

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018, immediately following the Superintendent's Budget Presentation in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – January 18, 2018**

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

**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, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain and Athletic Director Mary Stolle

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m. (immediately following the Superintendent's budget presentation)

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. December 21, 2017 - Regular Meeting - The minutes were approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Rick Regan made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item E "Discussion of the 2016-2017 Budget Surplus." Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the SEE Project (Senior Enrichment Experience) that is required for high school seniors before graduation. This experience is a project or an internship at a work place for three weeks in May. Mrs. Katkocin made a plea for members of the public to be mentors for this project. Anyone interested can contact the high school. There was a suggestion of putting information regarding this in the Town Tribune.

Peggy Katkocin spoke of an electronic CABE meeting that asked for questions or concerns regarding the district. It was noted that many other districts have concerns of the state not funding teacher pensions and the ability to enforce tutoring for expelled students.

B. Superintendent's Report- Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:

- Thanked the Grounds crew and Public Works for all their hard work with snow clean up for the last couple of weeks.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- Project Purple Week sponsored by the New Fairfield Prevention Council will be held next week. There will be multiple events to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. The boys basketball game on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> will hold a raffle to raise money for Project Purple week.
- The PTO meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Administrators and school counselors will explain PSAT scores to parents.
- The Middle School Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on January 18<sup>th</sup> and approved 2017-2018 budget transfers. They reviewed the 2017-2018 budget as of December 31<sup>st</sup> and the only concern was the Special Education budget that will be discussed later in this meeting.

2. Policy - Did not meet due to snow.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on January 17<sup>th</sup> and voted to allocate 50% of the BOE budget surplus to the BOE in the amount of \$158,686.08. The BOF voted to retain the current auditors of the firm of O'Connor Davies for an annual fee of \$54,000.00. The BOF also discussed budget planning for the BOS and the BOE. No specific direction of percentage was given at this time.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Sports during Spring Vacation - Athletic Director Mary Stolle spoke of the policy of missing sports practices and games during spring vacation and spoke of the challenge of fitting all the games and practices in during a short season. Vacations that are not a school-sponsored event are considered unexcused. Students are aware of this policy when they sign up for the sport. It was decided that this will be discussed further at a Policy Subcommittee meeting in the near future.

B. SEE Project Community Member Request - Discussed during Chairman's report.

### C. Superintendent Search Committee Update

Samantha Mannion spoke of the timeline for the Superintendent search and noted that the existing contract has been reviewed in order to give candidates an idea of the contract. The committee met on January 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed the contract and interview questions for potential candidates. To date, five applications have been received by CES and it is expected that another three will be received before the deadline of January 25<sup>th</sup>. The committee will meet again on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex. The committee will meet with CES on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Rick Regan spoke of the evaluation format and noted that the committee would like to change it to a more detailed format.

### D. 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget

The Board decided to meet on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a budget workshop. This is in lieu of budget workshops that were snowed out.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for December 31, 2017, and January 10, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

### B. International Travel

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the proposed trip to Costa Rica and noted that this is a trip focusing on Latin American culture and Biology and Environmental Science. This trip would be held during April Break. The cost of this trip is approximately \$2600 per student with no cost to the district.

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

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the proposed trip to Montreal and Quebec City and noted that this is a bus trip chaperoned by high school French teacher Mr. Hunt. This is open to all French students at the high school and will be held in June shortly after the last day of school.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the international field trip to Montreal and Quebec City as presented by the administration. Doug DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. Acceptance of Donation

1. Aunt Mary's Bookshelf

**MOTION:** Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of books with an estimated value of \$2500 from Aunt Mary's Bookshelf to the New Fairfield Public Schools. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

D. 2017-2018 Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested 2017-18 FY budget transfers as presented. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. Discussion of the 2016-2017 Budget Surplus

Dr. Roy spoke of the need to finish the renovation of the Consumer Science area for the high school and noted that the project will be designed based on the amount of funds. Other projects discussed were the rooftop HVAC at the high school and the replacement of the building management system at the Middle School.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of using the surplus funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$158,686.08 to fund the High School Consumer Science renovation. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

There was a discussion of whether or the BOE should vote on the use of the surplus before bringing it to the Board of Finance.

**IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Greg Flanagan and Kathy Baker thanked Dr. Roy for the recent tour of the schools and encouraged members of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to also tour the schools.

Ed Sbordone spoke of the importance of the budget workshop of January 30<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to attend.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos