

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2018,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – April 5, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

**ABSENT:** None

**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, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Business Manager Craig McClain, Director of Mathematics Science and Interventions Keegan Finlayson, Curriculum Administrator Joel Pardalis, Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh and Attorney Peter Murphy (Shipman & Goodwin)

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

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL MATTER FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR AND ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:01p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy and Attorney Peter Murphy from Shipman and Goodwin into the Executive Session. 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

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:25 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

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. March 15, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. March 22, 2018 - Special Meeting

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2018 special meeting as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

#### **V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Item F “2018-2019 Budget Reductions as Recommended by the Board of Finance.” 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

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Second grade teacher Maureen Kenny spoke of her concern regarding the proposal to move a second grade teacher to first grade for the 2018-2019 school year.

Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino spoke of the rationale for moving a second grade teacher to first grade for the 2018-2019 school year. He spoke of enrollment for these grades and noted that this teacher would move back to second grade the following year.

Laura Consiglio spoke of the graduation date for 2018 and the Next Generation Accountability Report.

#### **VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman’s Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of following:

- Paraprofessional Appreciation Day was held this week and paraprofessionals were recognized in all four schools.
- The BOF finalized the budget last night with a 2.55% tax increase. She thanked the BOF and everyone involved with putting this budget together. There was very little change to the BOE requested budget. It was noted that the BOF would like to see metrics on how additional staff is impacting students.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:

- An electronic flyer went to families at Consolidated School, MHHS and the Middle School regarding a before and after school program that will start next school year, possibly at more than one school dependent upon interest.
- The Regional Efficiencies Committees met recently and discussed the possibility of lowering transportation costs for special education students transported out of district.
- The Consolidated PTO and MHHS PTO hosted Ned’s Kindness Adventures.
- Kindergarten registration at Consolidated School has begun.

- Thanked Paraprofessionals for all their hard work.
- C. Student Representatives' Report  
 Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:
- Congratulated high school students on the award of Outstanding Visual and Performing Arts Students.
  - Juniors will take the SATs on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:
- The DECA Fashion Show will be held on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.
  - The National Honor Society will hold a blood drive on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone thanked members of the Curriculum Committee. At their last meeting, the committee discussed a new AP Spanish Literature Textbook and a Computer Science Principles Textbook.
  2. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that the committee met on April 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed the new start time proposal and Spring Parent/Teacher conferences.
  3. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that the committee met and discussed four policies.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on April 4<sup>th</sup> and added the continuation of the two police officers to the Town Budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 for Consolidated School and MHHS. There was one cut to the BOE budget that will be discussed later in this meeting.
  2. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that the PBC met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and discussed the new Culinary Arts renovation at the high school.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Next Generation Accountability Report 2016-2017

Dr. Roy spoke of the Next Generation Accountability report and noted that this report is used by every district in the State. This report tracks progress with 12 indicators and gives a score using points. Each district receives an overall accountability index. There was a chart that compared New Fairfield to other districts in the DRG. Mr. Keegan Finlayson spoke of growth targets, how to collect data and indicators that affect scores. Dr. Jason McKinnon and Mr. Joel Pardalis spoke of the workshop approach and what is being done to improve scores in English Language Arts. Members of the Board asked questions regarding these assessments. There was a discussion of independent reading and instruction and the timeline for curriculum development. There was also a discussion of ways to deter students from opting out of testing.

- B. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading) - will be voted on April 24<sup>th</sup>
1. Policy 5118.1 - Homeless students
  2. Bylaw 9327.1 - Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks

- C. New Textbook Adoption (*First Reading-On for Action-April 24<sup>th</sup>*)
- D. Board of Education Policies (*First Reading*)
  - 1. Policy 3231 - Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students
  - 2. Policy 3323 - Bidding
  - 3. Policy 4135 - Organizations/Units
  - 4. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

E. School Safety and Security Committee

Samantha Mannion noted that the School Safety and Security Committee met on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and discussed the request for qualifications for private audit firms. It was decided to expand the search beyond Connecticut. This committee will meet again on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The proposals from the audit firms are due by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for March 29, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. School Start Time

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to direct the Administration and two board members to establish a School Start Time committee to evaluate the possibility of changing start times for the New Fairfield Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year and to return to the full Board a recommendation related to school start times by November 15, 2018. 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

C. New Fairfield High School Graduation - 2018

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of June 23, 2018, as the graduation date for the NFHS Class of 2018. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Dr. Roy and Dr. Sanzo spoke of the process for determining the graduation date and noted that New Fairfield traditionally has graduation on a Saturday in order to have a Post Grad party.

D. Acceptance of Donation

1. Danbury Old Timers Association

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the donation of \$2,300 to help cover the cost for the installation of Pixellot cameras for the turf fields. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. Action on Personnel Matter

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board to direct the Superintendent of Schools to proceed on the Personnel Matter as discussed in Executive Session. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

F. 2018-2019 Budget Reductions as Recommended by the Board of Finance

Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that Board of Finance approved the BoE budget last evening, with the exception of \$64,000. The discussion of the BoF was that they wanted to wait until the results of the safety and security audit, and support recommendations to the town using money from the taxpayers from FY18.

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the reduction of two safety advocates totaling \$64,000 from the 2018-2019 budget, with the understanding that security will be revisited by the town following the results of the safety and security audit. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Members of the Board expressed interest in having these positions in the budget but noted that it was prudent to wait until after the audit.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Laura Consiglio spoke of the Next Generation Accountability report and expressed concern that the charts were misleading.

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Rick Regan spoke of wonderful Middle School field trip concert that he chaperoned in New Haven.
- Greg Flanagan thanked everyone involved in the budget process.
- Douglas DeRito spoke of the following:
  - Thanked everyone involved in the budget process.
  - Thanked the administration for their presentation of the Next Generation Accountability Report.
  - Spoke of the proposal to move a second grade teacher to first grade and noted that he appreciated the comments from everyone involved.

- Kathy Baker thanked everyone involved in the budget process.
- Kimberly LaTourette thanked Joel Pardalis for his work with the Next Generation report. She also noted that she has heard positive comments about having police officers in the schools.
- Ed Sbordone encouraged everyone to come out and vote on the budget.
- Samantha Mannion thanked the Paraprofessionals in all the schools and asked about para support for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers.
- Peggy Katkocin thanked Keegan Finlayson and Joel Pardalis for their work with data and reports.

The next BOE meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** instead of the third Thursday due to Spring Break.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. Samantha Mannion 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