

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2017,  
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – October 5, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Steve Burfeind (Chairman), Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

**ABSENT:** Susan Starr and Jay Voss

**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, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Pupil Personnel Director Andrea Einhorn, Business Manager Craig McClain, Director of Mathematics, Science, and Interventions Keegan Finlayson

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. September 19, 2017 - Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Douglas DeRito made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017, regular meeting as presented. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Information Item B "Superintendent Search Timeline." Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Douglas DeRito seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-** None

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman's Report – None

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

- The District Evacuation drill with the town was very successful. Dr. Roy reminded families that in a real emergency to please not come to the school until instructed so that emergency personnel can get through.
- PACK Students at the Middle School along with Mr. Ian Hockley presented the Wingman program to the school to promote students helping students, to deter bullying, and to make students proud of who they are.
- The High School yearbook has won the American Scholastic Press Association first place award, the ninth consecutive year of honors for the yearbook.
- Congratulated High School Senior Stella Kozloski on her art piece being included by the 2017 Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards in a national curated show promoting the most creative work by young, emerging artists.
- Dr. Roy, Dr. Sanzo, Carolee Harkins, Athletic Director Mary Stolle and former Athletic Director Mr. Suchy attended the Annual Old Timers Athletic Association banquet.
- High School Seniors Amanda Marsh, Stella Kozloski and Zachary Ficcara were named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship program.

C. Student Representative Reports

Senior Representative Jared Przyborowski spoke of the following:

- The PSATs will be given to the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> graders on October 11<sup>th</sup>. During this time, 12<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to the high school for Rebel Kick Start, which is a series of seminars to prepare for college.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Kevin Hearty noted that the Curriculum subcommittee met last week and spoke of ways to identify gifted students. They also discussed K-3 Reading assessments.
2. Communications/Community Outreach - Ed Sbordone noted that the Communications subcommittee met immediately before this meeting and discussed the possibility of later start times at the high school and middle school, and the Strings Music program at Meeting House Hill School. There was a discussion of the Strings program and whether or not a further discussion should be added to tonight's agenda.

**MOTION:** Amy Tozzo made a motion to add a discussion of the Strings Music program to the agenda as Information Item C. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN**

**FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo **OPPOSED:** Steve Burfeind

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the Board of Finance met on September 20<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Roy presented the contingency plan in case of any deficit created by the cuts to New Fairfield from the State. The BOF also held a special meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the State budget. They received a legal opinion noting that capital money cannot be transferred to

the operating budget. The BOF discussed the possibility of underfunding the medical fund. No action is required from the BOE and the BOS at this time. The next BOF meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

2. Safety Committee -Susan Starr will give a report regarding the Safety committee at the next regular BOE meeting.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Student Achievement Results Presentation (Parts I& II) – Dr. Roy spoke of the Smarter Balanced tests and noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math scores were the 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the State of Connecticut. Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli and Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo spoke of data analysis sorted by students and team, which has been shared with the teachers.

Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of Formative Assessments and Benchmark Assessments. He spoke of the Fountas and Pinnell Reading assessment and spoke of assessments at the beginning of the year vs. the end of the year.

Director of Mathematics, Science, and Interventions Keegan Finlayson spoke of the STAR Math assessments and SGP (Student Growth Percentile.) He also spoke of STAR Reading for 2016-17 and steps to improve both Math and Reading.

B. Superintendent Search Timeline - Chairman Steve Burfeind noted that he asked Board members Doug DeRito, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo to do some research and come up with ideas and strategies for the search for a new superintendent. They put together a timeline with six steps. Steps 1-4 should occur between now and the end of the year. It was noted that these strategies are tentative since this is an election year and the Board members may change. There was a discussion of whether or not the search should be done in-house or through a consulting firm. It was decided to ask the committee to make some calls to consulting firms to get an approximate cost.

Amy Tozzo spoke of the steps discussed by the committee which include a possible survey, review of contract, preparation of a budget, when to advertise and the interview process.

### **C. Strings Music Program at Meeting House Hill School**

The Board discussed the Strings Music Program in response to concerns from a parent who attended the Communications subcommittee meeting. Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia noted that this program was originally an after-school program that was then added as a class one day per week during the school day. Due to budget cuts, the class during the day was eliminated and thus this program is only offered during after-school hours. Business Manager Craig McClain spoke of the budget for this program. It was decided to discuss this further at a future meeting. There was a brief discussion of the communication to parents regarding the changes to this program.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated September 28, 2017, as recommended by the administration. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

### **B. Leave of Absence Request (Executive Session)**

**C. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Administrators' Association July 1, 2018-June 30, 2021 (Executive Session)**

**IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** - Samantha Mannion spoke of a previous request for AP scores and thanked High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo for his quick response. According to these results, 30.2% of the students taking AP classes score either a 4 or a 5. At least a 4 is usually required to obtain college credit. It was noted that approximately 62% of students taking AP classes receive a score of 3 or above. Ms. Mannion spoke of the expenses of the AP exams and the rigor of the AP classes and asked that this be discussed further at a future meeting.

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss a Leave of Absence request and the ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Administrators' Association July 1, 2018-June 30, 2021 and to invite Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:59 p.m.

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Pamela McNally's request for an unpaid leave of absence beginning on October 12, 2017, and ending no later than the end of the business day on December 22, 2017. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PUROSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION:** Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full Board to ratify the agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Administrators' Association contract for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. Douglas DeRito

seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** - Douglas DeRito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Kevin Hearty seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Dominic Cipollone, Douglas DeRito, Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Amy Tozzo

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos