

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2019,
at 6:30 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 3, 2019

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Robert Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Athletic Director Mary Stolle, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S 2019-2020 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino presented the budget and spoke of the mission statement and core values of the district. She spoke of the changes to education and many “Points of Pride” for each school and showed pictures of the many accomplishments in the district. Creating opportunities was discussed as well as closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Cosentino addressed the issue of declining enrollment and spoke of how it affects the budget. It was noted that there is not always an economy of scale with fewer students but staff reallocations were reviewed. She also spoke of capital improvements, technology improvements and a facilities study.

The increase for the operating budget, which includes payroll and non-payroll accounts, is proposed to be 1.99%. The overall education budget for 2019-2020 has a proposed increase of 0.94%. The overall budget for 2018-2019 is \$42,820,654 and the proposed budget for 2019-2020 is \$43,223,110.

Dr. Cosentino thanked everyone involved in putting the budget together and noted that it is an honor to be Superintendent in New Fairfield. There will be a budget workshop on Monday, January 7th at 3:45 p.m. for the staff and at 7:00 p.m. for the general public. An internet live question and answer event will be available in the near future.

A link will be provided for questions that can be sent to Director of Business Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo. This will allow questions to be reviewed and compiled ahead of time. A copy of the proposed budget is available on the district website at www.newfairfieldschools.org.

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kimberly LaTourette encouraged everyone to make sure that existent programs are not lost to budget cuts.

Ed Sbordone thanked Dr. Cosentino for this budget and specifically asked about the capital budget.

Stephanie Stazza asked about extra support in the classrooms in the event of increased class sizes.

Kathy Baker asked about curriculum development and capital projects.

Greg Flanagan asked about the budget for Special Education and capital projects.

Dominic Cipollone asked about class size and encouraged everyone to make sure that the budget is in line with district goals.

Peggy Katkocin spoke of the many changes in education and specifically the obligation of the district to prepare all students past high school.

V. ADJOURNMENT - Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos