

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – March 1, 2018

PRESENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Douglas DeRito

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Selectman Khris Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. February 15, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. February 22, 2018 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Item D “Board of Education Policies” - Suspension of the Rules referring to Policy 5145.41, Policy 0521, Policy 4118.11/4218.11. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Weisenberger spoke in support of an additional School Resource Officer in the district and encouraged residents to come to the BOE Budget meeting on Saturday, March 3rd to show their support. She noted that there will be a Public Hearing regarding safety concerns on Monday, March 19th at the high school.

Kim Morgan encouraged residents to show their support for the BOE budget at the BOE Budget workshop on Saturday, March 3rd at 9:00 a.m. She also spoke of a grant that has been received by the BOE from United Way to help families pay for extracurricular activities and noted that this grant is still available for families that may need it.

Craig David Rosen spoke in support of additional School Resource Officers in the schools. Samantha Kennedy spoke of in support of later school start times and noted that this could help with depression and anxiety in students.

Laura Consiglio spoke of the budget for both the town and the BOE and explained the budget process.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco thanked the Community Outreach Committee for hosting a safety meeting tonight. She noted that safety in schools affects the entire town and pledged to work with the BOE in every way possible.

Angela Chastain spoke of the possibility of a Charter school in Danbury.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the budget process and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. She further encouraged residents to attend the BOF Budget workshop on Saturday, March 3rd.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:
 - A public hearing regarding school safety will be held on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School Library. She encouraged everyone to attend.
 - The elementary schools have activities every day this week in honor of "Read Across America" week.
 - A STEM Program at Western Connecticut State University called "Finding our Way" is available for 7th grade students. An email was sent home this week to current 6th grade students regarding a workshop for this program.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:
 - Congratulated the Academic Decathlon TeamJunior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:
 - The high school musical *The Addams Family* will be held on Friday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 10th and Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12/adults and \$10/students.
- D. Committee Reports
 1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this subcommittee met and discussed the Math program. They also discussed creating curriculum to align with the Common Core, assessments and early intervention. There was a discussion of some glitches with the online homework system.
 2. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker spoke of the meeting that was held immediately prior to this meeting. Safety in the schools was discussed at length. She encouraged residents to attend a Community Forum on Monday, March 19th regarding safety. She also encouraged residents to come to and speak at the budget workshop this Saturday, March 3rd.

3. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that there are many policies on tonight's agenda as Action Items. The Policy subcommittee met recently and clarified the policy regarding attendance for athletes during Spring Break.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on February 21st. The budget workshop will be held this Saturday, March 3rd. The BOE will present their budget at 9 a.m. and the BOS will present at 11:30 a.m. The BOF will meet the next five Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the budget.

2. School Start Time Committee - Kathy Baker noted that this committee met on February 22nd and put together a plan which included reasons in favor of the plan and challenges associated with it. This will be discussed further at the regular BOE meeting on March 15th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Potential Establishment of Danbury Prospect Charter School

Angela Chastain from Danbury spoke of the possibility of a charter school in Danbury. This school would be just for Danbury students at this time. Dr. Roy noted that if this school is established, there is a possibility of New Fairfield students attending at some point in the future, which would require funding by New Fairfield.

B. Social Emotional Learning Presentation

Dr. Roy spoke of ideas formed by the students at Meeting House Hill School to promote kindness in the school. Specific ideas include 21 Days of Kindness and ways to make students feel included.

Meeting House Hill School Psychologist Sarah Pinheiro spoke of a national conference that she attended recently regarding Social and Emotional Learning. She spoke of skill-based learning and ways to help students manage disorders and behavioral and academic outcomes. These programs are designed to help children with empathy and ways to show kindness. She showed a brief presentation of Social Emotional Learning programs which included nationwide data for students.

Members of the BOE thanked Ms. Pinheiro for all her work with this presentation and the work she does on behalf of the students. There were a few questions regarding interventions for students.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for February 22, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

B. New Course Approval

1. AP Spanish Literature
2. Introduction to Programming
3. AP Computer Science Principles
4. Perspectives: A Senior English Experience

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke briefly about projected enrollment for the proposed classes.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the AP Spanish Literature course, Introduction to Programming course, AP Computer Science Principles course, and Perspectives: A Senior English Experience course as presented by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. BOE Policies

1. Bylaw 9221 - Filling Vacancies
2. Policy 1212 - School Volunteers
3. Policy 2141 - Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent
4. Policy 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection
5. Policy 4112.2 - Certification
6. Policy 4112.51/4212.51 - Employment/Reference Checks
7. Policy 4131 - Staff Development
8. Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal
9. Policy 5113.2 - Truancy
10. Policy 5125 - Student Records; Confidentiality
11. Policy 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations
12. Policy 5144.1 - Physical Restraint/Seclusion
13. Policy 6111 - School Calendar
14. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements
15. Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations

Samantha Mannion gave a brief description of each of these policies.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of Education policies listed as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

D. BOE Policies - Suspension of Rules

1. Policy 5145.41 - Nondiscrimination
2. Policy 0521 - Equal Opportunity Employment - Nondiscrimination
3. Policy 4118.11/4218.11 - Nondiscrimination

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policy 5145.41, Policy 0521 and Policy 4118.11/4218.11. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policy 5145.41, Policy 0521 and Policy 4118.11/4218.11 as presented. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. WCSU Teacher Preparation Study

Dr. Roy explained that Western Connecticut State University is collecting data from one of our teachers in order to help with their accreditation. This would be data collected from students of Ms. Pugliese. Parents can opt out of this survey if they do not wish their child to participate.

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full board permission for Ms. Pugliese and her students to participate in a research study by WCSU to understand the impact of their teacher preparation. Families wishing to be excluded from the study may sign the form that will be shared with them. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

F. Leave of Absence Request - Discussed in Executive Session

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Laura Consiglio spoke in support of the budget and asked the board to support academics and professional development with the budget.

Stephanie Marlow asked about Policy 1212 for School Volunteers specifically fingerprinting. It was noted by the Board that fingerprinting is only required once for volunteers if the 1212 form is filed every year.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - Members of the Board discussed the importance of safety in the schools and noted that long term and short term plans should be discussed.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss a leave of absence request and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Terry Webb's request for an unpaid leave of absence commencing March 21, 2018, and returning no later than April 30, 2018. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos