

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

### **MINUTES – September 18, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

**ABSENT:** Samantha Mannion and Stephanie Strazza

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Facilities Director Joe Lombardozi, and Scott Pellman (Colliers Project Leaders)

**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. August 20, 2025 - Special meeting - Approved by consensus.
- B. August 21, 2025 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Approved by consensus

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Jennifer Pappas spoke of concerns with the funding for school projects. She spoke of a post she put on social media regarding the “walk-thru” for the Middle School.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- Encouraged everyone to respect the views and opinions of others.
- Spoke of national data regarding student proficiency in Language, Math, and Science and commended the district for recent test scores.
- He attended the recent Open House at the high school and thanked Principal D’Amico and the entire staff for giving valuable information.

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

- Spoke of the wonderful start to the new school year.
- Thanked everyone that attended the Open Houses at the respective schools.
- Spoke of the results from the Student Outcome Report and noted that Dr. Woleck will be giving a presentation later in tonight’s meeting.
- Welcomed Hailey Lafaro as the new Junior Student Representative.

C. Student Representative Report

Senior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- College visits are currently happening at the College and Career Center. Juniors and Seniors are welcome to make appointments to meet with representatives from various colleges, trade schools and military branches.

- Students who will be 18 by November 4<sup>th</sup> are welcome to register to vote at the school on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. A driver's license and social security number are required.
- DECA is hosting the "Walk for Nicole" on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Nicole Vengalli Foundation.
- A Club Fair hosted by DECA will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> during lunch waves.
- The NEACAC College Fair Field Trip will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Juniors and Seniors that wish to attend should speak to their Guidance Counselor.
- Yearbook pictures and bios are due by October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- PSATs and Senior Kick Start will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Junior Representative Hailey Lofaro spoke of the following:

- Introduced herself and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be the Student Representative.
- There will be no school on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in observance of Rosh Hashanah and no school on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Yom Kippur. A professional development day will be held on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- A Paint Game will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to support Breast Cancer Awareness.
- College Financial Aid night will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and reviewed expenditures for the first month of the fiscal year. The subcommittee is keeping a close eye on copiers and electricity. Last year's budget came in at 99.9% of the voter approved budget. There is a surplus of \$59,285. The Google vault reconciliation was fine. The subcommittee approved two budget transfers that will be voted on by the full Board.

E. Liaison Reports - None

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Scott Pellman from Colliers Project Leaders gave an update on the following projects:

Bus Lot - The current as-built survey was received today. The engineer has begun working on the concept plan and it is expected by next Tuesday. The 50% construction documents should be completed by the middle of October and should be finalized by mid-November. It is anticipated that the documents be sent to the State of CT in mid-February 2026 and will hopefully be bid by March 2026. It is hopeful that construction will be begin in Spring or Summer 2026.

Propane - Scott Pellman noted that the final report from Amtech with the detailed synopsis was received. A letter was written on behalf of the town regarding the language of the contract concerning repairs. It is currently with the Town Attorney.

Playground - Scott Pellman noted that Colliers staff has been to the playground a lot over the last few weeks. They are putting together a summary of steps regarding the installation of additional drainage. It is expected that the playground surface should be installed beginning on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. After a waiting period and testing, it will be opened to the students. It is expected that it will be completed by mid-October. It was noted that the new warranty starts once the project is completed.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of a final audit from the 2010 project of the High School Science Labs and MHHS classroom renovation. She noted that the town will receive a refund of \$1.5 million to Town Fund 314.

### B. Student Outcomes Report

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck spoke of standardized testing reports from 2024-2025 and multiple measures including External Summative Assessments, Benchmark

Assessments/ Universal Screenings, and Classroom Based Formative Assessments. She spoke of AP Tests, SATs, Smarter Balance Tests and Next Generation Science Standards. She spoke of scores from individual cohorts and noted that New Fairfield continues to make incredible improvements in test scores.

#### C. District Goals

Superintendent of School Dr. Ken Craw spoke of six goals for the district and thanked administrators of each school for their continued commitment and hard work in continuing to make improvements in each of the following areas. They include curriculum, instruction, special education, wellness, student and staff attendance and resources for learning.

#### D. Anxious Generation

Dr. Woleck spoke of a Community Read of *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and how everyone in the community can see how recent shifts and social media have affected the younger generation. She spoke of upcoming resources for community members to benefit students.

### **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 September 11, 2025 as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

#### B. Fiscal Year 2024 Unexpended Funds

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the allocation of FY 23-24 unexpended funds as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone  
**OPPOSED:** Sue Huwer

#### C. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested FY 25 budget transfers as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

#### D. District Offices Phase II Approval

Dr. Craw spoke of the possibility of centralizing all the BOE offices into one location. Half of the project has been completed. He spoke of the benefits of space optimization and the timeline for the project. Funding sources for this project include: FY 2024 Unexpended funds of \$65,000, STRIDES transfer of \$46,000, and project savings of \$19,500. The total cost of this project is anticipated to be \$130,500.

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education approval of the District Offices Phase II plan as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

#### E. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Paraeducators of CSEA, Chapter 141 SEIU Local 2001, CTW- July 1, 2025-June 30, 2029

Dr. Craw noted that there was a mediation with the paraeducators on August 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the next contract. A tentative agreement was reached that will now go to the association members for their agreement. It is hopeful that this will be received by the next BOE meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - The Board will discuss the request regarding the renaming of the Baseball Fields at a future meeting. They will also discuss Field Fees.

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Members of the Board welcomed the new Student Representatives and encouraged them to participate in future meetings.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO PARAEDUCATORS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS** - No Executive Session was necessary.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos