

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 22, 2019

PRESENT: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman) and Samantha Mannion (arrived for Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.)

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, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, 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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. January 3, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. January 3, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- C. January 7, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman's Report - Vice Chairman Dominic Cipollone cautioned parents about talking to children about certain news stories. He warned everyone to be careful about what is posted on social media. He also noted that students learn much differently today than 30 years ago.
- B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:

- On January 14th, Dr. Cosentino visited Senior Center with Dr. Karen Fildes and discussed the budget and other events happening in the school system with a group of seniors. It was a very successful meeting and they will hopefully meet again in the near future.
 - On January 15th, Dr. Cosentino, Dr. McKinnon, Dr. Sanzo and BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin attended the CABA Legislative breakfast in Ridgefield and it was very informative.
 - Dr. Cosentino is currently working with PTO presidents and asked everyone to have their financial books reconciled by an objective third party. She noted that she is confident that all money is accounted for but should be transparent.
 - The security guard for after hours will start on Monday, January 28th. The Middle School and High School will be locked at 3 p.m. with only one door open.
- C. Student Representatives' Report
Junior Representative Sophia Liguori reported on the following:
- Welcomed new interim principal Mr. Michael Clarke.
 - Second semester officially started today.
 - Basketball games and wrestling matches are now being broadcasted on the New Fairfield High School network. Instructions for subscribing to this network are available on the High School Athletic page on the website.
 - New Fairfield will host the SWC Wrestling Championships on Saturday, February 9th and the SWC Diving Championships on Wednesday, Feb. 27th.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on January 22nd and approved recommending the 2018-2019 budget transfers to the full board. They also reviewed the Special Education budget and reviewed budget vs. actual for the current year. He noted that everything is on target.
 2. School Start Time Ad Hoc - Rick Regan noted that this committee met on January 9th and discussed concerns with the parking lot if the Middle School and High School are on the same start time. The next meeting will be on February 13th. Members are asked to confirm attendance to make sure there is a quorum.
- E. Liaison Reports
1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted the BOF met on January 16th and noted that they did not feel the need to participate in the BOE budget workshop scheduled for January 29th. The BOF also discussed School Safety and Security items at their Jan. 16th meeting.
 2. Parks and Recreation Committee - Kimberly LaTourette noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission met on January 14th and discussed the following:
 - Family swim nights at the high school are held on the 1st Friday of the month.
 - There is a vacancy for a new member on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- The Sip and Stroll will be held on Saturday, June 8th.
 - Seasonal position applications are now available.
 - Discussed possible town events for the summer and fall.
3. School Security and Safety Committee - Dr. Cosentino noted that they will meet on January 23rd and will likely recommend putting money in the Board of Education budget for Safety and Security.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Introduction of New Fairfield High School Interim Principal - Dr. Cosentino introduced Mr. Michael Clarke as the Interim Principal for the high school. Mr. Clarke thanked everyone for the opportunity and gave a brief description of his background.

B. Announcement of Retirement - Dr. Cosentino announced that Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn will be retiring as of June 30th. Members of the Board wished her well.

C. Superintendent Mid-year Evaluation - Dr. Cosentino spoke of a report regarding her mid-year evaluation that outlines 13 priorities for the district and action plans. She spoke of the progress that has been made in the first six months of her tenure.

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. 2019-2020 Budget- Dr. Cosentino spoke of the procedures for approving the 2019-2020 budget and noted that the next workshop will be on Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, the Board will go over the budget line by line and any Board member can make a motion to add or subtract a line item.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for January 15, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. 2018-2019 Fiscal Year 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. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

D. New Fairfield High School Administrators' Stipends - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

- Kathy Baker - Thanked Andrea Einhorn for her service to New Fairfield and congratulated her on her retirement. She noted that she is excited about the budget process.
- Greg Flanagan - Welcomed Mr. Michael Clarke as interim principal at the high school and congratulated Andrea Einhorn on her retirement. He thanked Dr. Sanzo for his hard work with the Business Operations meeting and commended Dr. Cosentino for her quick response and decisiveness on an issue that came up at the school this past week.
- Rick Regan - Thanked everyone involved in the Winter Concert at the high school.
- Kim LaTourette - Welcomed Mr. Clarke and congratulated Andrea Einhorn. She is looking forward to the concert at MHHS.
- Ed Sbordone - The Policy meeting scheduled for January 23rd will start at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex Conference Room. She congratulated Andrea Einhorn.
- Stephanie Strazza - Congratulated Andrea Einhorn and thanked Dr. Cosentino for outlining her goals and priorities.
- Dominic Cipollone - Welcomed Mr. Clarke and congratulated Andrea Einhorn.

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for agenda items XII through XV and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo into the Executive Session. Rick Regan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

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

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STIPENDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SCHOOL SECURITY MATTERS

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:42 p.m.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of stipends in the amount of \$3,000 each for extra duties for the High School Assistant Principals. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy

Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Lidia Chaves request for an unpaid leave of absence commencing January 31, 2019, and returning no later than May 20, 2019. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Rick Regan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos