

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

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

**MINUTES – February 7, 2019**

**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, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Interim Principal Michael Clarke, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, STEAM Director and Intervention Coordinator Keegan Finlayson, Special Education Supervisor Katherine Matz, Board Certified Behavior Analysts Mackenzie Brown and Krystal Padilla, School Psychologists Sarah Pinheiro and Bibi John, School Social Worker Annmarie McMenamin, Speech Language Pathologists Ann Marie Allison, Elisa Bodnar and Stephanie Kersting, Occupational and Physical Therapists Allyson Alloway, Sarah Butz, Darrell Ruopp and Kerynne Mino and Selectman Khris Hall

**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. January 22, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. January 29, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus
- C. January 31, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - approved by consensus

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jim Mellett asked about the possibility of participating in a curriculum subcommittee meeting via Skype. He also gave an update of the proposed Council of Retired Scholars and noted that he will compile some notes and will give it to the Superintendent and BOE Chairman.

Pete Pomeroy thanked the Board of Education members for their service and spoke in support of the proposed later start time for the high school.

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

A. Chairman's Report - Chairman Peggy Katkocin noted that the BOE approved the Superintendent's budget at the special budget workshop on January 31<sup>st</sup>. They will present this budget to the Board of Finance on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She encouraged everyone to get involved in the budget process.

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

- Thanked everyone that participated in the Facebook live budget event.
- Thanked the 14 member committee that is involved in interviewing candidates for the high school principal.
- Noted that the district is always looking for Special Education teachers.
- There are many opportunities for substitute teachers in the district. Anyone interested should contact Central Office.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- Registration for classes for next year for underclassmen will take place between February 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> on Infinite Campus. Counselors are available during lunch waves to help students with questions.
- New Fairfield High School will host the SWC Championship in wrestling this Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Dominic Cipollone noted that this subcommittee discussed the College Math program and Science text books.
2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that this subcommittee met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed several policies that will be on tonight's agenda for the first reading.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Safety - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF met last week and reviewed the following:

- School Safety and Security
- The Bus service contract that will be going out to bid soon.
- Reminded the public that dogs are not allowed on school grounds during school hours.
- Everything is working well with the food service.
- Reviewed the concussion report and noted that the number of concussions at the school is down.
- Reminded everyone that there is now a security guard at the high school for after school events and everyone must be signed in.

2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee had a vendor presentation and discussed the "Say Something" initiative at the schools. Chairman Peggy Katkocin encouraged residents to stay involved and support the security initiatives.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Cosentino noted that Music Teachers from the middle school and high school have been helping out at MHHS and it has been working out well.

**MOTION:** Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for January 31, 2019, 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

B. New Fairfield Prevention Council Attitudes and Behaviors Student Survey

New Fairfield Prevention Council Treasurer Craig David Rosen spoke of the role of the Prevention Council and many of the events that they sponsor. He spoke of a comprehensive anonymous Attitudes and Behaviors survey that was given to students three years ago. He noted that this survey was very helpful to the council and asked the Board of Education for permission to conduct this survey again. Members of the Board asked Mr. Rosen about upcoming events and whether or not questions can be added to this survey specifically about vaping and e-cigarettes and questions relating to sleep habits. There was a brief discussion of tabling this item until it is determined if additional questions can be added. It is hopeful that this survey will be conducted this school year.

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Attitudes and Behaviors Student Survey as recommended by the New Fairfield Prevention Council. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to table the approval of the Attitudes and Behaviors Student Survey until the next Board of Education meeting. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR OF ADMENDEMENT:** 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

C. Quisenberry Arcari Malik (QA+M) Presentation

Dr. Sanzo introduced Rusty Malik and Angela Cahill from the firm of Quisenberry Arcari Malik who spoke of the feasibility study for Consolidated School and New Fairfield High School. They gave a summary of the preliminary report. They showed slides of a similar project at North Stonington High School. Topics to consider with this project are enrollment projections, educational programming and comparative analysis.

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of additional services for educational specifications, concept designs, and state grant application support, included in the facilities study contract with Quisenberry

Arcari Malik Architecture, with expenditure not to exceed \$28,500. 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

## **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### A. Special Education Service Providers

Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn introduced members of her staff that explained the many aspects of Special Education. The following staff members explained their roles:

- Mackenzie Brown and Krystal Padilla spoke of Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
- Sarah Pinheiro and Bibi John spoke of the role of School Psychologists.
- Ann Marie Allison, Elisa Bodnar and Stephanie Kersting spoke of the role of Speech Pathologists.
- Occupational and Physical Therapists Allyson Alloway, Sarah Butz, Darrell Ruopp and Kerynne Mino spoke of the role of Physical and Occupational Therapists

### B. New Course Approval (First Reading)

1. College Math Topics

### C. New Course Approval (First Reading)

1. AP Environmental Science

### D. Board of Education Policies (First Reading)

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

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Selectman Khris Hall thanked everyone involved in Facebook Live session regarding the budget held earlier this evening. She spoke of the proposed renovations of Consolidated School and the high school and encouraged the Board to consider solar for energy. She also spoke briefly of the water system in town.

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

- Rick Regan - Announced that the next School Start Time meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- Kim LaTourette - Thanked everyone involved in the concerts at MHHS and the Middle School and everyone involved with Unified Sports. She also thanked the cleanup crews for their hard work this winter.

- Ed Sbordone - The Budget presentations to the BOF will be Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The BOF will meet every Wednesday in March. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the process.
- Samantha Mannion, Kathy Baker and Stephanie Strazza - Thanked the Special Education providers for a wonderful presentation.
- Greg Flanagan - Thanked everyone involved in the concert at MHHS. The MHHS Chorus will be singing at Citi Field at a Met Game in May and everyone is encouraged to attend. He further noted that he is sitting on the interview committee for the high school principal and is pleased with the quality of the candidates so far.
- Dominic Cipollone - Spoke of the value of Special Education providers. He further spoke of the Prevention Council survey and noted that the questions should be in line with up-to-date issues.

#### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation. 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

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:10 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

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. 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

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos