

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – December 21, 2020

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, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, High School Principal James D’Amico, High School Assistant Principal Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner and Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross

Network Administrator Paul Gouveia explained the procedure for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone including members of the public.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Peggy Katkocin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S 2021-2022 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino thanked everyone involved with the education of the students of New Fairfield and commended them for a wonderful work ethic despite the challenges of COVID, especially while building two new schools. She announced that she is very optimistic for the following year and noted that her budget for 2021-2022 is based on the assumption that COVID will be over.

Dr. Cosentino spoke of “Points of Pride” and “silver linings” that happened in the district this year. She thanked everyone that came up with creative ways to celebrate the Class of 2020 at all levels. She spoke of that hard work that each school did to incorporate curriculum to all students, regardless of whether they were in-person or remote learners.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby spoke of district coherence, specifically Math and Technology improvements. She spoke of Math coaches and interventions for each school and other positions in the budget that will allow for improvements. She noted how COVID has given a “silver lining” to allow for more use of technology in the future.

Mrs. Luby also spoke of the Transition Only program for special needs students ages 18-21. This program teaches life skills and will save the district money by not having to outplace students.

Finally, Mrs. Luby spoke of the Equity Action Team that is working to make sure everyone feels inclusive and accepted in the district.

Dr. Cosentino spoke of enrollment projections and how it affects staffing.

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo gave a summary of the budget proposal for the 2021-2022. The proposed budget for 2021-2022 is \$42,232,919 which is an increase of \$1,024,404 over the approved budget for 2020-2021 of \$41,208,515. This represents a 2.49% increase. The Capital and Nonrecurring and debt service prior to fiscal year 2021 remains flat. With the new debt service, the total increase is 6.36%.

Dr. Sanzo noted that this budget will be available on the district's website. There will be a series of budget workshops with the Board of Education and the Board of Finance as well as a Facebook Live event to allow for taxpayers to get more information.

Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked everyone who helped put this budget presentation together.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos