

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2017,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT

**MINUTES – September 7, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**ABSENT:** Kevin Hearty

**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, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain and PreK teachers Lisa Abrams, Kristen Olyha, Kelly Rich and Ann Tortora

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Steve Burfeind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. June 15, 2017- Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017, regular meeting as presented. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

B. June 29, 2017- Special Meeting

**MOTION:** Jay Voss made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2017, special meeting as presented. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as presented. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

John McCartney thanked all the volunteers in town and especially the members of the Board of Education. He spoke in support of the schools and the budget. He further spoke of the process

for filling vacancies on the Board of Education and specifically the resignation of the chairman.

Rick Regan spoke of the vision of the district and improving of test scores.

Laura Consiglio spoke of the search for the Superintendent of School and suggested looking for a candidate outside the district.

## **VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Steve Burfeind welcomed everyone back for another school year. He spoke about a special meeting of the BOE that was held on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in response to a request from the BOF to voluntarily reduce \$800,000 from the 2017-2018 budget. This will be discussed in depth later at this meeting.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
  - Welcomed students and staff back and noted that the first week went well.
  - Asked the public for feedback regarding the District Vision. This can be sent through the district website.
  - All four schools have adopted a school in Texas to send needed supplies and funds to schools in response to Hurricane Harvey.
  - Open Houses for back to school have begun. Dates for each school are on the website.
- C. Student Representative Reports

Dr. Roy introduced Hannah Rigoglioso as the new Junior Representative

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

  - Gave a brief description of her background and thanked the BOE for the opportunity to be the Junior Representative.
  - Gave a schedule of upcoming sports events.

Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:

  - The High School Open House will be held next week.
  - Seniors had a great first day of school and will have a BBQ on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Committee Reports
  1. Curriculum - Amy Tozzo noted that the Curriculum subcommittee met and discussed the PreK curriculum.
  2. Communications/Community Outreach -Ed Sbordone noted that the Communications/Community Outreach committee met immediately before this meeting and had a presentation by EdAdvance on a possible before/after school program. There was a survey regarding this program with 148 responses. Of these responses, 66% were in favor of a before-school program and 90% were in favor or an after-school program. This program will not be able to start until the 2018-2019 school year. There will be no cost to the school system for this program. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

3. Field Fees - Ed Sbordone noted that the Field Fees committee met on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and moved that the indoor rate for facilities remain the same for this year but will increase the next year. The committee also discussed turf reserve balance, Gmax results and the construction of the new turf field. There is a concern of dogs at the stadium and on school grounds.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF had a special meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>. A representative from Connecticut Council of Municipalities gave a presentation regarding the current state of the State of Connecticut budget. Due to concerns of state cuts, the BOF recommended that the BOE consider freezes in the amount of \$800,000 and that the BOS consider freezes in the amount of \$300,000.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PreK Curriculum - Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon gave a presentation regarding a new curriculum for PreK. Main points in this presentation included development domains. Dr. McKinnon introduced the PreK teachers and spoke of the guiding principles and the curriculum development. There was a brief video of a PreK classroom. Anyone looking to read about the full curriculum can do so through the district website.

B. 2017-2018 District Calendar and Guide - Dr. Roy spoke of the new district calendar and guide and noted that all the information plus up-to-date information is also available on the website.

C. CIRMA Risk Management Award Publication - Dr. Roy noted that the district received a Risk Management Award from CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) and New Fairfield was used as an exemplar for its focus on Risk Management.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated September 1, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

B. 2017-2018 Budget Contingency Plan

Chairman Steve Burfeind spoke of a request from the BOF to reduce \$800,000 from the BOE budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This is in response to possible cuts from the State budget which has yet to be approved. Mr. Burfeind spoke of the background of the BOE budget that was approved in May of this year and noted that it was overwhelming approved by the taxpayers. An advisory question on the ballot indicated that a majority of the voters believed that the BOE budget was too low. The Board discussed ways to cut the budget and specifically spoke of budget line deletions and delays of projects. It was

noted that the budget has already been approved by the taxpayers so the budget cuts could only be a recommendation by the BOF and cannot be mandated. There was a suggestion of a possible supplemental tax by the taxpayers instead of budget cuts.

The following motion was passed unanimously as the special meeting of the BOE on September 5<sup>th</sup>:

To inform the Board of Finance that the Board of Education strongly opposes any further reductions in educational funding in the district. However, since the Board of Education was asked to provide a contingency plan, the Board recommends the following 2017-2018 budget contingency plan totaling \$800,000 in budget line deletions and project delays as requested by the Board of Finance at a special meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> due to possible state budget reductions: Capital Expenditures to be put on hold: HS/MS Auditorium Renovation Project (\$155,000), Consolidated Water Storage Project (\$45,000), Consolidated Parking Lot Project (\$102,000), High School Family and Consumer Sciences project (\$278,000), High School Locker Room Renovation (\$20,000) and Salaries for High School Science Teacher that will not be filled (\$93,199) and Unappropriated Salary fund (or other remaining funds) (\$106,801). The BOE further moves that this contingency plan is not binding and they reserve the right to revisit this plan when the state budget is approved.

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to amend the motion made at the September 5<sup>th</sup> special meeting to change the word in the first sentence to say “reductions **to** educational funding” instead of “reductions **in** educational funding.” Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Chairman Burfeind will present this plan to the Board of Finance on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. He encouraged Board of Education members to attend.

C. Approval of Grant Applications

1. Derx Foundation Grants

a. Middle School Breakfast Club

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the grant application to the Derx Foundation for the Middle School Breakfast Club in the amount of \$7,930. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy noted that this grant is for salaries for staff who help with the Breakfast Club at the Middle School.

b. Middle School Student News

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the grant application to the Derx Foundation for Middle School Student News in the amount of

\$15,610. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy explained that this grant is used for salaries and necessary equipment for the Middle School student news programs.

D. Non-tuition student request (Executive Session)

E. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Board of Education Secretaries United Public Service Employees Union(UPSEU) Local 424-Unit 72, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2021 (Executive Session)

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss a non-tuition student request and to discuss documents relating to contract negotiations and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the students' request to attend New Fairfield Middle School without tuition and with transportation provided by the family for no longer than 90 calendar days from today. Jay Voss seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to table the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Board of Education Secretaries United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) Local 424 – Unit 72, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

## **X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Steve Burfeind reminded everyone that there will Special Education Ad Hoc subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and the next regular meeting and the Business Operations Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> instead of Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dominic Cipollone thanked everyone involved in the “Adopt a School” to help with schools in Texas and commended them for teaching the students generosity.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** - Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Amy Tozzo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos