

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – November 1, 2017

PRESENT: Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli and Business Manager Craig McClain

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Steve Burfeind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. October 19, 2017- Regular Meeting

MOTION: Susan Starr made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2017, regular meeting as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to amend the agenda for tonight’s meeting with the following additions: Information Item A “Bipartisan State Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Action Item D4 “Local Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Council Grant” and Action Item E “Superintendent Search Committee.” Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rick Regan thanked the outgoing Board members for all their years of service to the Board of Education. He asked for clarification of a comment made by Dr. Voss at the October 19th meeting regarding the consulting firm for the superintendent search.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Steve Burfeind spoke of the procedures for filling of the vacancy due to his resignation effective November 7th. He noted that six members will be voted onto the Board and will join incumbents Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone. This eight-member Board will meet during the week of November 27th and will appoint the ninth member to the BOE. The notice of the vacancy will appear in the *Town Tribune* and interested members must submit a letter of intent to Central Office by Friday, November 17th by noon. A special meeting of the newly elected BOE will be held during the week of November 27th to appoint a new member. The first meeting of the new Board will be on Thursday, December 7th and the Board will vote for officers.

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

- Thanked the Consolidated School PTO for the Monster Run.
- Thanked the MHHS School PTO for Masquerade/Fright Night.
- The Annual Induction Ceremony for all of the high school honor societies was held on Monday, October 30th.
- Parent/teacher conferences continue this week for Consolidated, MHHS and the Middle School.
- Reminded everyone that clocks are set back one hour for the ending of Daylight Savings time this Sunday, November 5th.
- There is no school on Tuesday, November 7th due to Election Day.
- Thanked everyone for their cooperation on Monday, October 30th with traffic and road closures due to Sunday's storm.
- Read a complimentary email from a referee for the Varsity Girls' Soccer team.
- Noted that New Fairfield received two first place CAFE awards for Excellence in Educational Communication. One was for the District Budget and the other was for the website. The district also received an honorable mention for the District calendar.
- The upcoming District Vision plan and the updated Technology Plan will be presented to the BOE at a meeting in the near future.
- Thanked outgoing board members Kevin Hearty, Jay Voss, Susan Starr and Steve Burfeind for all their work and dedication to the BOE.

C. Student Representative Reports

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso spoke of the following:

- Spirit Week is this week with the theme of Board Games.
- The Homecoming Football will be held this Friday, November 3rd.
- The Homecoming Dance will be held this Saturday, November 4th.
- The first House of Rebelsentatives meeting will be on November 15th.
- The fall sports teams have done really well.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Kevin Hearty noted that this subcommittee met last week and discussed the elementary report cards and the philosophy of AP exams.
2. Communications/Community Outreach - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on November 1st and discussed the high school/middle school start time survey and noted that some of the surrounding towns are also contemplating this. This will be discussed further at the December 7th meeting. They also discussed the possibility of putting a traffic light at the entrance to the high school on Gillotti Road. This included discussion of traffic patterns. This will be discussed further at the December 7th meeting and will include feedback from the First Selectman.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Bipartisan State Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Dr. Roy noted that a budget has been passed by the State of Connecticut and noted that New Fairfield will receive some funding that was originally thought to be cut by the state. Ed Sbordone noted that the final budget restored ECS money for New Fairfield and revenues were increased. This will be helpful for the budget for both this year and next year.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Susan Starr made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated October 26, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr and Jay Voss **OPPOSED:** Amy Tozzo

There was a brief discussion of the hiring of .6 Math teacher at the high school and whether or not it should be a full-time position.

B. 2018 BOE Regular Meeting Dates

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2018 Board of Education Regular meeting dates as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy noted that the regular meetings of the BOE will be held on the first and third Thursdays of every month except for July. The only exception is April 24th due to the school vacation schedule.

C. Strings/Music Program

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the addition of a .2 strings program at the middle school for the current school year. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone,

Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy explained the budget process and how this position was affected by the budget and noted that since 2010 that only one .2 position was a lay off. Nearly thirty positions have been reduced since 2010. There was a discussion of the presentation to the Board about cutting the strings program and the possibility of more transparency.

D. Approval of Grant Applications

1. 2017-2018 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board the 2017-18 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Dr. Roy noted that she would like to use this grant to hire a 1.0 Reading teacher for the Middle School and High School. This would be a new position.

2. 2017-2018 Title III Grant

MOTION: Susan Starr made a motion to recommend to the full Board the application for the 2017-18 Title III Grant. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

This grant is in the amount of approximately \$4,000 and would be used for a before and after-school program for English learners.

3. 2017-2018 Title IV Grant

MOTION: Susan Starr made a motion to recommend to the full Board the application for the 2017-18 Title IV Grant. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

This grant will be used for a .2 Strings Teacher for Meeting House Hill School.

4. Local Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Abuse Prevention Council Grant

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the application for the Local Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Council Grant. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

This grant will be used for a guest speaker about drug and alcohol prevention and to supplement the Post-Grad party.

E. Superintendent Search Committee

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board operate as a Committee of the Whole in regard to the superintendent search. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Amy Tozzo spoke of the process for hiring a new superintendent and recommendations from the consultants. She noted that the subcommittee met and created a survey that will be posted on the district website and focus groups will be held on December 4th with a snow date of December 7th. Input from many groups will be welcomed. Information will be posted on the website. The subcommittee also created a newsletter.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Outgoing Board members Steve Burfeind, Kevin Hearty, Susan Starr and Jay Voss spoke of their time on the Board of Education and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT MATTER

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss a confidential student matter and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss (Samantha Mannion recused herself from this Executive Session.)

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A NON-RESIDENT STUDENT MATTER

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss a non-resident student matter and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss litigation and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT- Steve Burfeind made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Susan Starr seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Starr, Amy Tozzo and Jay Voss

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos