

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 22, 2025

PRESENT: Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair and Amy Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, and Director of Technology Paul Gouveia

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Samantha Mannion called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2025-2026. Topics reviewed at this meeting included the budget for Curriculum, Technology, and Central Office.

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Kris Woleck spoke of Curriculum and Instruction throughout the district, and spoke of the 18-month strategic plan for Curriculum, Instruction and Wellness. She noted the following accomplishments that have been achieved so far in the six months since its inception:

Curriculum

- PreK-12 Curriculum Design approach,
- Model Stage 1 Curriculum units and story boards – Science,
- K-5 Literacy resource implementation – Bookworms.

Instruction

- K-8 Data protocols in place,
- Power School Data portfolio launched,
- NFPS AI Work group.

Wellness

- NFHS Developmental Guidance Program,
- Family Resources developed (screen-free play, anxiety coping strategies),
- Attention to Digital Wellness.

Dr. Woleck spoke of upcoming goals for the strategic plan for the coming year. Members of the Board asked questions regarding Science curriculum, Reading, and Professional Development.

Technology

Director of Technology Paul Gouveia spoke of the following accomplishments in Technology:

- Enhancement of the STEAM Room and robotics at the Middle School,
- Thwarted multiple Cybersecurity threats,
- Identified redundancies in Education technology,

- Instituted anti-spam measures,
- Secured Cybersecurity grants in the amount of almost \$500,000.

Mr. Gouveia thanked his team for all their hard work and response times. He spoke of new initiatives for technology, including an AI task force, maintaining the 3/6/9 Chromebook model and upkeep of the “Tech Tool Book.” He spoke of cost saving initiatives that include sharing resources with the Town, maintaining a small staff, maintaining consistent device replacement cycles, and continuing to secure grants.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of the budget for Central Office and noted that it is reduced by \$9,563 (1.6%) due to reduction in legal services and membership dues. There are increases in the amount budgeted for Policy Service, Shared Services with the Town, and Finance and HR Software. District-wide increases are due to business machines and electricity increases.

Ms. DePuy spoke of cost containment initiatives, including locked in oil and diesel prices at a savings, LAP insurance is capped at 5%, and Magnet tuition cap.

Dr. Craw showed a pie chart of a summary of non-payroll increases. He noted that of the \$314,423 of increases, 82.6% were for Special Education services. Schools, Curriculum and Technology account for 3.9% and Buildings and Grounds account for 13.4%.

The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the New Fairfield Community Room. The Building and Grounds budget and the Capital Improvement plan will be discussed. Budget information is available on the district website.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Hacaj asked about the cost of shared services for accounting services.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos