

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2019,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – September 5, 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, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino and BOF 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. August 15, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. August 20, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to add Action Item F “Say Something Free Anonymous Reporting System” and Agenda Item XI “Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing School Security and Safety.” Greg Flanagan 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. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Jim Mellett gave a brief history of slavery in the United States.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman’s Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the proposed building project
 - The Convocation held on August 23rd was a great start to the school year.
 - Thanked parents that alerted the district about some bus problems and thanked Dr. Sanzo and Patty Mota for addressing these issues.

- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
- Thanked everyone for a great beginning to the school year.
 - There will be a question and answer session regarding the proposed school projects for community members hosted by Dr. Cosentino and Dr. Sanzo on September 6th at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Room by the Senior Center.
 - Drill week will be held this week. This included fire drills, lockdowns and shelter-in-place.
 - Leadership training for staff members that were nominated by the building principals will begin soon.
 - The school calendar for this year was handed out to Board members.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
Senior Representatives Sophia Liguori noted that:
- Open House for the High School will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Friday, September 13th will be the first home football game.
- D. Committee Report
1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this subcommittee met and discussed the proposed Health Curriculum. Many relevant topics are included in this curriculum.
 2. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met and spoke of bus routes. She noted that this meeting was not well attended and suggested the possibility of not meeting as often.
 3. School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee - Rick Regan noted that this committee met on September 5th. There was a focus group with high school students and there is a large support for the proposed change among students. This change is dependent on a positive referendum for the building project, so it was decided to disband this subcommittee for now and reconvene once the project is underway.
 4. Field Fees - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on August 20th and discussed responsibilities of the committee and reviewed the turf field balance and the cost of replace the Rebel Turf that is scheduled to be done in 2023. There was a discussion of possibly increasing field fees in order to build up this reserve.
- E. Liaison Report
1. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on August 27th and discussed a RFQ (Request for Quote) for Architecture Services if the referendum passes. The next meeting of the PBC will be held on September 10th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Technology Update - Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes gave an update of the changes in technology in the district and specifically, projects that were completed over the summer. Security parameters were increased, many computers were replaced and the primary servers were updated. The Town, New Fairfield Library and the School District are all on a single

network. PowerSchool will be used for data and as the parent portal. Dr. Fildes thanked everyone involved in this project and the transition, specifically Stephanie Romano and Christine Baldelli.

The entire Board of Education thanked Dr. Fildes and her staff for a fabulous job.

B. New Fairfield Fair Day - New Fairfield Fair Day will be held this Saturday, September 7 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at Memorial Field. There will be a table set up with information for residents concerning the proposed building projects. Board members are encouraged to attend to answer questions.

C. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update
Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave a brief summary of the design and development of the proposed projects and noted upcoming dates:

- Friday, September 6 -10:30 a.m. - question and answer session for members of the community at the Community Room at 33 Route 37;
- Monday, Sept. 9 - 6:00 p.m. - Building Tour beginning at Consolidated School;
- Monday, September 16 - p.m. Public Hearing;
- Tuesday, September 17 - Special Board of Selectmen meeting;
- Thursday, September 26 - Town meeting to set referendum date;
- Saturday, October 5 - expected date for referendum.

Dr. Sanzo noted that he has been working with First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Finance Director Ed Sbordone and BOF Chairman Wes Marsh regarding the referendum. He described the referendum questions and noted that the dollar amount referenced in the questions will be the maximum amount. There will be a separate referendum question for each project.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for August 29, 2019, as recommended by the administration. 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

B. Approval of Grant Applications

1. Derx Foundation Grants
 - a. Middle School Breakfast Club
 - b. Middle School Student News

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 \$8,000 and the Middle School Student News in the amount of \$15,000. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. New Textbook Adoption

1. *Comprehensive Health*

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to suspend the rules referring to the following new textbook: *Comprehensive Health*. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following new textbook: *Comprehensive Health*. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget Surplus

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Superintendent request 100% of the unexpended funds totaling \$205,911.52 from the Board of Finance to be placed in the Capital and Non-recurring Fund to be used for security enhancements and New Fairfield Middle School capital improvements. 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

It was noted that the Board of Finance will vote on this at their September 18th regular meeting.

E. Superintendent's 2019-2020 Priorities and Goals

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the schedule of goals and noted that they will be developed more at the next regular BOE meeting.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Superintendent's 2019-20 Priorities and Goals as presented. 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

F. Say Something Free Anonymous Reporting System - Executive Session

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents John McCarthy and Jim Mellett both complimented the members of the Board of Education and the Administration for their hard work, cooperation and willingness to work together.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - Members of the Board discussed the following:

- Kimberly LaTourette welcomed everyone back to the school year and thanked everyone involved in getting the technology up and running. She thanked John McCartney and Jim Mellett for their nice comments of the Board. She also thanked the administrators and staff at MHHS for a great Open House.
- Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to attend New Fairfield Fair Day.
- Samantha Mannion thanked the Technology Department and encouraged members of the public to get information on the school projects and not to rely on social media for information.
- Stephanie Strazza thanked John McCartney and Jim Mellett for their nice comments of the Board and also thanked the staff at MHHS for the Open House.
- Greg Flanagan welcomed the new administrators to the district and thanked everyone involved with the convocation. He specifically thanked Dr. Cosentino for her goals regarding the Math curriculum. He encouraged everyone to get information about the school projects.
- Dominic Cipollone thanked everyone for the smooth opening to the school year. He spoke in support of the referendum.
- Peggy Katkocin spoke of the structure of taxes in town and encouraged everyone to support the school project.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss School Security and Safety and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo and Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes into the Executive Session. 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

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:32 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

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the suspension of the Say Something Free Anonymous Reporting System. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **OPPOSED:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, and Stephanie Strazza. **ABSTAINED:** Ed Sbordone

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Greg Flanagan 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