

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

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

MINUTES – December 7, 2017

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone, and Kathy Baker (8:54 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, High School English Teacher Owen Lucas, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to move agenda items III, IV and V to the Action Item section of the agenda. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

III. ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER- Moved to later in the agenda.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER - Moved to later in the agenda.

V. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS- Moved to later in the agenda.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. November 1, 2017 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017, regular meeting as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion.

Rick Regan made a motion to amend the minutes to clarify his comments regarding the consulting firm for the Superintendent’s search and to strike the words “consulting firm” from the following sentence: He asked for clarification of a comment made by Dr. Voss at the October 19th meeting regarding the consulting firm for the Superintendent Search. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF AMENDEMENT:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone **IN FAVOR OF MOTION AS AMENDED:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. November 29, 2017- Special Meeting

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 29th special meeting as presented. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion.

Rick Regan made a motion to amend the minutes of this special meeting to change the sentence that reads “The position was advertised and the following three candidates applied: Kathy Baker, Patrick Bower and Rick Regan” to “The position was advertised and the following four candidates applied: Kathy Baker, Patrick Bower, Rick Regan and William Touri. Mr. Touri was not present at this meeting. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF AMENDEMENT:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone **IN FAVOR OF MOTION AS AMENDED:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

VII. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Item E “International Travel Opportunities for Students.” Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF AMENDEMENT:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone **IN FAVOR OF AGENDA AS AMENDED:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John McCartney encouraged the new Board members to represent the entire district and to not let party lines or politics persuade them.

Terra Martin-Volpe spoke of the election of the Board of Education Chairperson and encouraged the Board to elect the most qualified candidate and to not follow party lines.

Samantha Kennedy spoke of the initiative for later school times for the Middle School and High School.

IX. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - There was a brief discussion of the appointments for subcommittees for the Board members and it was decided that whoever is elected as the permanent Chairman will make these appointments.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
- Welcomed new Board of Education members.
 - MHHS teachers Casey Aiezza and Jack Hudak presented at the State Physical Education and Health Conference.
 - Middle School teachers Casey Olsen and Debbie Parker presented at the State Reading Association Conference.
 - Both the Girls and Boys Soccer Teams at the high school have earned the Officials' Sportsmanship Award.
 - The PTOs at all four schools hosted the Harlem Wizards.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:
- A blood drive was held on November 16th with over 43 pints donated.
 - The House of Rebelsentatives met last week and discussed a new senior course, a club calendar and possibilities of new food items in the cafeteria.
- Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:
- The Student Leadership team met to discuss a school climate survey.
 - The High School Chamber singers and Wind ensemble concert will be held on December 20th.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Communications/Community Outreach - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on December 7th and spoke of the following items:
 - Committee to look into the possibility of later start times at the High School and Middle School;
 - The possibility of a traffic light at the entrance to the high school at Gillotti Road;
 - Discussed the school calendar and specifically early dismissal for Parent/Teacher conferences;
 - International travel for students;
 - The January meeting of the Communications/Community Outreach has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in February.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone spoke of the State budget and specifically the ECS money. The BOF has requested that the BOE come to the next BOF meeting to give suggestions for the unappropriated funds but a decision will not be made until the January BOF meeting.
 2. Safety - Ed Sbordone spoke of the Safety meeting that was held November 29th and discussed the following:
 - The district is applying for a grant in the amount of approximately \$122,000 which can be applied for security measures completed in the past.

- The committee spoke of the bus service and it was noted that the State has allowed the district to use Squantz Pond as a meeting place if the buses cannot get up Wanzer Hill.
- Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross attended the Safety meeting and spoke of “tools for schools” and air quality. It was noted that all cleaning chemicals must be “green.”
- The SRO Officer gave an update to the subcommittee and noted that everything is going well.
- There was a review of fire inspections and some corrective actions are being put into effect. Phil Ross will address all of these issues.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. District Vision update - Dr. Roy spoke of the vision of the district, and began the presentation with the definition of the vision and 21st century learning. This slideshow is also available on the district’s website. Dr. McKinnon spoke of the process used to update the vision. There was a discussion of focus groups and activities. The vision revision process included people from all aspects of the district. Three new Board members Kathy Baker, Kim LaTourette and Rick Regan participated in the focus group as parents and also participated in the presentation. High School teacher Owen Lucas spoke of his role with this vision. Jared Przyborowski spoke as a student, and Dr. Richard Sanzo and Karen Gruetzner spoke as administrators in the district.

B. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

C. District Enrollment Projections

Dr. Roy spoke of enrollment projections through NESDEC and the many factors that are used to determine these projections. She spoke of the history of enrollment projections, the number of births, and migration in Connecticut. A ten-year projection is given. It was noted that Connecticut and New Hampshire have seen a decline in enrollment of over 14% in the last few years. Dr. Roy spoke of how enrollment affects the budget.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for November 30, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. 2018 BOE Subcommittee Meeting Dates

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2018 Board of Education Subcommittee meeting dates as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. Special Education Ad Hoc Committee

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the reestablishment of the Special Education Ad Hoc committee and approval of the 2018 committee meeting dates as presented. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

There was a discussion of the role of the Ad Hoc Committee and the possibility of creating a SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association) for the district. It was noted that a SEPTA must be initiated by a parent.

D. Updated Capital Improvement Plan 2015-2034

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised capital improvement plan as presented by the administration, including requesting \$317,372 from the Board of Finance as allowed under Connecticut General Statute 10-248a. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Dr. Roy noted that \$317,372 is the full amount of unappropriated funds the BOE will ask the BOF for. Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross spoke of changes made for the Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2034 and plans for these funds if granted by the BOF. If these funds are realized, they would be combined with other funds to renovate the existing Family Consumer Science area. Remaining funds would be used to continue the replacement of mechanical systems, specifically rooftop units at the high school and the building management system at the middle school. Mr. Ross spoke of upcoming projects for the next few years. Dr. Roy spoke of ideas and plans for the Art rooms and the Family Consumer Science areas.

E. International Travel for Students

Dr. Roy noted that the district hasn't approved international travel trips for students recently due to world events. There was a discussion of the BOE policy regarding international travel and the policy of the district's insurance company (CIRMA). Board members discussed the benefits of travel for students. Possible destinations include Costa Rica and Montreal, Canada.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to authorize teachers in the district to explore the possibility of international travel with their students. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

There was a vacancy on the Board of Education due to the resignation of Amy Tozzo. The position was advertised and Kathy Baker applied to fill the vacancy. Mrs. Baker gave a brief description of her qualifications and Board members asked her questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the election of a new Board of Education member. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

The Board voted for Kathy Baker via paper ballot with the result of 7 in favor and 1 opposed. Mrs. Baker was welcomed to the Board as a new member. She thanked the Board of the opportunity to serve.

Kathy Baker was sworn in as a new member by Suzanne Kloos (Justice of the Peace).

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

Ed Sbordone nominated Peggy Katkocin to serve as Chairman of the Board of Education. Dominic Cipollone nominated Douglas DeRito to serve as Chairman of the Board of Education.

Vote for Chairman:

In favor of Peggy Katkocin: Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

In favor of Douglas DeRito: Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan
Peggy Katkocin was elected Chairman

Vote for Vice Chairman:

Douglas DeRito nominated Dominic Cipollone to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

Kimberly LaTourette nominated Douglas DeRito to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. The nomination was not accepted.

Rick Regan nominated Samantha Mannion to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

In favor of Samantha Mannion: Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

In favor of Dominic Cipollone: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin and Kimberly LaTourette

Dominic Cipollone was elected Vice Chairman

Vote for Secretary

Douglas DeRito nominated Kimberly LaTourette to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. **In favor of Kimberly LaTourette:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Kimberly LaTourette was elected Secretary

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Samantha Mannion noted that there have been 373 responses to the survey regarding the search for the new Superintendent of Schools. Since there has been such a great response, the deadline for the survey has been extended until this weekend. Mrs. Mannion encouraged everyone to spread the word in order to get as many responses as possible.

Peggy Katkocin asked Board members to email her with their preferences of which subcommittees they would like to serve on.

Greg Flanagan congratulated the new members of the Board, thanked the community for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education and encouraged everyone to work collaboratively.

Douglas DeRito congratulated the newly elected officers of the Board and spoke in reference to the public comment regarding the election of chairman.

Dominic Cipollone thanked the members of the community for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education and spoke in reference to the public comment regarding the election of chairman.

Rick Regan thanked the Board members for appointing him to the Board and encouraged members of the public to speak during Public Participation.

Peggy Katkocin spoke of her previous tenure on the Board of Education and spoke of the benefits of working as a nonpartisan board.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos