

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – October 11, 2023

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Amy Johnson and Ed Sbordone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Principal Dr. Jennifer Hilderbrand, Pupil Personnel Director Maria Kennedy and Attorney Andy Bellach (Shipman and Goodwin)

Quintin Flower explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of recent changes in legislation and introduced Attorney Andy Bellach from the firm of Shipman and Goodwin.

Attorney Bellach gave a presentation of the 2023 Legislative changes and how they affect education. She focused on changes that affect school operations, students, special education, teaching and curriculum, and miscellaneous changes that will affect the district.

Topics that affect school operations include changes to required training for newly elected BOE members, posting of BOE documents and agendas, air quality inspections, posting of a Memorandum of Understanding and keeping of records for School Resource Officers, Title IX Compliance Tool Kit and Opioid Antagonist Access.

Changes in legislation that affect students include the raising of the kindergarten age, statutory provisions related to bullying and new training requirements for school employees.

Changes in Special Education legislation include the age of eligibility for special education students, the requirement to hire a transition services coordinator and information required to be provided to the parents of special education students. Age-appropriate handouts rd will now be required to explain the rights of special education students. Special Education audits must be conducted in random school districts each year.

Changes affecting teaching and curriculum include implementations of reading programs and play-based learning.

Miscellaneous statutory changes include the requirement for recycling of organic material and the proclamation of May 23rd of each year to be Intellectual and Development Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day. The law now requires reimbursement from Medicare for school based medical health assessments.

Members of the BOE asked questions of Attorney Bellach and spoke briefly of these changes.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos