

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual meeting via Zoom

**MINUTES – June 18, 2020**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel and Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo 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 Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. June 4, 2020 Regular meeting - approved by consensus.
  - B. June 11, 2020 Special meeting - approved by consensus.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - approved by consensus.
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin acknowledged and thanked everyone involved in the high school graduation on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the parade, ceremony and drive-in at Squantz were wonderful. She congratulated BOE members Greg Flanagan and Rick Regan on their children's graduation.
  - B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino noted that the district is working on a reopening plan. She encouraged everyone to be ready for changes moving forward. Dr. Cosentino also addressed the issues of systematic racist and protests that are currently happening in the country. She noted that she received multiple emails regarding this topic and this issue is taken very seriously. She and High School

Principal James D'Amico responded to every email. A group of teachers and students will be formed to look at these issues and make sure that the needs of all students are met. There are plans to take a closer look at the curriculum to make sure it includes diversity.

On behalf of the district, Dr. Cosentino congratulated the following winners:

- June Reiger - Paraprofessional of the Year,
- Carolee Harkins - Spirit of New Fairfield Winner,
- Pam Quist - Teacher of the Year.

C. Committee Reports

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

- Monthly summary or budget vs. actual - On track for surplus
- Updated summary of projected year end expenditures. It is projected that there will be a year end surplus of approximately \$410,000.
- Dr. Sanzo will provide a more detailed report of transfers necessary due to COVID at the August meeting.
- Discussed an update on the transportation and food service contracts.
- Discussed the reopening of the school and district offices. All 12 month staff will be back in person starting June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the public can enter by appointment only.

D. Liaison Reports

1. Parks and Rec Commission - Kimberly LaTourette noted that the monthly meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission was cancelled but gave an update on their schedule for the summer.

- Zoom classes will be held this summer for students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- There will be an outdoor concert on Memorial Field on Friday, June 19 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Attendance will be limited to 100 people and social distancing guidelines must be followed.

2. School Safety and Security Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee will meet on June 22 at 7:30pm.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. NFHS Chamber Singers - The New Fairfield High School Chamber Singers showed a video of one of their performances via Zoom.

B. Summer Programs: Enrichment Reading ELL

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby announced that there will be virtual enrichment programs for the summer at no cost to the families. There are 38 different suggestions for classes and there have been over 300 sign ups. Activities will be determined based on whichever have the most interest.

There will be reading intervention available to students that qualified for reading intervention before school was closed due to COVID 19. This program is for students that just finished K-2nd grades and was offered to 46 students. Reading instruction will be held twice a week for ½ hour sessions.

ELL instruction was offered to 77 ELL students across all grades for the summer. So far, 19 students have registered. This will be four days a week for approximately ½ hour.

#### C. Update on Road Map to Next Year

Julie Luby spoke of the road map for next year and specifically the survey that was sent to all parents. Over 1,000 responses were received. Of the responses, approximately half were from families of K-5 and the other half were from grades 6-12. According to the responses, approximately 20% of students are not yet comfortable returning to school. Approximately 17% of parents would choose distance learning if it is an option. It was noted that there was great feedback about distance learning and that the use of Zoom in small groups was very successful. There was great support of synchronized learning.

Julie Luby thanked the Steering Committee for doing a great job. She spoke of the planning teams and the subcommittees working on the many aspects for reopening.

#### D. Extended School Year (ESY)

Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz spoke of the extended school year and noted that there will be distance learning that will consist of live instruction daily for younger students and at least every other day live instruction for older students. There will be voluntary in-person services for any student that receives multiple related services. This will accommodate students in PreK-12.

Katherine Matz further spoke of the phased in plan for the Transition Program for next year. This is for students that have finished high school between the ages of 18-21. This plan is to be phased in over five years. The first phase is for some community based activities. This is scheduled to begin in the 2020-2021 school year.

#### E. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Sanzo gave a brief update on the building projects. The Permanent Building Committee met on June 9<sup>th</sup> and voted for a new HVAC system for the Consolidated Early Learning Academy. The system that was picked was the most cost effective and also allows for optimal air circulation. The PBC meeting scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> is cancelled but there will be a special meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### VIII. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for June 15, 2020, as recommended by the administration. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

**X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Members of the Board of Education thanked teachers, administrators, parents and everyone involved in any of the planning for the end of the year and specifically graduations and step up ceremonies. They spoke of all the work involved with distance learning and thanked everyone involved.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos