

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019,
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – August 15, 2019

PRESENT: Peggy Katkocin (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, and Ed Sbordone

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo 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. August 1, 2019 - Regular Meeting - approved by consensus
- B. August 1, 2019 - Special Meeting - approved with the correction of Chairman Katkocin's comment that the proposed building project was approved unanimously by the BOE, BOS and BOF when in fact it was the grant application that was approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to add item VI. E3 "Liaison Reports-Permanent Building Committee" to the agenda. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Stefanie Milovic spoke as a recent high school graduate and gave some suggestions for the high school. They include:

- Encouraging students to do more independent studies.
- Allowing for accommodations for students that may need them.
- Bringing back the Student Senate.
- Making sure that the Guidance Department is up to date on college guidelines regarding SATs, ACTs and other standardized tests.

She noted that she would be available by phone or email if any staff member or board member would like to speak to her further regarding her ideas.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Peggy Katkocin spoke of the proposed building project and reminded everyone that doing nothing is not an option. She encouraged everyone to be enthusiastic about the project and noted that there will be public hearings and information sessions regarding the proposed project in the near future.

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

- New Teacher Orientation will be held next Wednesday and Thursday. The new teachers will go on a bus ride around New Fairfield.
- Two new nurses have been hired.
- Dr. Cosentino will meet the new Commissioner of Education next week.
- Convocation will be held on Friday, August 23rd.
- Director of Curriculum Lori Ferreira has done a lot of work on the curriculum plan.
- There will be some Facebook Live events in the near future.
- There will be Public Hearing regarding the building project on Sept. 19th
- Dr. Costentino will send the Board members a list school of Open Houses and asked if they can attend to answer questions about the proposed building projects.
- Dr. Cosentino and Selectman Khris Hall worked together to submit a grant application to CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) regarding innovative school security.
- School Messenger is the new way that the district will communicate with families.
- There will be training for staff for Power School on the Professional Development Day on August 26th.
- Thanked Karen Fildes, Paul Gouveia and Jamie Wallace and staff for all their work with getting Power School set up.
- There will be training of Power School for parents in the future. Information regarding Power School will be sent home soon.

C. Student Representatives' Report - None

D. Committee Report

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Kathy Baker noted that this subcommittee met on August 15th and discussed budget vs. actual. There will be a small budget surplus. They also discussed Google Vault.

E. Liaison Report

1. Parks and Rec Committee - No report

2. School Security and Safety Committee - Samantha Mannion noted that this committee will meet on August 27th at 7:30 p.m.

3. Permanent Building Committee - Rick Regan noted that the PBC met on August 13 and had a presentation from Colliers that spoke of the advantages of hiring an Owner's Representative to manage the building project. This could be Colliers or a firm similar to them. The PBC will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays going forward.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Convocation - Dr. Cosentino noted that Convocation will be held on August 23rd at 8 a.m. at MHHS.

B. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Projects Update
Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave a brief summary of upcoming dates regarding the building project:

- Wednesday, August 21 – 6 p.m. - Tour of the buildings;
- Tuesday, August 27 and September 24 – 6 p.m. - Facebook Live events;
- Thursday, September 19 – 7 p.m. Public Hearing;
- Thursday, September 26 - Town meeting to set referendum date;
- Saturday, October 5 - expected date for referendum.

Dr. Sanzo noted that he or any member of the administration would be happy to meet with any resident or groups to answer any and all questions.

C. Building Projects Calendar of Events Signup

Dr. Cosentino will send a Google Doc to have Board members sign up for various days to be available to answer questions for residents regarding the building projects.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for August 8, 2019, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

B. Acceptance of Donations

1. United Way of Western Connecticut
2. Margaret and Joseph Komlo

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude a donation from the United Way of Western Connecticut of \$1,000 to defray the cost of co-curricular activities for families whose financial situations might limit participatory opportunities. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

There was a brief discussion of this grant and it was noted that it is available to anyone that asks for help paying for a co-curricular activity or a trip. Dr. Sanzo noted that this grant can also be used for community based activities not through the school.

MOTION: To recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude a donation from Margaret and Joseph Komlo of \$1,000 to offset the cost of jackets and warm-up gear for the New Fairfield High School Girls' Soccer team. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

C. Non-tuition Student Requests - Executive Session

1. Request #1
2. Request #2

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

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

Kimberly LaTourette noted that she is looking forward to Convocation and the start of school. She asked for copy of the Middle School schedule.

Rick Regan asked about Kindergarten enrollment for next year. Dr. Sanzo noted that 143 students have been enrolled which is an increase from last year.

Peggy Katkocin wished everyone a good school year.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NON-TUTION STUDENT REQUESTS

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss the non-tuition student request and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: To recommend to the full board the approval of the student's request to attend Meeting House Hill School without tuition and with transportation provided by the family for no longer than 90 calendar days from today. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: To recommend to the full board the approval of the student's request to attend Meeting House Hill School without tuition and with transportation provided by the family for no longer than 90 calendar days from today. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos