

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**MINUTES – August 18, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone

**ABSENT:** Greg Flanagan, Samantha Mannion and Stephanie Strazza

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Elementary Campus Principal Allyson Story, Elementary Campus Assistant Principal Rob Spino and Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz

Network Administrator Paul Gouveia 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. August 4, 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 the following:

- Asked everyone to be patient with the transition with the opening of the CELA/MHHS building.

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

- Noted that parents will be receiving welcome letters from their children's principals.
- The High School portal will open on August 26<sup>th</sup> that gives teacher assignments and schedules.
- Five positions were hired this week. There are still a few other positions that need to be filled.

C. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on August 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following Information Items:

- Status of the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget.
- Encumbrances from prior years were closed out.
- Discussed budget vs. actual for the 2022-2023 budget year and everything is on track.
- Reviewed Google reconciliation and there were no unauthorized uses.

- Twelve students are attending Shepaug schools this year. They will all meet daily at the Middle School and take the same bus.
- The new food service provider, Chartwells, will meet with the four principals to discuss the school lunch program. There is approximately \$220,000 left to subsidize the school lunch program. All students will receive free lunch until the fund is depleted. Once the fund is depleted, students not on free or reduced lunch will go back to paying for lunches.
- There was a review of the facilities. The CELA opening is on time and on budget. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the CELA building on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

D. Liaison Reports - None

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of the opening of the MHHS/CELA building. There will be a test of the bus run next week. A few outside projects will be done after the building opens.

### **B. Superintendent's Entry Plan**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of his Entry Plan for the start of his tenure at New Fairfield. He spoke of following goals and asked for feedback regarding:

- Establish a successful and productive superintendent/board relationship,
- Establish a relationship with other stakeholders and gather feedback,
- Successful opening of CELA/MHHS building,
- Engage in understanding New Fairfield's tradition of academic excellence,
- School security, facilities and the budget, and
- Effective communication with stakeholders.

## **VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Enrollment Update**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of enrollment and noted that class sizes are consistent with what was planned. Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz spoke of the ELC program and the possible need for additional sections. She spoke of the 50% ratio for typical to special education students and how the enrollment will be affected by adding an additional section. There was a brief discussion of how adding an additional section would affect the budget.

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to increase the ELC program from three classes (6 sections) to four classes (8 sections) for the 2022-2023 school year. Kathy Baker seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for August 11, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Speech Pathologist Stephanie Kersting thanked the Board for their support with the ELC program and noted that the extra sections will help a lot.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ed Sbordone noted that he is looking forward to the opening of the CELA school building. He further noted that the BOE and BOF will be having a joint meeting regarding Special Education in the near future.

Dominic Cipollone encouraged everyone to enjoy what is left of the summer before school starts.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos