

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

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

MINUTES – September 15, 2022

PRESENT: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman) and Stephanie Strazza

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, 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, Elementary Principal Allyson Story and Director of Technology Paul Gouveia

Quintin Flowers 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: Vice Chairman Samantha Mannion called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to move Action Item C “Approval of Final Furniture Package Plan for New Fairfield High School Building Project” further up on the agenda to immediately after Public Participation. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to add an update of the Parks and Recreation Commission under Liaison reports. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rick Regan noted that the committee to investigate and discuss the start times for the high school was put on hold due to the construction project. He reminded everyone that the committee was due to resume a year before the completion of the project which is now. Since there are many new administrators and some new board members, Mr. Regan gave a brief summary of the work that was previously done by the committee and decisions that were made to date.

Kim St. Jean spoke of her concerns regarding the number of buses on Middleton Drive during drop off and pick up times.

Joe Barata also spoke of concerns regarding the buses on Middleton Drive, especially potential safety issues.

Approval of Final Furniture Package Plan for New Fairfield High School Building Project

Emily Czarnecki from JCJ Architecture gave a brief presentation that included furniture and fixtures for the high school and spoke of a recent opportunity where students were able to sample different types of furniture. She spoke of the timeline for ordering and receiving furniture and the prices. She noted that approval was recently received from the Permanent Building Committee and will need Board of Education approval.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board that we hereby certify that these FF&T final plans and project manual(s) as prepared for bidding and dated September 9, 2022, and the professional cost estimate, completed in accordance with Level 3 of ASTM International Standard E1557, Standard Classification of Building Elements and Related Sitework - UNIFORMAT II for this project, dated September 9, 2022, have been reviewed and approved for this project. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report- Samantha Mannion spoke of the following:

- Attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new MHHS/Consolidated School on September 10th and thanked everyone involved for bringing this project to fruition. She encouraged anyone who has not seen the building to take a tour if they get the opportunity.

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

- The first day of school went very well. He especially thanked the secretaries from all the schools for their hard work in preparation for the beginning of the school year.
- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for MHHS/Consolidated School was very successful.
- Spoke of a correspondence sent to parents and staff of K-5 students regarding challenges with the drop off and pick up for students at MHHS/Consolidated. He noted that issues regarding the bus concerns for Middleton Drive will be addressed later in the meeting.
- The following positions still open in the district: Permanent Nurse for the high school, Athletic Trainer for the high school, paraprofessionals and substitute teachers. Anyone interested in any of these positions should contact Kara Mehler in Human Resources.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on September 15th and closed the financial books from 2021-2022. There will be a surplus of approximately \$11,000. This year's budget was discussed and everything is on track so far. They further discussed the building construction update.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Parks and Recreation - Kimberly LaTourette noted that this commission met on September 12th. She spoke of clubs and activities that are currently being offered. New Fairfield Day will be held on September 17th and the Trick or Treat event will be held on October 28th. Anyone looking for more information regarding Parks and Rec events can check the website or call the office.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

High School Principal James D'Amico noted that weekly tours of the construction project for staff have begun. He invited any Board members that may want to tour the site.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that there are currently 946 students at the MHHS/Consolidated School campus and spoke of issues with drop off and pick up. She spoke of meetings with staff, administrators and public officials to discuss ways to alleviate the problems with dismissal.

Dr. Craw spoke of the traffic congestion at MHHS/Consolidated and assured everyone that this issue is being discussed and alternatives are being sought. Parents are encouraged to send their students to school on the bus instead of driving. There was a discussion among the Board members regarding solutions for the bus issues.

B. Board of Education Policies (Second Reading)

1. Policy 5113.2- Truancy
2. Policy 5141.4- Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
3. Policy 5144.4- Discipline - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

C. Information regarding Educator Evaluation Flexibilities for 2022-2023

Dr. Craw spoke of a plans for evaluations from the State that allows for more flexibility.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Director of Technology

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the appointment of Paul Gouveia as the Director of Technology and the approval of the presented terms of employment. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Dr. Craw congratulated Paul Gouveia on becoming the new Director of Technology. He spoke of the many positive recommendations regarding Mr. Gouveia, especially with his help with technology during COVID.

Paul Gouveia thanked everyone for this opportunity.

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 8, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Samantha Flynn spoke of concerns regarding buses on Middleton Drive.

Emilie Gibbs spoke of the frustrations with parent pick up at MHHS/Consolidated School.

Kim St. Jean spoke of concerns of regarding the bus situation on Middleton Drive.

Kindergarten teacher Michelle Brown spoke of the heroic efforts of all the staff in response to the traffic problems at MHHS/Consolidated School. She assured everyone that a solution will be found. She further congratulated Paul Gouveia on his appointment to Director of Technology. Rick Regan corrected a statement that he made in the earlier Public Participation session regarding the School Start Times.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - The following items will be on future agendas: Transportation Update, School Start Time Committee Update and Safety Committee Update.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Greg Flanagan encouraged parents to send their students to school on the bus.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos