

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2019,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – March 7, 2019

PRESENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan (arrived 7:42 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, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, High School Interim Principal Michael Clarke, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson,

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. February 21, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item F New Fairfield High School Graduation - 2019. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Peggy Katkocin read an email from resident Jim Mellett apologizing for typos that appeared in the documentation that he provided with his public comment at the February 21st meeting.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin noted that the budget was presented to the BOF on March 2nd and was further reviewed by the BOF on March 6th. The BOF will meet every Wednesday in the month of March at 7:30 p.m. She encouraged residents to get involved in the budget process and cautioned about relying on social media for information.

- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
 - Congratulated the Academic Decathlon students on winning the State Championship. They will be going to Nationals in April.
 - A Math Workshop will be held at Middle School and High School on April 4th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 - CABE Lobby Day will be held on March 20th. Dr. Cosentino spoke briefly about the possibility of regionalization of the schools. She is currently working on an article along with First Selectman Del Monaco for the *Town Tribune* expressing the opinions from New Fairfield. She spoke of ways that the district shares costs with other districts.
- C. Student Representatives' Report - None
- D. Committee Reports
 - Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the Social Studies curriculum.
- E. Liaison Reports
 1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF met on March 2nd and March 6th. Specific items discussed were transfers, attrition, capital expenditures and special education services and expenditures. The BOF will review revenues at their next meeting on March 13th. They will also meet on March 20th and 27th and will do the final mark up on April 3rd. The referendum vote will be held in early May.
 2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee met on February 21st and discussed training initiatives, pending grant applications and safety planning for students with disabilities. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Spring Musical Preview- New Fairfield High School students gave a preview of the spring musical *Cinderella* that will be held at the high school on March 29, 30 and 31.

B. Makerspace - Gifted and Talented Teacher Barbara Strashun gave a presentation of makerspaces for Consolidated and Meeting House Hill School. She spoke of how the makerspaces enrich creativity and enhance STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Music) classes. She invited residents from the public to come in to work with the students and share their talents at the makerspace. Donations of materials, cardboard and craft supplies are also welcome.

- C. New Social Studies Curriculum (First Review)
 1. K-5 Social Studies
 2. 6-8 Social Studies

Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of this curriculum for Grades K-8 and noted that there will be a more in depth presentation at the next BOE meeting. This committee is also working on changes for the high school Social Studies curriculum.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Principal of New Fairfield High School

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to move this item further down on the agenda in order to allow some high school faculty members to be present for it. It was noted that they are late due to conferences at the high school. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for February 28, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. New Textbook Adoption

1. AP Environmental Science

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the AP Environmental Science textbook. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. Board of Education Policies

Samantha Mannion gave a brief overview of the following policies:

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

1. Policy 1250.1-Classroom Observations
2. Policy 4112.5/4212.5-Security Check/Fingerprinting
3. Policy 4212.42-Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers
4. Policy 5141.21-Administering Medication
5. Policy 5141.221-Pediculosis
6. Policy 5144.1- Physical Restraint/Seclusion/Exclusionary Time Out
7. Policy 6171.3-Placement of Special Education Student (Out of District)
8. Policy 6146-Graduation Requirements

E. School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee Revised Meeting Dates

It was noted that this calendar will replace the Communications subcommittee meeting dates.

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee revised calendar as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion.

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to amend the previous motion to say “as modified” instead of “as presented”. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion.

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

F. New Fairfield High School Graduation - 2019

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of June 15, 2019, as the graduation date for the New Fairfield High School Class of 2019.

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

It was noted that the last day of school is currently Monday, June 17th and graduates will be invited back to school until the last day of school.

Appointment of Principal of New Fairfield High School

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino introduced Mr. James D’Amico as the new high school principal starting July 1, 2019. She gave a brief description of his background and thanked the steering committee for their hard work in interviewing candidates. Mr. D’Amico thanked everyone for this opportunity.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of James D’Amico as principal of New Fairfield High School. Kimberly LaTourette 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 - John McCartney spoke of statistics of New Fairfield. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the legislative process. He also thanked everyone involved in the budget process and thanked the BOE, BOF and BOS for working well together.

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

- Stephanie Strazza welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. She also thanked the high school musical students and noted that she is excited for the new Social Studies curriculum.
- Kathy Baker welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. She noted that there will be a meeting of the NFHS post grad committee on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Bisciotti’s. Everyone is welcome.

- Greg Flanagan welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. He also noted that the last day to order tickets to the Mets Game when the students sing the National Anthem is tomorrow.
- Dominic Cipollone congratulated James D’Amico.
- Samantha Mannion welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal and also thanked the students for their preview of the musical.
- Ed Sbordone welcomed Mr. D’Amico and also reminded everyone that the BOF will meet on the next four Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Kimberly LaTourette welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. She spoke in favor of the Gifted and Talented program and specifically the makerspace. She thanked Split Decision and Key Smash for performing recently at MHHS. She noted that “Run Ranger Run” has been rescheduled until March 22nd.
- Rick Regan welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. He also encouraged residents to support the security initiatives.
- Peggy Katkocin welcomed James D’Amico as the new principal. She also thanked the administrators and everyone who helped with the budget process.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Kimberly LaTourette 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