

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2018,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – October 18, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan (arrived 7:35 p.m.), Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Business Manager Craig McClain and Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. October 4, 2018 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus with the addition of George Martignetti's name as one of the applicants that applied for the vacant BOE position.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the following additions: Action Item: D: Proposal for Security Consulting Services (Executive Session) Action Item E: Request for Additional Staff for 2018-2019 and Agenda Item XI- Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Proposal for Security Consulting Services. 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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dr. Jim Mellett spoke of climate change and the number of hot days in both the spring and fall. He suggested that the district consider going to a year-round school year with two week breaks throughout the year. He spoke of advantages of going to school all year and sited retention rates as an advantage to this calendar.

Laura Consiglio noted that October is Dyslexia Awareness month and encouraged the Board of Education to take action regarding instruction for students with dyslexia.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of dyslexia and of new programs currently being researched by the district for elementary schools.

Amanda Lombard asked for an organization chart of personnel, specifically who to go to in the event of concerns with her children's school.

Stephanie Marlow spoke of her concerns of having one fewer paraprofessional at ELC.

## **VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin announced that the BOF unanimously agreed to return 100% of the BOE budget surplus in the amount of approximately \$87,000.00. The BOF asked that Dr. Cosentino come back to the BOF in the future to let them know how the money was spent.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- Good Luck to the high school staff on the NEASC visit on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the high school. She asked that BOE members please let Dr. Sanzo if they are unable to attend.
- This is Homecoming week. The football game will be held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Food Truck Festival on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> was a huge success.
- A Wellness Fair was held on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The district is currently interviewing firms for facility studies.
- The district calendar won first place with the CAFE awards
- Responded to comments made during Public Participation regarding moving some paraprofessionals in the district. She thanked everyone who spoke during Public Participation and noted the challenges of running the district, but noted that their concerns are being taken very seriously. Additional staff is being requested at tonight's meeting.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

D. Committee Reports

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

- To move forward the budget transfers totaling \$480,914.
- To participate in the Child Nutrition program
- Request for additional staff

Information items for the Business Operations/Resource Management subcommittee included:

- Discussed budget vs. actual expenses as of September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed non-payroll special education and review of special education.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on October 17<sup>th</sup> and agreed to return 100% of the BOE surplus in the amount of \$87,563.39. Dr. Cosentino and Dr. McKinnon attended the BOF meeting and gave a presentation of SMART goals and priority actions for the district. BOF member Anthony Yorio gave an update on the School Security and Safety Committee.

2. Parks and Rec Commission – Greg Flanagan noted that Parks and Rec met on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- Youth Field Hockey often gets bumped from Rebel Turf. This will be looked into further by the commission.
- Benches will be ordered for Memorial Field 2.
- Discussed replacing the docks at the marina and possibly using the town's surplus.
- The carpet will be replaced at the pavilion near Rebel Turf.
- The Haunting on the Hollow will be held on Fridays and Saturdays until Halloween. The first night was successful.

3. Permanent Building Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this committee met on October 9<sup>th</sup> and spoke of the culinary arts facility in the high school. RFQs have been reviewed. Dr. Cosentino noted that they received the approval to open the culinary arts facility. She noted that PBC Chairman Pete Viola has been included in the facilities study.

4. School Start Time Committee - Dominic Cipollone noted that this committee met recently and discussed the pros and cons of later start time. He spoke of how this ties into the previous public comment regarding having a year round school year. Rick Regan noted that the bus company explained some scenarios on how this would affect transportation. The next meeting of this committee will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. An update will be given at the December 6<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.

5. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on October 16<sup>th</sup> and got an update on the "Say Something" initiative. This is scheduled to go live by the first of the year. They also discussed the contract proposal for consulting services.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. State Assessment Testing Report**

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of the State Assessment Testing Report and gave an overview of the scores in the district for the last couple of years. He noted that Smarter Balance Assessment scores are much higher now than in recent years and the district is no longer at the bottom of the DRG average. He spoke of the difference between formative assessments and summative assessments. He spoke of how results are reported and which grades showed the most improvement. He spoke of benchmark assessments and how they are used to identify students that need the most help.

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the SAT Suite of Assessments and how the scores have improved in recent years. He spoke of average scores of Reading, Writing and Math and compared scores of the Classes of 2017-2019 with the DRG. He spoke of the goal to increase Evidence Based Reading/Writing and projections for future classes and to close the gap between scores from New Fairfield High School students and the DRG average. He noted that scores have improved for Special Education students.

B. Board of Education Presentation Calendar

Dr. Cosentino referred to a new standing item on the agenda to give a presentation on a specific topic for items that are relevant to the district. A calendar of topics is now available. There will be a presentation at each regular Board of Education meeting. Examples of these presentations include curriculum items, the “see something, say something” initiative, technology update, school start time update and responsive classrooms. These presentations can be done by teachers, administrators or students and will allow the community to see everything going on in the district.

C. Board of Education Policies (First Reading)

1. Policy 3542 - School Lunch Service
2. Policy 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection
3. Policy 4111.3/4211.3 - Minority Recruitment and Selection
4. Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal
5. Policy 5113.2 -Truancy
6. Policy 5141 - Student Health Services
7. Policy 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations
8. Policy 5141.4 - Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect or Sexual Assault
9. Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6162.51 - Conducting Surveys in Schools

**X. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for October 11, 2018, as recommended by the administration. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Participation in the Child Nutrition Program

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval to participate in the Child Nutrition Programs by signing the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. 2018-2019 FY Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the requested 2018-19 FY budget transfers as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Proposal for Security Consulting Services - Executive Session

E. Request for Additional Staff 2018-2019

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the need for additional staffing especially in the elementary schools. This hiring would be for Consolidated School but may move to Meeting House Hill School in the future. Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn spoke of behavioral training for the paraprofessionals. Dr. Cosentino noted that the cost of these positions will be absorbed by this year's budget due to savings by not filling all positions this year and noted that these positions may not necessarily be in next year's budget.

There was a discussion of the best way to use paraprofessionals and to help students.

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education to approve the hiring of additional staff for Consolidated School, to include one Special Education teacher and 1.6 paraprofessionals. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

**XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dr. Jim Mellett complemented the BOE for all their hard work and noted that he was delighted to see improvement in test scores.

Laura Consiglio thanked Dr. McKinnon for additional training for reading teachers and noted that this will help all students.

Amanda Lombard spoke of the value of the ELC program and encouraged the board members to include the teachers in all decisions made regarding the classrooms.

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** - Members of the Board discussed the following:

- Kathy Baker noted that she appreciated the open discussion among the board members and thanked everyone that spoke tonight.
- Kimberly LaTourette thanked the parents and administrators.
- Greg Flanagan noted that he had a chance to interact with administrators today and was very impressed. He encouraged early intervention for special needs students.
- Dominic Cipollone spoke of the importance of trusting everyone to make good decisions.
- Rick Regan thanked everyone for their comments at tonight's meeting. He noted that the next meeting of the School Start time proposal will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.
- Stephanie Strazza thanked everyone who spoke tonight during public participation.
- Ed Sbordone welcomed Stephanie Strazza to the Board of Education.

- Samantha Mannion spoke of outside evaluations and noted that the reports will be redone to accurately reflect the information.
- Peggy Katkocin thanked everyone that spoke tonight. There will be a flu clinic in the high school on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. She encouraged everyone to get a flu shot.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:29 p.m. to discuss the proposal for Security Consulting Services and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to accept the recommendation of the School Safety and Security Committee to hire the firm of Nationwide Security Corporation (NSC) to provide a comprehensive evaluation and creation of a master plan in an amount not to exceed \$17,840. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos