

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – December 15, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, New Fairfield High School Principal James D’Amico, New Fairfield High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner and Elementary School Principal Allyson Story

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 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 1, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of a wonderful tour of Consolidated/MHHS on December 9th and praised the entire the staff.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the following:

- Meeting House Hill School was recognized as a School of Distinction by the State of Connecticut.
- There are many winter concerts this time of year.
- He wished everyone a wonderful winter break.

C. Student Representatives’ Report

Junior Representative Brennan Hearty spoke of the following:

- PSAT scores are now available.
- Yearbooks are currently on sale.
- He notified everyone that the free lunch program will end soon.
- Surveys regarding potential schedule changes went out to students and families.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on December 15th and reviewed the following:

- Reviewed a summary of budget vs. actual for payroll accounts.
- Looking at possible deficits of utilities and special education transportation.
- The building projects are on time. The demolition for the old Consolidated will be going out to bid in January and it is hopeful that this will be done in April of May 2023.
- The playground at Cons/MHHS is open with the exception of one structure.
- The 2024 Capital Improvement plan was discussed, including the request to the BOF for funds.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on December 14th and reviewed the draft of the new policy regarding dress and grooming, the policy on tuition for children of staff members and possible policies that will address problems with vaping in the schools.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Commission - Kimberly LaTourette noted that this commission met on December 12th and discussed the following:

- Two community members attended to inquire about the possibility of building a skateboard park in town.
- There was a discussion of possibly reducing the hours of the Town Beach this summer.
- Seasonal help positions will be posted soon.
- Summer camp will not be able to use the high school this summer due to the construction project. The fields will still be available.
- Boat slip fees were discussed.
- The Sip and Stroll will be held on Saturday, May 20th.
- The next meeting of the Parks and Rec commission will be held on January 9th at 6:00 p.m.

2. Calendar Committee - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met on December 14th and discussed possible days off in February and dates for Spring Break.

VII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. District Priorities/Goals 2022-2023

Dr. Craw spoke of District Priorities and Goals and spoke of five main categories. He asked that the following goals be voted on by the Board sometime in January.

- Teaching and Learning
- Healthy Learning Environment
- Superintendent's Entry Plan
- Strategic Planning
- Resources to support learning

B. Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Plan

Dr. Craw spoke of a 10-year plan for capital improvements. Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of improvements that were made for the last fiscal year and spoke of specific improvements that need to be done at the Middle School.

C. Request to Board of Finance for Surplus Funds

Dr. Craw spoke of a vote taken by the Board of Education to request from the Board of Finance a transfer of \$356,280.60 from the General Fund to the BOE Capital and Non-Recurring Fund. This represents the expenditure surplus. He spoke of a list of priority items and asked that the BOE upgrade their request to \$531,255 to also include the revenue surplus.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion that the BOE request from the Board of Finance \$531,255 from the 2021-2022 surplus. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated Building Project Update

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy gave an update on the school building projects. She noted that the high school project is on time and on budget. Due to the construction project, no one will be allowed to use the building this summer. The playground is open at the elementary school. In order to reduce some costs involved with the old Consolidated building, the oil tank will be drained, and the building will not be heated this winter. It is hopeful that the building will be demolished this April or May. The bus loop is still in progress at MHHS/Consolidated School.

E. Transportation Update

Carrie DePuy noted that there was a productive meeting with the residents of Middleton Drive. Some of the buses have been rerouted and there seems to be an improvement with the traffic.

F. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading) - Samantha Mannion gave a brief description of this policy.

1. Policy 1312 - Public Complaints

G. New Course Proposals (Second Review)

1. Explorations in Data Science 1

2. Explorations in Data Science 2

3. Financial Agenda

4. History of Mathematics: How Math Shapes the World Around Us.

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 December 8, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. New Fairfield Public Schools 2022-2023 Revised Calendar

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 revised school calendar as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Acceptance of Donation

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the New Fairfield Youth Basketball donation of \$3,000, to assist with the purchase of new uniforms for the boys' high school basketball team. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kathy Baker wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Ed Sbordone spoke of the District Priority and Goals and asked that they be presented to the Chairman of the BOF. He wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Greg Flanagan congratulated Meeting House Hill School for being named School of Distinction by the State of Connecticut. He further spoke of the vaping policies and was encouraged to hear that the Board is addressing this problem.

Samantha Mannion thanked everyone for facilitating a great visit to the elementary school last Friday, December 9th. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Stephanie Strazza thanked Kathy Baker, Karen Gruetzner and James D'Amico for reviewing and revising the dress code policy.

Dominic Cipollone wished everyone Happy Holidays. He encouraged all adults to address the vaping issue if they see it, and he thanked Dr. Craw for sharing goals.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos