

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the New Fairfield Community Room at 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812.

MINUTES – November 3, 2022

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Amy Johnson and Stephanie Strazza

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, New Fairfield High School Principal James D’Amico, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner and Elementary Principal Allyson Story

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 20, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:

- The Tricks or Treat outing in the center of town was very successful.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the following:

- Congratulated the Girls’ Cross Country Team for winning the State Championship. He suggested recognizing the team at a future BOE meeting.
- The Calendar Committee is working on the district calendar for next year.
- November 11th is Veterans’ Day. He encouraged everyone to thank a veteran.
- Introduced the Student Representatives.

C. Student Representatives’ Report

Senior Representative Grace DeMarco spoke of the following:

- The 1st quarter ends on November 4th.
- Friday, November 4th is “Senior Night” for the football players, cheerleaders and band members.

- Congratulated the Girls’ Cross Country Team on winning the State Championship.

Junior Representative Brennan Hearty

- Introduced himself and gave a brief description of his background.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on October 24th and reviewed the Gifted and Talented Student program and the Social Studies curriculum.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on October 26th and reviewed four policies. Three of the policies were tabled and the fourth policy is on tonight's agenda for first reading.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on October 19th and discussed the following:

- The Capital Projects subcommittee is suspended for now.
- The Medical fund balance is currently approximately \$600,000 which is down from the average of \$2.5 million.
- The BOF discussed the history of the Town and BOE surpluses for previous years.
- Members of the BOF requested additional expenditures reports from the BOE. Members of the BOE suggested that the BOF appoint a liaison to come to the BOE Business Operations Subcommittee meetings.

2. Calendar Committee - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met on November 2nd and discussed the calendar for 2023-2024. The first day of school will be after Labor Day in September 2023, due to the high school construction. There will be five professional days and five data days for the 2023-2024 school year. There was a brief discussion of Spring Break 2024 and whether or not it will coincide with surrounding towns.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw gave data regarding enrollment and expectations for the upcoming years. He noted that enrollment has gone down in recent years, but it is projected that enrollment will be steady or possibly an increase over the next ten years.

B. NFHS School Start and End Time Update

Kathy Baker spoke in support of having a later start time for the high school. She spoke of the logistics of moving the time and what areas will be affected. Dr. Craw spoke of how athletics and transportation could be affected by changing the times. This committee will meet again on Nov. 16th.

C. Sign and Sub Event

Julie Luby noted that the Sign and Sub Event designed to recruit more substitutes for the district was very successful. She explained the logistics for signing substitutes and noted that over 30 people attended the event.

D. Food Service Update

Carrie DePuy noted that the COVID funds that provided free lunches for students will end in December. The district will start charging for meals beginning January 3rd. Communication will go home to families notifying eligible families to apply for free or reduced lunch.

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

Carrie DePuy noted that the high school construction project is on time and on budget. Purchase Orders for the furniture, fixtures and equipment will be issued in December. The current building will be closed during the summer and alternate plans will need to be made for the staff. It was noted that there will not be enough room for Juniors to park on campus next year.

The parking problems at Meeting House/Consolidated are being addressed. The playground at MHHS/Consolidated will be completed the week after Thanksgiving.

F. Board of Education Policies (*First Reading*)

1. Policy 7230.2 - Extensions/Renovations or Replacements

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 October 31, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Dr. Craw noted that a new Athletic Trainer was hired for the high school and will start at the end of November.

B. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policies listed below as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

1. Policy 5145.511- Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
2. Policy 6140 - Curriculum
3. Policy 6172.6 - Distance Education

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - Samantha Mannion asked for periodic updates regarding transportation.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kimberly LaTourette thanked Julie Luby for coming up with a creative idea to recruit more substitute teachers.

Ed Sbordone reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 8th.

Dominic Cipollone thanked the Student Representatives for all they bring to the Board.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos