

Board of Education Special Meeting 2022

Wednesday, June 15, 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. June 2, 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. Business Operations/Resource
Management (*Greg Flanagan*)

VI.D.2. Policy (*Samantha Mannion*)

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. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School
Building Project Update

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

VIII.A. School Start and End Times

IX. ACTION ITEMS

IX.A. Appointment of Assistant Principal(s) of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School

IX.B. Personnel Report

IX.C. STRIDES 2022-23 Revised Calendar

IX.D. End-of-Year Closeout for FY 2021-22

IX.E. Board of Education Policies Suspension of the Rules [referring to Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1]

IX.E.1. Policy 6141.51 - Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

IX.E.2. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

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

IX.G. Hiring and Assignment of an Additional Full-time SRO in the Schools *(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 REDUCTION IN FORCE

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – June 2, 2022

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

ABSENT: Kathy Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Consolidated School Assistant Principal Karen Gruetzner, Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel and Athletic Director Mark Ottusch

- 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. May 19, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Approved by consensus with the addition of Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the new Director of Business and Operations.
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:
 - Spoke of dyslexia and encouraged early screening for students.
 - Spoke of the events in Uvalde, Texas and encouraged everyone to stay vigilant.
 - B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the following:
 - Thanked Julie Luby and everyone involved in the district-wide art show and “Sing A Ma Jig.” The art show will run every day until June 8th.
 - Wished the Girls’ Lacrosse Team good luck in the State Games.
 - Introduced Carrie DePuy as the new Director of Business and Operations.
 - There are 11 more days left of school for the students.
 - Sent well wishes to the residents of Uvalde, Texas and assured everyone that security will be extra tight at the New Fairfield Schools.
 - Congratulated Melissa Busnel and Angie Mahoney on the STRIDES ribbon cutting.
 - Congratulated Paraprofessional of the Year Diane Rambadt and Teacher of the Year Kyle Kressu.
 - C. Student Representative Report

Junior Representative Grace DeMarco spoke of the following:

 - Girls’ Lacrosse will play tomorrow night at home at 5 p.m.

- The Art Show was a big success
- The Band Jam will be held on Wednesday, June 8th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Stephanie Strazza noted that this committee discussed the block schedules, including a hybrid model. There was an update on the Science of Reading, including dyslexia and early language disorders and mandates for curriculum. A Reading Task Force has been development to research this.

E. Liaison Reports - None

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Training of Athletic Coaches

Athletic Director Mark Ottusch gave a presentation regarding the rules and regulations for certification for all coaches in the district and what is needed for continuing education and training.

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Strings Program

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the Strings Program and noted that this was not in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She spoke of the challenges of financing the Strings Program and noted that next year's budget will be extremely tight since the ESSER funds will no longer be available. There was a discussion of whether or not to have a Strings Program and it was noted that a part-time strings teacher can be hired for now but there will be a greater need in the future as participation increases. The Board discussed participation rates for the Strings Program.

B. School Start and End Times - Tabled until a future meeting.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 26, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. 2022-2023 Budget Adjustments

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 Budget Adjustments as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. STRIDES 2022-2023 Calendar

Dr. Cosentino noted that the STRIDES calendar needs to be adjusted to coincide with the Naugatuck Valley Community College calendar in order to allow students to take classes there if desired.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 STRIDES school calendar as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. New Fairfield Public Schools 2022-2023 Revised Calendar

Dr. Cosentino noted that a data day in March needs to be changed.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 revised school calendar as presented. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

E. Healthy Food Certification

Dr. Cosentino noted that the district will be moving to a new food company and the consultant recommended taking the reimbursement per meal.

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend that the full Board that 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. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board that 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. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Child Reading Leave Request - Executive Session

G. Reduction in Force - Executive Session

H. Non-Union Salaries and Benefits - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Stephanie Strazza thanked Consolidated School Resource Officer Jason Casavecchia for his extraordinary help with a student.

Samantha Mannion congratulated the STRIDES Program on their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

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. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

MOTION: Stephanie Strazza made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Child Rearing Leave request, Reduction in Force, Non-Union Contract Negotiations and Appointment of Director of Business and Operations to invite Dr. Pat Cosentino and Jessica Krompinger (Child Rearing Leave Request) into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** 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 approval of the extended child rearing leave request for the 2022-23 school year for Jessica Krompinger. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion **OPPOSED:** 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 that as a result of the budget process, the carpenter position has been eliminated and the 2022-23 position will be Day Custodian at New Fairfield High School for Rudolph Sarro. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Ed Sbordone made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the non-union salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Ms. Carrie DePuy as Director of Business and Operations, effective July 1, 2022. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

NFPS Start and End Times

2021-2022	Start of Bus / Parent Drop Off	ELC	ELC	Start of Bus Dismissal	Parent Dismissal
HS	7:05 AM			1:54 PM	1:54 PM
MS	7:50 AM			2:40 PM	2:40 PM
MHHS	8:35 AM			3:17 PM	3:17 PM
CONS	8:35 AM			3:10 PM	3:10 PM
ELC	Vans 8:40 AM Parents 9:00 AM	AM Van & Parents 11:40 AM	PM Van & Parents 12:40 PM	Vans 3:00-3: 10 PM	3:20 PM

2022-2023 Changes in red	Bus / Parent Drop Off	ELC Morning Dismissal	ELC Afternoon Drop-off	Bus Dismissal	Parent Dismissal
HS	7:05 AM			2:05 PM	2:05 PM
MS	7:50 AM			2:50 PM	2:50 PM
CONS / MHHS	8:35 AM			3:30 PM	3:40 PM
ELC	Vans 8:40 AM Parents 9:00 AM	AM Van & Parents 11:50 AM	PM Van & Parents 12:50 PM	Vans 3:30-3: 40 PM	3:40 PM

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – STRIDES 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		

24-26 STRIDES Teacher PD/Work Days
 26 – STRIDES Para PD/Work Day
 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)

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

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

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)

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 & Para PD/Work Days
 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

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

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

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

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)

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

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~~
 29 - Data Day - *Early Dismissal, STRIDES
 students attending afternoon NVCC classes
 will be provided with support

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:
 June 2, 2022; **rev. 6/15/22**



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 15, 2022
RE: End of Year Closeout and Related Budget Transfers

Background:

In May 2020 and August 2021, the Board of Education authorized the Director of Business and Operations to make transfers that were necessary to respond to needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic in FY20 and FY21, respectively. During the current fiscal year, the Board of Education has approved transfers on a quarterly basis, largely due to the need to meet unanticipated special education costs.

As discussed throughout the past several months, current year-end projections continue to indicate a deficit position of approximately \$340,000 for the Board of Education operating budget. In order to mitigate this deficit as required under Connecticut State law, the district will be required to access the Excess Cost Grant, draw-down the non-lapsing account for unanticipated special education costs, and/or use the FY23 IDEA grant ahead of the planned schedule. While the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2022, the budget deficit will not be finalized until August 2022 when final payrolls are processed and vendor payments are made against open purchase orders.

While the Board of Education may not end the fiscal year in a deficit position, it is not required that all lines in the BOE budget close the fiscal year with a positive or zero balance. However, district auditors have recommended that the Board of Education authorize transfers such that no object total (i.e. payroll, benefits, professional services, property services, purchase services, supplies, equipment, or dues & fees) is in deficit.

To aid the district in meeting all obligations at the end of FY22 and to comply with auditor recommendations, I am requesting that the BOE reauthorize the Director of Business and Operations to make any necessary line item transfers to close FY22. Additionally, I am requesting that the Board of Education provide direction by authorizing the Director of Business and Operations to mitigate any deficit in the Board of Education budget by accessing funds, in priority order, as discussed in the Business Operations subcommittee.

Actions Requested:

- 1) That the Board of Education make a motion to authorize the Director of Business and Operations to make all necessary line item transfers to the FY22 education budget to ensure that no object is negative and that a report of such transfers made under this authority be presented to the Board of Education Business Operations / Resource Management Subcommittee in August 2022.
- 2) That the Board of Education make a motion to authorize the Director of Business and Operations to mitigate any final budget deficit in the FY22 Board of Education budget by, first, requesting additional excess cost grant funds be credited to the Board of Education budget by the town treasurer, second, utilizing up to \$125,000 from the non-lapsing account for unanticipated special education expenses, and, third, applying appropriate special education expenditures to the FY23 IDEA grant.

A new mandated policy beginning in the 2022-2023 school year to consider.

Instruction

Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Purpose

The Board of Education (Board) believes in the basic principle that academic rigor and the opportunity to accelerate learning are powerful motivators for students to meet intellectual challenges and excel in the academic environment. The Board supports advanced courses and programs that promote academic acceleration. All students at the high school level will be provided an opportunity to participate in a rigorous and academically challenging curriculum.

The Board encourages students to pursue rigorous, challenging academic coursework such as, but not limited to, honors classes, dual enrollment, dual credit, advanced placement classes, International Baccalaureate courses, and the Cambridge International Program.

The Board, to encourage student participation in advanced courses or programs, will communicate information about advanced courses or programs to students and parents; offer district-wide counseling to students about the benefits of advanced level courses and programs; and annually report on District progress toward increasing students' readiness and participation for advanced courses or programs.

The benefits of advanced coursework opportunities are not limited to one particular model.

Definitions

An **“advanced course or program”** is defined as an honors class, advanced placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge International Program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by the Board of Education in grades 9-12, inclusive.

“Prior academic performance” means the course or courses that a student has taken, the grades received for each course, and a student's grade point average.

Procedures/Criteria/Guiding Principles

The Board is aware that minority students are chronically underrepresented in advanced level high school courses and programs of similar rigor. Low awareness of advanced courses and programs, insufficient preparation, and fear of social isolation prevent low-income and minority students from enrolling in such courses or programs. Further, other barriers to participation include the failure to identify students with potential, insufficient motivation and incentives on behalf of teachers and/or students, and funding.

An emphasis on equity must include a focus on increasing student's access to rigorous learning opportunities to assist all students to be prepared for success after high school. The following District and school-level principles will contribute to fostering greater equity in student participation in advanced courses or programs:

Instruction

Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Procedures/Criteria/Guiding Principles (continued)

1. Provide a course sequence and foundation-building in earlier grades, ensuring high expectations for all students, that makes later advanced coursework a viable option;
2. Create multiple access points to advanced courses and programs, allowing students to access these programs at various points of their high-school experience;
3. Use only enrollment access criteria that are educationally necessary;
4. Use multiple methods by which a student may satisfy eligibility criteria for enrollment, including but not limited to:
 - a. Recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors, or other school personnel;
 - b. Criteria not exclusively based on a student's prior academic performance;
 - c. Use of a student's prior academic performance must rely on evidence-based indicators of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program;
 - d. GPA improvement over time;
 - e. Scoring near benchmark on local assessments;
 - f. Student interests and persistence.
5. Offer a robust set of student supports, which can include tutoring, access to technology, and support from school counselors, that help all students succeed in advanced courses or programs; and
6. Publish and disseminate materials that encourage all students to participate in advanced courses and programs and making these materials available in multiple languages.

In order to access advanced courses or programs students need to complete sufficiently difficult coursework at the middle school level. This equitable course enrollment policy is based on rigorous learning opportunities for all students in elementary and middle grades.

High school students willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum shall be admitted to an advanced course or program as defined in this policy. Students who have successfully completed the prerequisite course work or have otherwise demonstrated mastery of the prerequisite content knowledge and have permission from the course instructor to participate will be allowed to enroll in advanced courses or programs offered by the District. The student must request the course or program through the guidance counselor.

District administrators and guidance counselors shall advise students and parents/guardians of the opportunity to participate in advanced courses or programs as defined in this policy. When students' success plans are prepared and revised, the academic component shall include appropriate preparatory courses and advanced course and program participation. Teachers shall also encourage students to take challenging courses.

Instruction

Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Procedures/Criteria/Guiding Principles (continued)

The Board seeks an equitable course enrollment policy that limits prerequisites and entrance requirements to those that are directly related to a student's potential for success. Therefore, multiple measures must be used to identify students for advanced coursework so that no single measure excludes their participation.

Advanced courses or programs must comply with applicable District policies and state standards and this policy must be in accordance with SDE promulgated guidance.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure the development and/or identification of program stipulations, eligibility criteria, student attendance and discipline standards/expectations and criteria for continuation in advanced courses or programs, and shall ensure the development and/or identification of procedures for students encountering difficulty and/or wishing to drop advanced courses.

Evaluation

The Board will review annually data on student participation in advanced courses or programs, the data shall be disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and free/reduced lunch participation. Such data will be used during the planning process for course and program offerings in the upcoming school year.

(cf. 6141.4 – Independent Study)
(cf. 6141.5 – Advanced College Placement)
(cf. 6172.1 – Gifted and Talented Students)
(6141.52 – Challenging Curriculum Policy)
(cf. 6141.7 – Honors Programs)
(cf. 6172.6 – Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 P.A. 21-199 Section 3
 10-221r Advanced placement course program. Guidelines.
 District Guidance for Developing an Advanced Course Participation Policy

Policy adopted:
cps 4/22

Existing policy 6172.1 with modification based on P.A. 21-199 and update to legal reference.

Instruction

Gifted and Talented Students Program

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes its responsibility to identify gifted and talented students within the school district [and to provide these students with appropriate instructional adaptations and services]. (*Districts are required to identify but provision of services is at the discretion of the local district.*) The Board is committed to providing identification and assessment which is responsive to students' economic conditions, gender, developmental differences, disabling conditions and cultural diversity.

For purposes of this policy, "gifted and talented students" means a child identified by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) as (A) possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of very superior intellectual, creative or specific academic capability and (B) needing differentiated instruction or services beyond those being provided in the general education program in order to realize the child's intellectual, creative or specific academic potential. The term shall include children with extraordinary learning ability and children with outstanding talent in the creative arts.

For purposes of this policy "outstanding talent in the creative arts" means a child identified by the Planning and Placement Team as gifted and talented on the basis of demonstrated or potential achievement in music, the visual arts or the performing arts.

~~Gifted students are those with outstanding learning abilities or outstanding talent in the creative arts.~~

The school district shall provide educational programs for the gifted and talented including a broad spectrum of learning experiences to:

1. broaden and deepen knowledge and to develop skills necessary for the student to function successfully in society;
2. encourage students to excel in areas of special competence and interest.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures for an ongoing kindergarten through grade twelve identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in intellectual ability, creativity or a specific academic area.

Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, tests of academic achievement, aptitude, intelligence, and creativity; achievement test scores; grades; student performance or products; samples of student work; parent, student, and/or teacher recommendations; and other appropriate measures. The identification methodology will include consideration of all students, including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans, be developmentally appropriate, non-discriminatory, and related to the programs and services offered by the District.

The final determination in the identification of students as gifted and/or talented must be done by a PPT. Such PPT charged with this responsibility shall be composed of a group of certified or licensed professionals representing each of the teaching, administrative and pupil personnel staffs.

Instruction

Gifted and Talented Students Program (continued)

Though early identification of the gifted and talented is important, it is essential that the identification of these students be recognized as an initial step in a continuing educational process. Also, special abilities and skills appear at different times in children's lives.

Accordingly, the school district recognizes the importance of providing programs for gifted and talented students. The school district will review the guidelines, developed and promulgated by the State Department of Education (SDE), for providing services to those students. The guidelines include best practices for the district to consider for (1) addressing the intellectual, social and emotional needs of gifted and talented students in schools and (2) providing teacher training and professional development on gifted and talented students.

Upon the identification of a student as gifted and talented, the District shall provide electronic notice of such identification to the parent/guardian of such student. Such notice shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. an explanation of how such student was identified as gifted and talented,
2. the contact information for the District's employee in charge of the provision of services to gifted and talented students, or, if there is no such employee, the District's employee in charge of the provision of special education and related services,
3. the employee at the State Department of Education who has been designated as responsible for providing information and assistance to boards of education and parents or guardians of students related to gifted and talented students, pursuant to section 10-3e of the General Statutes, and
4. any associations in the state that provide support to gifted and talented students.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-76a-(e) Definitions.
10-76d-(e) Duties and powers of Boards of Education to provide special education programs and services.
Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sections 10-76a-1–10-76l-1.
P.A. 17-82 An Act Concerning Services for Gifted and Talented Students.
P.A. 19-184 An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education.
Gifted and Talented Education: Guidance Regarding Identification and Service. SDE Guidance, March 2019.
P.A. 21-199 An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Statutes Relating to Education and Workforce Development, Section 2.

Policy adopted: September 16, 2010
Policy revised: May 3, 2018
Policy revised: December 5, 2019
Policy revised:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut