

Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:00 PM

Meeting Access: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee (3/3/22 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/93106828432> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 931 0682 8432, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III.A. November 4, 2021 – Special

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V.A. New Fairfield High School Dress Code

VI. OTHER

VII. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee
Meeting type: Special Date of Meeting: 11/4/21
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kathy Baker, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone
Members absent: Stephanie Strazza
Other attendees: Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Rich Sanzo, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan
Place of Meeting: Special Meeting Access: Communications/Community Outreach
Subcommittee (11/4 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/99526386815> Dial In: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 995 2638 6815

Meeting called to order: at 6:03 p.m. by Kathy Baker.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. October 4, 2021 – Special

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 4, 2021

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. Action Items - none

IV. Information Items

A. Equity Update - Julie Luby provided an update. We remain committed to having a district where everyone feels they belong. Several parents have agreed to work with us. They have appreciated our efforts but let us know that we need and can do better. We also have students that are eager to make our schools feel good for all that attend. Amanda Gorman gave a speech "No Place for Hate" and the students viewed a webinar. Dr. Cosentino said that we have to all be committed to make sure everyone belongs. This is embedded in our SEL. We are not trying to make it bigger than it is but are trying to address issues that come up.

B. Parking at New Fairfield High School - Kathy Baker said that this topic should be more about traffic and not the parking. People are not following the new traffic pattern after school hours. It is not well marked. Ed Sbordone shared that this did come up in a meeting with the construction crews.

C. Open Choice - Dr. Cosentino understands that everyone is concerned about the SPED costs and what is "reasonable." It does not look like we are going to get a definite answer. The only thing the state and other districts say is that it gets worked out and there has not ever been a problem where it didn't get resolved.

Samantha Mannion reached out to the legal department of the Special Ed department to get some clarity. The attorney admitted that the legislation is unclear. She asked the definition of "reasonable and what happens to resolve a dispute," and the answer was not known. They would have to mediate an agreement.

Tim Blair mentioned that Pat Callahan is also on the education committee who we could work with as well.

Eileen Hacaj asked if we would keep trying to get the answers to these questions that we have or after the board votes to just let it go.

Michelle O'Gara is curious what the procedure is if students/parents report any types of bullying to the schools. Ms. Luby mentioned the policies and forms are online, incidences can be

reported to the principals, people can make confidential reports, and anonymous is harder to do/handle. We do have Speak Up/Gaggle. Mrs. O'Gara asked what happens if the situation doesn't get addressed. Ms. Luby said to follow the chain of command ...teacher, administrator,... etc.

V. Other - none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Ed Sbordone Seconded by: Kathy Baker
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous Meeting adjourned at: 6:30 p.m.

Students

Dress and Grooming

The community and general public often judge the quality of education by the behavior, appearance and activities of its student body. The results of one's dress, appearance and behavior generally go far beyond the individual student.

In general, attire and grooming of individual students in this school system are the responsibility of the students and their parents. There are, however, general principles of good taste and modesty which must and shall be observed.

Students' overall appearance should fall within the generally accepted definitions of neatness and cleanliness. Generally, the students are expected to dress and groom themselves for the business of school so as to neither distract other students or teachers, disrupt the education process, or pose a health or safety threat to anyone. Clothing should be clean, untorn, free from promotion of, or reference to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and offensive signs, symbols or words. Clothing should also be free of slogans, names, titles or the like which are defamatory toward person(s), group(s), the school or other organizations or which are likely to incite or inflame.

Students whose dress or grooming is judged by the staff to be distracting, disruptive, or dangerous to personal safety will be subject to administrative action.

The intent of this policy is to encourage all concerned to dress, groom and conduct themselves in keeping with an atmosphere which reflects a sensitivity to and respect for self and others and the overall functions of the school.

Examples of inappropriate clothing prohibited include, but are not limited to:

- Shoes, boots or sneakers which mark the floor
- "See through" style and/or mesh style shirts, blouses, midriff tops, and/or revealing garments
- Underwear worn as outerwear
- Short shorts and/or revealing shorts and/or skirts
- Face-coverings except those worn for established religious customs
- Sunglasses
- Any article of clothing (including jackets, shoes, hats and bandannas), jewelry, or other item which is identifiable as a known symbol of gang membership or affiliation
- Any accessories or clothing with spikes
- Sweatshirt hoods worn over one's head

At the secondary level (6-12) it is strongly recommended that clothing which is worn in physical education shall not be worn in other classes or parts of the school nor shall clothing worn in regular classes be worn in physical education. Physical education teachers will specify the kind of clothing appropriate for their activity.

Students

Dress and Grooming (continued)

Enforcement of Prohibited Attire

Students whose dress and grooming does not conform to these standards will be referred to the Principal or his/her designee who will inform students of necessary changes in dress. If students fail to remedy the problem, parents will be contacted. If the problem remains uncorrected, students will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with provisions of Connecticut General Statutes.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute § 10-233 et seq.

Policy adopted: June 6, 2002
Policy amended: October 6, 2005
Policy revised: May 2, 2019

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut