

Board of Education Regular Meeting 2022

Thursday, June 2, 2022 7:00 PM

New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT., 33 Route 37,
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

III.A. May 19, 2022 - 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. Curriculum (*Stephanie Strazza*)

VI.E. Liaison Reports - None

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII.A. Training of Athletic Coaches

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

VIII.A. Strings Program

VIII.B. School Start and End Times

IX. ACTION ITEMS

IX.A. Personnel Report

IX.B. 2022-23 Budget Adjustments

IX.C. STRIDES 2022-23 Calendar

IX.D. New Fairfield Public Schools 2022-23 Revised
Calendar

IX.E. Healthy Food Certification

IX.F. Child Rearing Leave Request *(This item will be
voted on after Executive Session.)*

IX.G. Reduction in Force *(This item will be voted on after
Executive Session.)*

IX.H. Non-Union Salaries and Benefits *(This item will be
voted on after Executive Session.)*

IX.I. Appointment of Director of Business and
Operations *(This item will be voted on after Executive Session.)*

X. **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]*

XI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

XII. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DISCUSSING CHILD REARING LEAVE
REQUEST**

XIV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
DISCUSSING REDUCTION IN FORCE**

XV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
DISCUSSING NON-UNION CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS**

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

MINUTES – May 19, 2022

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: Kathy Baker and Kimberly LaTourette

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Director of Curriculum Alyce Misuraca, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo 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. April 27, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
- B. May 5, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved by consensus

V. RECOGNITION - CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli presented CABE Student Leadership Awards to Tristan Cunningham and Taylor Proto.

High School Principal James D’Amico presented the CABE Student Leadership Awards to Senior Gabriella Furnari and Junior Claire Enerson.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:
 - Thanked everyone that supported the budget that passed on Saturday, May 14th.
 - Congratulated all graduates and students moving up to different schools.

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

- Thanked everyone that supported the budget.
- Announced that the Celebration of Excellence will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 4:00 p.m. at Meeting House Hill School.
- The Unified Theater will have their show on May 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.
- The Senior Prom will be held on Friday, May 27th.
- Field days will be held soon.
- The STRIDES Open House will be held at their new building in Danbury on May 31st at 1:00 p.m.

C. Student Representative Report - None

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that the Business Operations/Resource Management committee met on May 19th and noted that the budget is on track with previous years. The projected deficit is lower than projected last month. No rates have been locked in for fuel.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on May 9th and May 18th.
 - The May 9th meeting was a special meeting to discuss potentially offensive comments made at prior BOF meetings.
 - The following was discussed at the May 18th meeting:
 - Voted to invite a representative from Disability Rights Connecticut to at BOE meeting to educate the Board on Disability Rights.
 - Voted to set the Mil Rate for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
 - Voted to approve the Suspense List.
 - Voted to accept the Medical Plan.
 - Discussed the possibility to form a joint board committee for long term capital planning.
2. Parks and Recreation Commission - This meeting was cancelled
3. Safety Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on May 11th and discussed:

- Bus service - Nothing to report
- Building and Grounds - Nothing to report
- SRO updates - Nothing to report
- The food service contract is going out to bid with bids due on May 24th. This must be done every five years.
- There have been two concussions since the last Safety Committee meeting. Both of these occurred in Boys' Lacrosse.
- Safety drills in the schools are up to date.
- There has been a slight uptick in Covid cases.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. District Reference Groups - DRG

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby spoke of a recent meeting that referred to the District Reference Group (DRG). Since that meeting, Ms. Luby reached out to someone on the State and was notified that District Reference Groups are not often used anymore for comparing districts. She spoke of using growth targets to measure success and to compare the district with other districts that have similar free and reduced lunch statistics. Greg Flanagan suggested discussing the data at a future meeting.

B. Tricaster

Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes announced that the new tricaster system is in place and has been hooked up and tested. This will allow for a return to in-person meetings. She noted that this system will not allow access to Zoom.

C. Superintendent Goals

Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of her goals and gave a list of accomplishments over the last year. They include continuing to have in-person instruction through the pandemic, high quality instruction and building relationships, increase in extracurricular activities and improvements in Special Education, especially the STRIDES program. The improvement of the website and the school building projects were also mentioned.

D. 2022-2023 Budget

Dr. Sanzo noted that the budget adjustments will be made at the June 2nd BOE meeting.

E. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

Dr. Sanzo gave a brief update on the building projects for both CELA and the high school and showed pictures.

IX. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Strings Program - Dr. Cosentino noted that there will be a half strings teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. This will need to be increased in upcoming years as more students are involved in the program. Julie Luby spoke of the number of students in the string program and whether or not this program would take students away from the band program. This will be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 12, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

B. Healthy Food Certification

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to table both motions regarding the Healthy Food Certification until more information is received. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

C. Acceptance of Donation

1. Unilock New York, Inc.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to accept a monetary donation of \$2,500 from Unilock New York, Inc. for the Girls' High School Softball team to be used as needed. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

D. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

E. Contract of the Director of Business and Operations - Executive Session

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ed Sbordone encouraged the BOF to appoint a liaison to attend BOE meetings.
Greg Flanagan thanked the community for supporting the budget.
Amy Johnson congratulated the CAFE award winners.

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

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CONTRACT
OF THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Paraprofessional Leave of Absence request and to discuss the contract of the Director of Business and Operations and to invite Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full board Board of Education the approval of Laura Linkenhoker's request for an unpaid leave of absence for 2.75 hours on May 4, 2022, 3 hours on May 16, 2022, and one day on June 10, 2022. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to pay Dr. Sanzo for 10 vacation days for June 2022. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Samantha Mannion, and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Strings Decision Considerations

- Student Participation
- Staffing Requirements
- Other District Norms

Student Participation

	3	4	5	6	7	8	HS (9-12)	Goals
Strings ^	48	38	17 *#					35-50? in HS orchestra
Band	N/A	N/A	64 *	24	21	28	56	100 in HS band

^ we offered strings at MHHS this year instead of grade 4 band; we will go back to starting band in grade 4 when the band teacher is not teaching strings

* 6 students in both

apx. 12 of these students would likely switch to band if there is no strings program for them in MS

Minimum Staffing Requirements for Strings

	21 - 22	22 - 23	23 - 24	24 - 25	25 - 26
MHHS	-.5	.4	.5	.5	.5
Middle School	0	.1	.5	.5	.5
High School	0	0	0	0	.2
Total FTE	-.5*	.5#	1.0^	1.0~	1.2

* currently we have no staffing for strings and used .5 band staffing to begin the program at MHHS

this .5 is one of the 7.5 FTE positions in ARP ESSR for 2022 - 2023

^ 1.0 staffing will need to be added to the operating budget

~ as our numbers increase, 1.0 may not be enough for MHHS & MS to share

For Comparison to Other Districts

- In a group of 19 districts our size, 3 offer a strings program.
- In a group of 10 districts our size, who's spending is similar to ours, 1 offers a strings program.
- In a group of 24 districts with a similar percentage of students who receive free & reduced lunch, 10 offer a strings program.

BOE Adjustments to Voter Approved FY23 Spending Plan

BOE Revised FY23 Budget		BUDGET UNIT	BUDGET UNIT TITLE	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT TITLE
0.7 HS Teacher Based on Sectioning	\$ (75,042)	0111100100010007	HS Teachers	111	Certified
FICA	\$ (1,088)	0116000280010001	Employee Benefits	220	FICA
Conference and Travel (\$15,000)	\$ (2,300)	0112000241010002	Cons Principal	580	Conference / Travel
	\$ (3,710)	0113000241010003	MHHS Principal	580	Conference / Travel
	\$ (5,964)	0115000100010007	HS Inst'l	580	Conference / Travel
	\$ (2,000)	0117000221010001	Curr & Inst	580	Conference / Travel
	\$ (1,026)	0118001210020301	PPS Office	580	Conference / Travel
Supplies (\$10,000)	\$ (1,500)	0112000100010002	Cons Inst'l	610	General Supplies
	\$ (1,000)	0113000100010003	MHHS Inst'l	610	General Supplies
	\$ (1,000)	0114000100010004	MS Inst'l	610	General Supplies
	\$ (4,500)	0115000100010007	HS Inst'l	610	General Supplies
	\$ (1,500)	0115500290091005	Athletics	610	General Supplies
	\$ (500)	0116200232010001	Central Office	610	General Supplies
Technology Equipment	\$ (10,000)	0116500223010001	Technology	730	Equipment
Electricity - On Bill Financing*	\$ (50,000)	0116800260010001	Utilities	622	Electricity
Excess Cost Credit	\$ (64,000)	0118003100020301	SpEd Tuition	562	Tuition - In State Private
Additional Turnover Savings TBD	\$ (119,804)	0111100000010001	Reg Ed	199	Pyrl Adj
<i>Change to Revised Budget</i>	\$ (344,934)				

Voter Approved FY23 Budget	\$ 42,977,752
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Positions to Remain Open

Strings Teacher

Teacher of the Gifted

*Applies \$200,000 of school lunch fund surplus to buydown financing

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DRAFT 2022-2023 STRIDES Calendar

August (0)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	*24	*25	*26
29	30	31		

24-26 STRIDES Teacher PD/Work Days
 29-31 STRIDES in session, NVCC in session
 31 – STRIDES Teacher attends Convocation,
 BCBA assigned to STRIDES for the day
 (29-30 - New Teacher Orientation)
 (31 - First Day for PreK-HS Teachers)

September (19)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1-2 STRIDES in session, NVCC in session
 1-2 STRIDES Teacher attends Professional
 Development Day, BCBA assigned to
 STRIDES for the day
 5 - Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
 (6 - First Day for K-HS Students)

October (19)				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	*19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

5 – STRIDES in session, NVCC in session
 (5 – Yom Kippur, PreK-HS not in session)
 10 – STRIDES in session, NVCC in session
 (10 - Columbus Day – PreK-HS not in session)
 19 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal, STRIDES students
 attending afternoon NVCC classes will be provided
 with support

November (18)				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

8 – STRIDES in session, NVCC in session,
 STRIDES Teacher attends PD Day, BCBA
 assigned to support STRIDES
 (8 - Election Day - Professional Development
 Day, PreK-HS not in session)
 11 - Veterans Day (full day of school)
 23-25 - Thanksgiving Recess – NO SCHOOL

December (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	*23
26	27	28	29	30

19 - NVCC last day of fall semester
 23 - *Early Dismissal
 26-30 - Holiday Vacation – NO SCHOOL

January (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	*5	*6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	*25	26	27
30	31			

2-6 STRIDES CLOSED, NVCC Holiday
 5-6 STRIDES Teacher PD/Work Day
 16 - Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
 20 - NVCC first day of spring semester
 25 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal, STRIDES
 students attending afternoon NVCC classes
 will be provided with support

February (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

17 – STRIDES CLOSED, NVCC Holiday
 20-22 STRIDES in session
 (20 - Presidents' Day, PreK-HS not in session)
 21-22 - Professional Development Day, STRIDES
 Teacher attends Professional Development Day,
 BCBA assigned to STRIDES for the day

March (23)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	*22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

13-17 STRIDES CLOSED, NVCC Spring Recess
 22 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal, STRIDES
 students attending afternoon NVCC classes
 will be provided with support

April (14)				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

7 - Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
 17-21 STRIDES in session, NVCC in session

May (22)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	*26
29	30	31		

14 NVCC spring semester ends
 26 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal
 29 - Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

June (10)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	*8	◆9
◆12	◆13	◆14	◆15	◆16
◆19	◆20	◆21	◆22	◆*23
26	27	28	29	30

7 – Last day for STRIDES
 8 – STRIDES Teacher PD/Work Days
 (14 - Last Day for PreK-HS Students/Staff)
 ◆8 - ◆23 - Snow/emergency days
 ◆*23 - Last Possible Day for Students/Staff (includes 7
 snow/emergency days) *Early Dismissal

Snow/emergency days will be made up on
 June 15th through June 23rd as needed. If
 more than 7 days are needed, days will be
 taken from spring vacation beginning with
 April 21st. The last day for students is
 expected to be no later than June 23rd.
 Students will not be in school more than 180
 days. Data Days – If the opening of school
 is delayed on a Data Day, the Data Day is
 cancelled, and students will be in until
 regular dismissal time.

Approved by the Board of Education:
 TBD

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2022-2023 Calendar *Revised*

August (0)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

29-30 - New Teacher Orientation
 30 - Consolidated Certified Staff Only Reports
 31 - First Day for Teachers

September (19)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1-2 - Professional Development Day
 5 - Labor Day
 6 - First Day for Students

October (19)				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	*19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

5 - Yom Kippur
 10 - Columbus Day
 19 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal

November (18)				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

8 - Election Day - Professional Development Day
 11 - Veterans Day (full day of school)
 23-25 - Thanksgiving Recess

December (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	*23
26	27	28	29	30

23 - *Early Dismissal
 26-30 - Holiday Vacation

January (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	*25	26	27
30	31			

16 - Martin Luther King Day
 25 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal

February (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

20 - Presidents' Day
 21-22 - Professional Development Day

March (23)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	*29	30	31

22 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal
 29 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal

April (14)				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

7 - Good Friday
 17-21 - Spring Vacation

May (22)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	*26
29	30	31		

26 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal
 29 - Memorial Day

June (10)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	◆15	◆16
◆19	◆20	◆21	◆22	◆*23
26	27	28	29	30

14 - Last Day for Students/Staff
 ◆15 - ◆23 - Snow/emergency days
 ◆*23 - Last Possible Day for Students/Staff (includes 7 snow/emergency days) *Early Dismissal

Snow/emergency days will be made up on June 15th through June 23rd as needed. If more than 7 days are needed, days will be taken from spring vacation beginning with April 21st. The last day for students is expected to be no later than June 23rd. Students will not be in school more than 180 days.

Data Days – If the opening of school is delayed on a Data Day, the Data Day is cancelled, and students will be in school until regular dismissal time.

Approved by the Board of Education:
 February 3, 2022; rev. 6/2/22



MEMORANDUM

New Fairfield Public Schools

TO: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Dr. Richard J. Sanzo, Director of Business and Operations
DATE: June 2, 2022
RE: Healthy Food Certification for Service Year (SY) 2022-2023

Background:

Healthy Food Certification (HFC) under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether the district will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals.

The CNS applies to all sources of food sales on school premises at all times including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises. Districts that choose the healthy food option of HFC receive an additional 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free, and reduced) served in the prior school year.

Historically, I have recommended that the Board not participate in the Healthy Food Certification due to limits it could place on certain school fundraising activities. These limitations outweighed the financial benefit to the school lunch program, particularly in a typical pre-pandemic year when program revenues exceeded expenditures. However, given significantly higher food costs and the sunseting of the “free meal” program by the USDA at the end of the school year, an additional 10 cents per lunch will bring in valuable additional revenue to offset rising costs along with anticipated lower participation rates. Additionally, an exemption is available for both food and beverage sales outside of the school day which can alleviate any potential limitations on fundraising activities. As a result, I am now recommending participation in the HFC based on the following actions below:

Recommended Action:

1) *Vote “Yes” to accept Healthy Food Certification for the SY 2022-2023*

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

2) *Vote “Yes” to allow food and beverage exemptions for after school hours and on weekends*

The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

exceed the teacher's full annual salary rate. In this instance, "full annual salary rate" shall be defined as that salary from which retirement would have been deducted. Normal health and life insurance shall be provided by the Board while a teacher is on sabbatical leave.

23.1.6. The teacher, as a condition to the acceptance of the sabbatical leave, shall agree in writing to return to employment in the system for a three (3) year period. In the event the teacher shall not so return, the teacher shall reimburse the Board fully for all sabbatical payments. A teacher who does not so reimburse the Board shall be responsible to the Board for all costs involved in collecting such reimbursement, including attorney's fees.

23.1.7. The teacher returning from sabbatical leave shall be placed on the appropriate step on the salary schedule as though he had been in active service in the system for the year of the sabbatical leave. The sabbatical shall not affect continuity of service nor accrual of seniority toward longevity benefits.

23.1.8. Final approval of a sabbatical leave is at the sole discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE 24.
EXCHANGE TEACHERS LEAVE

24.1. In any year teachers may be exchanged for teachers from some other school administration district in the United States or in a foreign country. Such exchange, requested by the teacher, shall be initially recommended by the Superintendent to the Board of Education, which shall recommend final action. All rights and privileges of the exchanged teacher shall continue in full force and effect during the exchange period.

ARTICLE 25.
CHILD REARING LEAVE

25.1. Teachers after the birth or adoption of a child, may use up to fifteen (15) sick leave days for the care of a newborn or adoptive child provided such leave is utilized immediately following the birth or adoption of a child. Teachers may apply for an additional extended leave of absence, without pay, for purposes of child rearing in accordance with the following provisions:

25.1.1. Such application must be submitted to the Superintendent, in writing, at least one (1) month prior to commencement of "child rearing leave."

25.1.2. Teachers who are granted child rearing leave shall have the opportunity to continue their insurance coverage as per this Agreement at their own expense.

25.1.3. The duration of child rearing leave shall be up to a maximum of one full school year beyond the school year in which such leave commenced. Teachers may only return from such leave at the beginning of a school year.

25.1.4. Upon reinstatement, the teacher shall be placed in the same position or substantially equivalent position. If the teacher served ninety-one (91) or more workdays in the year leave commenced, the teacher shall be placed upon reinstatement at the next higher step. If the teacher served ninety (90) days or less in the year leave was granted, the teacher shall be placed upon reinstatement at the same step he or she had attained during the year leave was taken.