

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT

MINUTES – December 21, 2017

PRESENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason McKinnon, High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, High School English Teacher Owen Lucas, Consolidated School Reading Teacher Roseann Petruso, Middle School Literacy Coach Debbie Parker, Director of Senior Services Kathy Hull and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh

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. December 7, 2017- Regular Meeting

Rick Regan spoke of the process for approving minutes according to Roberts Rules and noted that if there are no changes to the minutes they can be approved by unanimous consent, or if there are changes they can be addressed and then approved by unanimous consent. The Board decided to try this process and approved the December 7th meeting minutes via unanimous consent.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Douglas DeRito made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting with the following changes: Move Information Item A “Senior Buddies Program at Consolidated School” as item 4A immediately after Approval of the Agenda and add Action Item E “CES Leadership Profile” and Agenda Item X “Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing a Confidential Student Matter.” Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Senior Buddies Program at Consolidated School

Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner spoke of the Senior Buddies Program at Consolidated School which invites Senior Citizens to Consolidated School to help students with reading skills. Consolidated School Reading Teacher Roseann Petruso

spoke of the benefits of this program for both the students and the senior citizens. There are currently 14 volunteers in the program. Many of the volunteers including Senior Center Director Kathy Hull spoke of the program. A short video regarding the program was shown.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Linda Norris spoke of the District Vision and thanked everyone involved in putting it together.

Laura Consiglio thanked the BOE members and former BOE member Amy Tozzo for all their hard work on behalf of the district. She encouraged members to put aside politics for the good of the district.

Samantha Kennedy spoke of the advantages of a later start time for the Middle School and High School and encouraged BOE members to vote in favor of a feasibility study regarding school start times.

Patrick Bower welcomed the new BOE members and thanked them for volunteering. He suggested that a second Public Comment be added to future agendas.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of adding an additional Public Comment to the end of the meeting.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - None

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the following:

- The High School hosted Model UN for the ages. There were 75 delegates. Dr. Roy thanked Mr. White and Mr. Lucas for their hard work with this program.
- The holiday concerts at Meeting House Hill School and the High School were much enjoyed.
- Wished everyone a joyous and safe holiday season.
- The budget presentation will be held on Thursday, January 4th at 6:30 p.m. with a Board meeting to immediately follow.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski reported on the following:

- Student Council sold hot chocolate with proceeds to the Leukemia/Lymphoma society.
- DECA collected toys for underprivileged children.

Junior Representative Hannah Rigoglioso reported on the following:

- The Program of Studies for incoming 9th graders and their parents will be held on January 9th at 6:30 pm at the high school.
- The Chamber singers and the Wind Ensemble held a holiday concert.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met this evening and reviewed the Early Learning Center

tuition delinquency reports and decided to send out registered letters in order to try to recoup this money. They reviewed budget vs. actual as of November 30th and the budget is on schedule. Non-payroll Special Education is trending over budget and a transfer will be forthcoming. The subcommittee reviewed the staff requests for 2018-2019. There are six new positions requested which will be part of the budget presentation on January 4th.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on December 20th and Wes Marsh was elected Chairman and Michael Cammarota was elected Clerk. Marcia Marien from O'Connor Davies presented the audit report for 2016-2017. This was a very good audit with no deficiencies. Deficiencies from prior years were corrected. The BOF reviewed their policy on surplus which 100% of the revenue surplus will stay in the General Fund and up to 50% of the expenditures surplus will be allowed to go back to the respective boards. The BOF has invited the BOE to their January 17th meeting to discuss the budget.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Senior Buddies Program at Consolidated School - Moved to beginning of the meeting.

B. State Reading Conference - Middle School Literacy Coach Debbie Parker spoke of a presentation that she made along with Science Teacher Casey Olsen regarding thinking and reading.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. District Vision Update

Dr. Roy spoke of the process for the District Vision update and noted that the entire document is available on the district website. Debbie Parker spoke of the people and groups involved in this process and noted that this was an open process that included students, parents, teachers and administrators. Parents Linda Norris and Ellen Waltmyer spoke of the many revisions of the Mission and Vision statements. High School teacher Owen Lucas spoke of the Vision and Core values from a teacher's perspective and Dr. Jason McKinnon and Dr. Rich Sanzo spoke of the process as administrators.

BOE member Rick Regan asked about the "All Educators Section" and the possibility of adding the wording of "setting high expectations of students." Mr. Regan spoke of the Mission statement and asked about the phrase "Where all members take an active role in supporting" and the possibility of changing to "Where all members support." There was a discussion of the District Vision and the process for making changes and whether or not changes to the document should be made at this meeting.

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised vision, mission, and core values of the New Fairfield Public Schools Community. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker,

Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Rick Regan

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked everyone involved in the process.

B. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for December 15, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

C. School Start Time

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board chair appoint a Board of Education member to serve as liaison to a community work group that is being formed to study the possibility of recommending to the Board a change in school start times in the district. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

There was a discussion of possible BOE members to serve as liaison to this committee. Douglas DeRito suggested that Dominic Cipollone may be interested. Samantha Mannion, Kathy Baker and Rick Regan expressed interest serving on this committee.

D. Acceptance of Derx Foundation Grants

1. Middle School Breakfast Club
2. Middle School Student News

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to recommend to the full Board the acceptance of the Derx Foundation Grants in the amount of \$21,500: \$8,000 for the Middle School Breakfast Club and \$13,500 for the Middle School Student News. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

E. CES Leadership Profile

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Leadership Profile for publication and dissemination. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Samantha Mannion noted that the CES Leadership Profile is the guiding document for the search committee for the new Superintendent. This is a data summary compiled from the focus groups and surveys. It is a 23-page document that will be put on the district website once it is approved. This includes a priority of attributes for this position.

Douglas DeRito thanked Samantha Mannion, the subcommittee and former BOE member Amy Tozzo for all the work done on this document.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Greg Flanagan thanked the members of the public that spoke tonight and promised that the BOE will work together for the best interest of the students in the district.

Kimberly LaTourette thanked Diane King for all her hard work with the Band concert and spoke of all the kindness activities going on in the schools.

Ed Sbordone spoke of the subcommittees and volunteered for the Safety Committee. Peggy Katkocin spoke of the subcommittee positions and asked members to consider which subcommittees they would like to serve on.

There was a discussion of penalties for athletes who go away during Spring vacation and miss practices and games. Peggy Katkocin noted that she will ask Athletic Director Mary Stolle to come to a January meeting to speak of this policy. It was noted that athletes are aware of the policy before signing up for a sport.

Douglas DeRito suggested the possibility of having a second Public Comment at the meeting and the possibility of inviting public input before a critical vote. It was noted that adding an additional Public Comment would require a policy change. There was a discussion of having a Policy Subcommittee special meeting to discuss upcoming issues.

The Board members wished everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT MATTER

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a confidential student matter and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Douglas DeRito, Greg Flanagan, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos