

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – February 1, 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, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, Director of Technology Alison Herold 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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Jan. 18, 2018 - Special Budget Meeting - The minutes were approved by consensus.
- B. Jan. 18, 2018 - Regular Meeting - The minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kathy Baker made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as presented. 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

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Samantha Kennedy thanked the BOE for agreeing to look into hiring a consultant to look at the possibility of later start times for the high school and middle school.

Laura Consiglio spoke of the traffic congestion at the entrance to the high school and middle school and thanked the subcommittee for agreeing to bring this issue to the Board of Selectmen.

Jennifer Brackenwagen spoke of her concern about not having a lot of applicants for the Superintendent of Schools position. BOE member Samantha Mannion responded to this concern and noted that more applications have been received.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of a CAFE Workshop to be held on February 15th and encouraged BOE members to attend. The topic for this workshop is the discussion of later start times. Mrs. Katkocin spoke of the flu and reminded parents to leave sick students home. She referred to the health guidelines on the website.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
- The Middle School and MHHS Winter Concerts were very successful.
 - A State Civil Rights compliance review will be conducted at the high school in the spring. Dr. Roy noted that this is a standard review and that we are not being reviewed due to a particular concern.
 - The food service provider, Aramark, will be going through an audit this year.
 - MHHS Psychologist Sarah Pinheiro is currently serving as the secretary for the State Association of School Psychologists. She will represent Connecticut at the National Conference in Chicago later this month at no cost to the district.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:
- Course registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin on February 5th and run through February 11th.
 - Congratulated Senior Stella Koslowski for receiving a Gold Key award in the 2018 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards program.
 - Many students attended the Model UN Conference at Yale and seven awards were received by New Fairfield.
 - The Tri M Music Honor Society Talent Show will be held on Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone spoke of proposed classes which include Perspectives: A Senior English Experience, AP Spanish Literature, AP Computer Science Principles, and Introduction to Programming.
 2. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that this subcommittee met and spoke of the traffic congestion at the entrance to the high school/middle school. There will be an action item for the next Board meeting. The subcommittee also discussed the school calendar regarding conferences and noted that the Middle School will try a new process for conferences this spring.
 3. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that the Policy subcommittee met and discussed 18 proposed policies. One was tabled for further discussion, one will be voted on later in tonight's meeting and the other 16 are on tonight's agenda as a first reading.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Technology Plan update- Director of Technology Alison Herold spoke of the district's technology plan and gave a brief history. It was noted that the district's plan is

aligned to the state and the national plan. Other points discussed in this plan included teaching with technology, effective uses, data privacy, disaster recovery, backup, and data deduplication. It was noted that the life cycle of computers is five years.

B. New Course Approval (*First Reading*)

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the proposed new courses for the high school for next year and detailed how these courses fit into the Mission Statement and Core values. There was a brief presentation about each of the following courses. It was noted that no additional staff is needed for these classes.

1. AP Spanish Literature
2. Introduction to Programming
3. AP Computer Science Principles
4. Perspectives: A Senior English Experience

C. BOE Policies (*First Reading*)

Samantha Mannion read the following proposed policies that be on the agenda for two readings and voted on at the third meeting.

1. Bylaw 9221 - Filling Vacancies
2. Policy 1212 - School Volunteers
3. Policy 2414 - Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent
4. Policy 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection
5. Policy 4112.2 - Certification
6. Policy 4112.51/4212.51 - Employment/Reference Checks
7. Policy 4131 - Staff Development
8. Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal
9. Policy 5113.2 -Truancy
10. Policy 5125 - Student Records; Confidentiality
11. Policy 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations
12. Policy 5144.1 - Physical Restraint/Seclusion
13. Policy 6111 - School Calendar
14. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements
15. Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations
16. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

Douglas DeRito asked the policy concerning the Gifted and Talented Students program specifically whether the word “shall” should be replaced with “may” as done at the subcommittee level or go back to the word “shall.”

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to send Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program back to the Policy Subcommittee for reconsideration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Douglas DeRito spoke of the policy for cell phones in the classroom. This policy will be discussed further at the subcommittee level.

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. 2018-2019 Budget

Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of items that were discussed at the budget workshop on January 30th that could possibly affect the 2018-2019 budget. The board discussed Capital and Nonrecurring line items as well as payroll and non-payroll items.

Tennis courts at the high school

There was a suggestion of possibly asking the Town to split the cost. It was decided to wait to see if it makes it through the budget process.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to keep \$230,000 in the current proposed budget for the reconstruction of the tennis courts at the high school. 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

Human Resource Director

The Board discussed whether or not a Human Resource Director was needed for the district.

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to add the position of Human Resource Director in the 2018-2019 proposed budget for a cost of approximately \$115,000. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Samantha Mannion and Rick Regan **OPPOSED:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone - **MOTION DENIED**

Safety Advocates

There was a lengthy discussion of the effectiveness of safety advocates and the best way to keep students and staff safe.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to keep the two School Safety Advocates in the 2018-2019 proposed budget in the amount of approximately \$64,000. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Kathy Baker and Peggy Katkocin **ABSTAINED:** Greg Flanagan and Kimberly LaTourette

6th Grade Teacher

There was a discussion of the need for a 6th grade teacher and the advantages of keeping the team structure at the Middle School.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to add a 6th grade teacher to the 2018-2019 proposed budget for an amount of approximately \$61,175.00 for the Middle School.

Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Special Education Contingency

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to decrease the Special Education Contingency fund by \$50,000 from \$200,000 to \$150,000 for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. 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

Consultant for change in start time

Kathy Baker spoke of a subcommittee meeting regarding the reasons for the proposed change in start time. She will attend the CABA meeting on February 15th to learn more about this and it will be on as an agenda item for the March 15th BOE meeting. Nothing was added to the budget for a consultant at this time.

2018-2019 BUDGET

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to accept the BOE budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$42,908,328 which represents an increase of 4.90% over the 2017-2018 budget. 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

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for January 25, 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. Board of Education Policies

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules in order to act upon Bylaw 9325.2 at this regularly scheduled meeting. 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

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion that the Board accept the changes to Bylaw 9325A to add subsection XI - a second Public Participation - after Action Items and before Board Member Comments. 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

C. Action on Personnel Matters - Executive Session

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Rick Regan spoke of erroneous comments he made at the last meeting regarding not voting on asking the BOF for the full BOE surplus for 2016-2017 and noted that this was indeed discussed at a prior meeting during the motion for the Capital Plan.

Douglas DeRito spoke of subcommittee assignments and thanked everyone that worked on the budget.

Ed Sbordone spoke of the BOE budget and suggested having a discussion of the best way to present the budget to the Board of Finance.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL MATTERS

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. 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

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:57 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the interview questions for the superintendent search, the superintendent contract draft, and the superintendent evaluation format as discussed in executive session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. 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

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos