

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room at 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 24, 2024

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Tim Blair, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson (via phone), Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Kathy Baker and Greg Flanagan

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Maria Kennedy

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2024-2025. Topics reviewed at this meeting included the budget for Curriculum, Technology, and Central Office.

Dr. Craw spoke of Curriculum and Instruction which included five priorities and how they affect the budget.

- Coaching Model for Math, Humanities and Science
- Reading
- Curriculum and Development
- Professional Learning
- Resources to Support Learning

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of the budget for district-wide expenses and how they affect the budget. Main topics of review included insurance, tuition for Vo-Ag and Magnet School, transportation, and utilities. There was a discussion of future efficiencies and possible reductions to these expenses. It was noted that diesel and oil expenses have been locked in and insurance is capped at a 5% increase for the next three years. Carrie DePuy will research how Sherman tuition revenue is accounted for by other towns.

There was a discussion of the budget for Central Office, including legal fees for negotiations for union contracts. Financial services and personnel split with the Town were also discussed.

Director of Technology Paul Gouveia spoke of technology and how it affects the budget. External pressures, including an increase in cyberattacks, can affect the budget. There was a discussion of the many advancements and improvements to technology in recent years. There was a discussion of staffing for technology, and it was noted that student-to-technology support staff ratio is one of the highest in the area.

Paul Gouveia spoke of Investments and Initiatives for technology with this budget and spoke of the five-year replacement cycle, maintaining the Grades 3, 6 and 9 Chromebook model, adding an anti-phishing product and up keeping the “Tech Tool Box.”

Members of the BOE asked questions of both Carrie DePuy and Paul Gouveia and thanked them for their expertise. The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30th in the New Fairfield Community Room. Presentations regarding the budget will be available on the district website.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT- None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Sue Huwer seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos