

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting forum on Tuesday, May 7, 2019,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – May 7, 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, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Khris Hall, BOF Chairman Wes Marsh, Permanent Building Committee Chairman Pete Viola, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, and Rusty Malik (QA+M)

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened the meeting to public participation concerning the proposed building projects.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

John McCartney encouraged residents to take a tour of both Consolidated School and the High School. He noted that he fully supports the projects and thanked everyone that attends or works in the schools.

Philip Harding spoke of his support of proposed projects and noted that new schools will increase property values.

Marilyn Galante referred to the conceptual drawings and asked how many levels are planned for each building. BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that Consolidated School would be one level to make it easier for younger students to evacuate. The plan for the high school would be multiple levels. The building of new schools allows for the schools to be “right sized” thus allowing for efficiencies.

John Rogers spoke of his support for building new schools in light of his recent tour of the buildings. He noted that doing nothing is not an option and rebuilding would be more cost effective than renovating.

Katie Williams noted that she was enlightened after the tour and fully supports the projects.

Joe Galante spoke of his concerns regarding the increase in taxes and noted that many senior citizens are on a fixed income.

Philip Harding noted that the High School's accreditation could be lost if nothing is done to the buildings. He offered to work with everyone involved in the project to make get the public informed and to make sure all efforts are made to get the price down as low as possible.

New Fairfield High School Senior Kelsey Finley spoke of issues with the high school from a student's perspective. The members of the Board thanked Ms. Finley for the well written letter that she sent them regarding the project.

Kathy Cook spoke of her support for the project.

All members of the Board spoke in support of the proposed projects. It was noted that a lot of thought went into this proposal and it was not a decision that was made lightly. They spoke of the increase in property values that may result from new schools. They noted that doing nothing is not an option and that the students and faculty deserve better. The Board members encouraged all residents to get involved in the process and to take a tour of the buildings. They thanked everyone that gave feedback to date.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. New Fairfield High School and Consolidated School Building Projects**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board to request that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Board of Education to apply for school construction grants for the new construction of New Fairfield High School and new construction of Consolidated School on the site of Meeting House Hill School. I further move to request that the Board of Selectmen approve all other resolutions and motions required for the school construction grant applications. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

#### **V. SITE ANALYSIS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of an expenditure not to exceed \$21,600 for phase 1 environmental assessments and geotechnical assessments required for the school construction grant applications. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Dr. Sanzo thanked everyone involved in getting the proposed project to this point. He encouraged residents to get involved in the process and noted that they will continue to give tours to members of the public in the near future. He noted that the Site Analysis is required for the State Grant application. This Site Analysis should start sometime next week and is expected to take 3-4 weeks to complete.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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