

## Board of Education Regular Meeting 2022

Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:00 PM

BOE Meeting Access: BOE (1/20/22 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/97768886810> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 977 6888 6810, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#### III.A. January 6, 2021 - Regular

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - *The Board welcomes public participation. Pursuant to our Board Policy, public participation is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker and a total of no more than thirty (30) minutes total for the entire meeting. Individuals who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related subcommittee meetings where most of the board's groundwork is done. We value your input, but due to these time limitations, we ask you to be concise and to observe the rules of common courtesy. [9320(a) of Board Bylaws]***

### VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### VI.A. Chairman's Report

#### VI.B. Superintendent's Report

#### VI.C. Student Representatives' Report

#### VI.D. Committee Reports

##### VI.D.1. Business Operations/Resource Management (Greg Flanagan)

##### VI.D.2. Field Fees (Ed Sbordone)

#### VI.E. Liaison Reports

##### VI.E.1. Board of Finance - (Ed Sbordone)

##### VI.E.2. Parks and Recreation Committee (K. LaTourette, G. Flanagan)

##### VI.E.3. School Security and Safety Committee (Samantha Mannion)

### VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### VII.A. COVID Update

#### VII.B. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School

Building Project Update

VII.C. 2022-23 Budget

VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**

VIII.A. Personnel Report

IX. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - *The Board welcomes public participation. Pursuant to our Board Policy, public participation is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker and a total of no more than thirty (30) minutes total for the entire meeting. Individuals who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related subcommittee meetings where most of the board's groundwork is done. We value your input, but due to these time limitations, we ask you to be concise and to observe the rules of common courtesy. [9320(a) of Board Bylaws]*

X. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

XI. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
DISCUSSING SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**MINUTES – January 6, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, 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, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Meeting House Hill School Principal James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca, and Selectman Khris Hall

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 Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. December 13, 2021 - Special meeting - approved by consensus
  - B. December 16, 2021 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus
- V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Kim Beames spoke of her concerns regarding safety in the high school and specifically supervision in the cafeteria. She spoke of specific incidents that caused her concern. Samantha Mannion encouraged Ms. Beames and anyone else with safety concerns to attend the School Safety and Security Commission meeting that will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- VI. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
  - A. Chairman's Report - Dominic Cipollone wished everyone a very Happy New Year and expressed his hope that this year will be closer to normal. He spoke of statistics of negative effects of students due to the pandemic. He commended Governor Lamont and Superintendent Dr. Pat Cosentino for doing everything possible to keep the school open in person.
  - B. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
    - Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
    - Thanked Mrs. Beames for her public comment regarding safety in the schools and assured everyone that the district takes safety and security very seriously.

- The vaccination van will be at MHHS on January 12<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. and New Fairfield High School on January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Information will be available on the website.
  - All schools and offices will be closed tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> due to the impending storm.
  - The district is in need of cafeteria aides, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and crossing guards. Anyone interested should go to the district website to apply.
  - Thanked the entire staff for helping out this week with staff shortages due to absences.
  - New Fairfield High School ranked #4 in the State for percentage in enrollment increase in the UConn Early College Experience.
- C. Student Representative Report  
 Junior Representative Grace DeMarco reported on the following:
- The high school has opened Zoom classes for quarantined students.
  - There is currently a basketball game being held at the high school.
- D. Committee Reports
1. Communications/Community Outreach - Kathy Baker noted that this subcommittee meeting was cancelled for tonight. She encouraged members of the public that wished to speak to attend future meetings.
- E. Liaison Reports - None

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. COVID Update

Julie Luby reviewed the COVID statistics and noted that there were significant absences this week for both students and staff. She spoke of COVID protocols and noted that anyone with symptoms is required to stay home. There are some temporary changes to Q school with five guest teachers and two engagement coordinators. A Zoom link is open at the secondary level. The COVID dashboard is being updated to provide daily updates of the number of new cases by grade level.

### B. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Rich Sanzo noted that construction on the school building projects continued over the holiday break. He thanked Phil Ross and staff as well as Dr. Karen Fildes and Paul Gouveia and their respective staffs for their efforts to the building project especially over the holiday break.

Dr. Sanzo noted that PBC Chairman George Martignetti has resigned due to a relocation. Don Kellogg has taken over as the new chairman of the PBC.

## 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 December 23, 2021, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### B. New Course Proposals

1. Advanced Music Technology
2. Black and Latino Studies
3. ECE Popular Music and Diversity in American Society

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the following courses: Advanced Music Technology; Black and Latino Studies; and ECE Popular Music and Diversity in American Society to be offered at New Fairfield High School. Ed Sbordone

seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements
2. Bylaw 9320 - Board of Education Meetings

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policies listed below as presented: 1. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements and Bylaw 9320 Board of Education Meetings. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Melissa Lindsey, Christine Garavo and Kevin Ahern spoke of concerns about having the vaccination van being held at the schools. The concerns raised included safety of the students, traffic issues and the possibility of controversy over vaccines.

Michelle Brown thanked the Board of Education on behalf of all the teachers in the district. She further thanked the parents for all their hard work and support of the teachers and students.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update on Speak Up and Executive Session to discuss School Safety and Security.
- Dominic Cipollone asked for an update on block scheduling at the high school. Dr. Cosentino will decide if this should first be brought up at the Curriculum subcommittee.

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ed Sbordone reminded everyone of the following budget meetings:

- Thursday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> - Superintendent's presentation to the Board of Education at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> - BOE Special meeting - Budget workshop
- Thursday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - BOE Special meeting - Budget workshop
- Tuesday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> - BOE and BOF budget workshop

Amy Johnson spoke of the concerns that students may be getting singled out at school about their vaccination status. She further spoke of concerns of having the vaccination van at school property.

Greg Flanagan thanked the teachers, administrators and staff for all their extra work due to the pandemic. He further thanked outgoing Permanent Building Committee Chairman George Martignetti for his hard work on the PBC and congratulated Don Kellogg for being named the new chairman of the PBC.

Stephanie Strazza thanked teachers, administrators and staff for all their hard work with shuffling through the latest pandemic surge.

Dominic Cipollone thanked the members of the public that spoke at tonight's meeting and encouraged participation at all meetings. He further congratulated Don Kellogg on becoming chairman of the PBC. He thanked all staff for their hard work during this difficult week.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss a paraprofessional leave of absence request and to and to invite Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Pamela McNally's request for an unpaid leave of absence of from January 6, 2022, through March 14, 2022. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Tim Blair seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos