statement and the core values and beliefs. They reviewed the schedule for the visit that will take place between October 21st and 24th. The study will consist of observation of classes, focus groups with students and BOE member interviews. Mrs. Gephart spoke of the self study done by the committee and spoke of critical strengths, needs and plans for growth.

B. Safety Committee Recommendations – Discussed in Executive Session

X. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 27, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. International Travel to Puerto Rico

High School Spanish teacher Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia spoke of a potential trip to Puerto Rico. In addition to language immersion, students will have the opportunity to help rebuild homes that were damaged by Hurricane Maria. This trip will take place during February break. A least 15 students would be needed to make this trip happen. It was noted that this trip will be run by Global Works which has vast experience in running similar trips. Members of the BOE asked about accommodations and safety precautions for this trip.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the international field trip to Puerto Rico as presented by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. 2017-2018 Budget Surplus

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Superintendent request 100% of the unexpended funds totaling \$82,766.65 (\$68,020.78 from the 2017-2018 budget and \$14,745.87 from the close out of 2016-2017 encumbrances) from the Board of Finance to be placed in the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund to be used for security enhancements and ADA compliance. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Creation of an Ad Hoc subcommittee for School Start Time

Samantha Mannion explained the reasons for creating an Ad Hoc subcommittee for the school start time.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the creation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for School Start Time. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Board of Education Policies

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

1. Policy 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Referral to the Police Appendix
2. Policy 6159 - Individual Education Program/Special Education Program
3. Policy 6161.3 - Comparability of Services
4. Policy 6163.3 - Live Animals in the Classroom
5. Policy 6163.32 - Live Animals in the Classroom-Service Animals
6. Policy 6171 - Special Education
7. Policy 6146.11 - Grade Weighting and Class Rank

F. Approval of Grant Applications

1. Derx Foundation Grants
 - a. Middle School Breakfast Club
 - b. Middle School Student News

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the grant application to the Derx Foundation for the Middle School Breakfast Club in the amount of \$8,000. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the grant application to the Derx Foundation for Middle School Student News in the amount of \$13,000. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. McKinnon gave a brief description of the uses for these grants and the application process.

G. Memorandum of Agreement with State Police - Executive Session

H. Approval of Unpaid General Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

Rick Regan noted that he met with Dr. Cosentino, Dr. McKinnon and BOF members Erin Badillo and Cheryl Reedy to discuss the BOE/BOF communication plan.

Ed Sbordone reminded everyone that the BOF will meet on October 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Kim LaTourette reminded everyone to complete the survey.

Greg Flanagan welcomed new Board member Stephanie Strazza to the Board and thanked Tom Weisenberger and Denise Fucito for their interest in the board. He spoke of the need to review the calendar.

Dominic Cipollone spoke of the need to review the school calendar. He also thanked the NEASC Team.

Peggy Katkocin spoke of the school calendar. She also noted that a high school teacher commented to her that this has been a great start to the school year.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH STATE POLICE

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING UNPAID GENERAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss the Safety Committee recommendations, the memorandum of agreement with the State Police and to discuss an unpaid general leave of absence 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, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion that the BOE authorize the most recent revision of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of State Police and the Town of New Fairfield Board of Education and authorize Dr. Cosentino to sign the contract on the Board's behalf. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone. **ABSTAINED:** Stephanie Strazza

Chairman Katkocin thanked Samantha Mannion and Dr. Cosentino for all their work with the School Security and Safety Committee.

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and grant an unpaid general leave of absence to a member of the general bargaining unit. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos