

# Board of Education Regular Meeting 2022

Thursday, August 4, 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 15, 2022 - Special

III.B. June 20, 2022 - Special

## 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.B.1. Leadership Retreat

VI.B.2. Entry Plan

VI.C. Committee Reports

VI.C.1. Special Education Ad Hoc (Stephanie Strazza)

VI.D. Liaison Reports

VI.D.1. Board of Finance (Ed Sbordone)

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII.A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

VII.B. Enrollment

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

VIII.A. Personnel Report

VIII.B. Board of Education Policy Suspension of the Rules [referring to Policy 6141.52]

VIII.B.1. Policy 6141.52 – Challenging Curriculum Policy

VIII.C. Acceptance of Donations

VIII.C.1. Anonymous Donation for NFHS Boys' Swim Team

VIII.C.2. New Fairfield Youth Basketball Inc.

**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. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – June 15, 2022**

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

**ABSENT:** Amy Johnson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Allyson Story and Special Education Supervisor Melissa Busnel

**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. June 2, 2022 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - approved by consensus

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kathy Baker thanked everyone who participated in the “Surprise a Senior” and all the events related to graduation. Graduation will be held this Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> with the Post Grad party to follow.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the following:

- Noted that this is the last meeting of the school year, and the Board will not meet in July.
- He noted that this is the last meeting for Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and wished her well in all her future endeavors.

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

- Congratulated all the graduates.
- Thanked the community for all who supported the Senior Class, especially with the SEE projects.
- Thursday, Friday and Monday are early dismissal days.
- Congratulated the Girls’ Lacrosse Team for winning State Champions for the fifth consecutive year.
- The district has received SBAC preliminary data and is showing significant growth in Math and ELA.
- Noted that this was her last meeting and thanked the BOE and the entire New Fairfield community for all their help and support during her tenure at New Fairfield.

C. Student Representative Report - None

#### D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on June 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the current year's budget. The budget falls in line with previous years. The projected year-end may have a deficit, but it is better than last year. He spoke of the bids for the food service which is required every five years. The new food service company will be Chartwells.

2. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that the Policy Subcommittee met on June 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed three state mandated policies related to Gifted and Talented students. Two of the policies are on tonight's agenda for approval. The third policy needed to be tabled due to a requirement that the district cannot comply with. They are waiting for an opinion from the legal department.

#### E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF is meeting tonight at 7:30 for their regular monthly meeting. They also met on June 13 for an information and training session regarding full inclusion and respect for people with disabilities. The Director of Special Education and her staff have been invited to speak at the July 20<sup>th</sup> BOF meeting.

2. Parks and Recreations Committee - Greg Flanagan noted that the first outdoor movie of the year, Encanto, will be held on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a concert on Memorial Field on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Town Beach will be open full-time beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>. Beach passes are available online or in the Parks and Rec office.

3. School Security and Safety Committee - This committee met on June 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed two items that will be discussed later in the meeting in Executive Session.

### VII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Cosentino gave an update on the school building project. Furniture, fixtures and equipment and technology selections are being made in the near future. The Consolidated/MHHS building is getting ready for the Fall 2022 opening and the staff is busy moving from the original building.

Dr. Cosentino noted that the Zoning Commission did not approve the bus lot at the former Consolidated School. The PBC will be meeting next week to discuss alternative options.

### VIII. **INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

#### A. School Start and End Times

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the school start and end times for the 2022-23 school year as presented. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

### IX. **ACTION ITEMS**

#### A. Appointment of Assistant Principals of Consolidated and Meeting House Hill Schools

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Jennifer Hilderbrand as Assistant Principal of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School, effective July 1, 2022. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

**IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the appointment of Steven Groccia as Assistant Principal of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School, effective July 1, 2022. Samantha Mannion the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Allyson Story introduced both Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia and gave a brief description of their respective backgrounds. Both Jennifer and Steve gave a brief description of their backgrounds and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

B. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for June 13, 2022, as recommended by the administration. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Kathy Baker spoke of the resignation of James Mandracchia and wished him the best of luck in his new position.

C. STRIDES 2022-2023 Revised Calendar

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

D. End-of Year Closeout for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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

E. Board of Education Policies

Suspension of the Rules (referring to Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1)

1. Policy 6141.5 - Advanced courses or Programs, Eligibility criteria for enrollment
2. Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Board of Education Policies 6141.51 & 6172.1 as presented. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

F. Reduction in Force - Executive Session

G. Hiring and Assignment of an Additional Full-time SRO in the Schools - Executive Session

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Greg Flanagan welcomed both Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to Consolidated/MHHS and thanked Dr. Pat Cosentino for all her hard work during her tenure as Superintendent of Schools and wished her well in the future.

Ed Sbordone wished Dr. Pat Cosentino the best of luck in the future.

Stephanie Strazza welcomed Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to Consolidated/MHHS and thanked Dr. Pat Cosentino for all her hard work during her tenure as Superintendent of Schools and wished her well in the future. She spoke of the wonderful step-up ceremony for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

Kimberly LaTourette congratulated the seniors on their graduation encouraged the teachers and staff to have a very relaxing summer.

Dominic Cipollone welcomed Jennifer Hilderbrand and Steve Groccia to the district.

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

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

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at approximately 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Reduction in Force and School Security and Safety and invite Dr. Pat Cosentino into the Executive Session. 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

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at approximately 8:07 p.m. 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 recommend to the full Board that as a result of administrative restructuring at Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School, the Principal position has been eliminated and the 2022-23 position will be Assistant Principal at Consolidated School/Meeting House Hill School for Robert Spino. Kimberly LaTourette 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 approval of the hiring and assignment of an additional full-time SRO for the New Fairfield School. District. Stephanie Strazza **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, June 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the New Fairfield High School Library/Media Center, 54 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – June 20, 2022**

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

**ABSENT:** Kathy Baker and Stephanie Strazza

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino, Director of Business and Operations Dr. Richard Sanzo, High School Principal James D’Amico, Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes and BOF Chairman Wes Marsh

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Samantha Mannion made the following motion as a representative of the New Fairfield Board of Education Superintendent Search Committee.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept the contract, as executed, for the new Superintendent of Schools. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion that resolved, that the New Fairfield Board of Education elect Dr. Kenneth Craw to the position of Superintendent of Schools for a three-year period, commencing on July 1, 2022. Such election is subject to the terms and stipulation of a duly executed contract presented by the Search Committee to the New Fairfield Board of Education, and hereby approved by said Board of Education.

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

Dr. Craw thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for New Fairfield. He gave a brief description of his background and introduced various members of his family who were in attendance.

**IV. ED099 - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board to authorize Dr. Kenneth Craw and Carrie DePuy to sign the ED099 and to sign the claims for reimbursement. Dominic Cipollone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Kloos

**New Fairfield Public Schools K-12 Enrollment - Updated 8/2/22**

	Currently Enrolled	In Process	Exiting	*Anticipated sections at time of budget	*Anticipated Enrollment	*Anticipated class sizes at time of budget	Total as of 7/15/22	Current Section Count	Current Class Size
K	54	78	0	8	135	16.9	132	8	16.5
1	131	9	1	7	129	18.4	139	7	19.9
2	137	6	0	7	137	19.6	143	7	20.4
3	152	6	0	7	153	21.9	158	7	22.6
4	129	6	1	6	132	22.0	134	6	22.3
5	161	6	0	7	159	22.7	167	7	23.9
6	152	4	0	8	153	19.1	156	8	19.5
7	174	1	0	8	176	22.0	175	8	21.9
8	156	4	0	8	160	20.0	160	8	20.0
9*	176	12	8	*includes 19 current 8th graders in application stage for other high schools			180		
10	178	8	0				186		
11	178	5	1				182		
12	145	3	0				148		
		148	* Based on BoE presentation on 1/20/22 using 10/1/21 enrollment data						

	Currently Enrolled	In Process	Exiting	TOTAL	Anticipated Enrollment
CONS	322	93	1	414	401
MHHS	442	16	1	457	444
NFMS	482	9	0	491	489
NFHS	677	28	9	696	677

Does not include ELC

**District 2058**

Printed 8/2/22

**New Fairfield Public Schools - ELC Enrollment by Morning Sections**

<b>Class # 1 AM</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Class # 2 AM</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Class # 3 AM</b>	<b>Student</b>
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student
6	Special Education Student	6	Special Education Student (not currently registered)	6	Special Education Student
7	Birth to Three Student (December)	7	Birth to Three Student (November)	7	Special Education Student
8	Birth to Three Student (November)	8	Birth to Three Student (November)	8	Special Education Student (not currently registered)
9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer
10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer
11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer
13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)
14	Typical Peer (registration in process)	14	Typical Peer (registration in process) #1	14	Typical Peer (registration in process)
15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (from waitlist)
16	HOLD for referrals	16	HOLD for referrals	16	HOLD for referrals

**Total on  
9/6/22 6- Sped, 7-Typical**

**Total on 9/6/22 5- Sped, 7-Typical (1 of which is in referral)**

**Total on 9/6/22 7 Sped, 7- Typical**

**Updated  
8/2/22** Printed 8/2/22

**New Fairfield Public Schools - ELC Enrollment by Afternoon Sections**

<b>Class # 1 PM</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>Class # 2 PM</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>Class # 3 PM</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student
6	Special Education Student	6	In referral #2	6	Birth to Three Student (March)
7	Birth to Three Student (May)	7	Move in (September)	7	Birth to Three Student (March)
8	Birth to Three Student (June)	8	Birth to Three Student (January)	8	Birth to Three Student (June)
9	Birth to Three Student (December)	9	Birth to Three Student (February)	9	Registered Typical Peer
10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer
11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Typical Peer (registration in process)
13	Typical Peer (registration in process)	13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)
14	Typical Peer (registration in process)	14	Registered Typical Peer	14	Typical Peer (registration in process)
15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (registration in process) #3
16	HOLD for referrals	16	HOLD for referrals	16	HOLD for referrals

**Total on  
9/6/22 6- Sped, 6-Typical**

**Total on  
9/6/22 5- Sped, 6 -Typical, 2- in referral**

**Total on  
9/6/22 5- Sped, 7-Typical (1 of which will be referred)**

**Updated  
8/2/22**

Printed 8/2/22

**Sherman Enrollment in New Fairfield High School**

**As of August 4, 2022**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
9			5	7
10			8	5
11			4	8
12			12	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>

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

## **Instruction**

### **Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students)**

The Board of Education (Board) believes academically advanced courses and/or programs are designed to motivate students to understand rigorous content. The Board recognizes its responsibility to identify these students in grades 8 and 9, in compliance with Section 5 of P.A. 21-199, and to provide them with appropriate instructional adaptations and services. Any student who is capable of and wishes to do advanced course work or take an accelerated course or program, as detailed in this policy should be permitted to do so (in grades 8 and 9).

An “**advanced course or program**” as defined in this policy means 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. Such courses or programs are specifically designed to extend, enrich, and/or accelerate the standard school program in order to meet the needs of District students.

The Board’s goal is to create a culture of deliberate excellence through its commitment to all students who have the capability, potential, or motivation to access advanced academic curriculum and instruction. The Board desires to nurture potential in all students and to challenge students with advanced capabilities through differentiation and responsive instruction. The needs of advanced and high potential learners will be equitability addressed across all populations.

In compliance with Section 5 of P.A. 21-199, the Board adopts this “challenging curriculum policy” aligned with State Department of Education (SDE) guidance. This policy includes, as required, the criteria for the identification of students in grades 8 and 9 who may be eligible to take or enroll in an advanced course or program, as defined, and that such identified students have an academic plan.

Priority placement will be given to students identified as gifted, as per policy #6172.1, “Gifted and Talented Students.”

District middle schools ~~will~~ **may** offer advanced academic classes in the four content areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

Students taking high school credit courses in the middle school are required to meet all expectations for earning course credit applicable to meeting high school graduation requirements.

## **Criteria**

For purposes of this policy these are students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability in one or more content areas when compared to their chronological peers in the District and who would benefit from advanced courses or programs in order to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.

## **Instruction**

### **Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students)**

#### **Criteria** (continued)

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures for an ongoing identification process that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in intellectual ability, creativity or a specific academic area. The identification process shall include consideration of all students including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans or 504 Plans.

The purposes of identification are to find students who display characteristics which make them eligible for the taking of advanced courses or programs, as defined; to assess the aptitudes, attributes, and behaviors of each student; and to evaluate each student for the purposes of placement. Student aptitudes, attributes and academic behaviors will be identified, assessed and reviewed through a multistep, multimodal, and multidimensional identification system.

Students who experience success in advanced courses or programs typically exhibit the following characteristics: reading at or above grade level; strong study skills and self-motivation; proficient oral and written communication skills; self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out tasks to completion; and interest and self-directedness in the particular subject.

Such students may be found within any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group; within any nationality; within both genders; and within populations of students with disabilities.

#### **Identification Process**

Identification is a multistep process, which shall consist of screening and referral, assessment of eligibility and placement/enrollment.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is directed to develop and document appropriate curricular and instructional modifications and/or programs for such identified students, in grades 8 and 9, indicating content, process, products and learning environments.

The identification process shall include the following:

- Identification of students with:
  - Superior cognitive ability;
  - Specific academic ability in one or more of the following content areas; math, science, language arts, social studies (consistently received grades of “B” or higher in the core content areas);
  - Creative thinking ability; and
  - Giftedness.

## **Instruction**

### **Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students)**

#### **Identification Process** (continued)

- Teacher recommendations/referrals
- Referrals from parents, students
- Placement tests if available
- Parental approval

Detailed information will be made available on the District website regarding this policy and the procedures used to identify students who would benefit from enrollment in advanced courses or programs, and the required academic plan.

#### **Academic Plan**

Each identified student shall develop an academic plan for the period grade 8 through high school. The plan, developed with the assistance of parents/guardians and with the advice and recommendations of school personnel, shall be reviewed annually. The plan is to include a list of courses and learning activities/programs in which the student will engage while working toward the fulfillment of graduation requirements.

The student's academic plan must be designed to enroll the identified student in one or more advanced courses or programs and allow the student to earn high school and college credit or result in career readiness.

The academic plan must be aligned with the following:

1. the courses or programs currently offered by the Board of Education;
2. the student's student success plan;
3. the high school graduation requirements established in state law; and
4. any other Board-adopted policies or standards relating to student enrollment eligibility for advanced courses or programs.

A student or his or her parent/guardian have the right to decline the implementation of the provisions of the academic plan.

The academic plan enables a student to take a deeper look into what the high school years and beyond will look like. The student needs to be honest about himself/herself and consider their interests, strengths, likes, dislikes, as well as who they aspire to be as an individual. The plan should be updated as necessary and at a minimum, at least once a year.

## Instruction

### Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students)

#### Academic Plan (continued)

Beginning in the middle school years, students must be counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education prior to high school graduation. Such opportunities include access to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate, or Cambridge courses or college-level courses for degree credit. Wherever possible, students shall be encouraged and offered opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment) upon approval of the Principal prior to such participation, the willingness of the college to accept the student for admission to the course or courses.

(cf. 6141.4 – Independent Study)

(cf. 6141.5 – Advanced College Placement)

(cf. 6141.51 – Advanced Courses or Programs-Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment)

(cf. 6141.7 – Honors Programs)

(cf. 6172.1 – Gifted and Talented Students)

(cf. 6172.6 – Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 21-199 Section 5

10-221r Advanced placement course program. Guidelines.

District Guidance for Developing an Advanced Course Participation Policy

Policy adopted:

cps 4/22

**NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

**GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

This form must be completed and submitted for all in-kind and monetary donations to a school or the district. Donations valued at \$1,000 or more require BOE approval before acceptance of the donation or depositing of funds. A letter of acceptance will be sent by the appropriate staff member with a copy to the superintendent's office.

**DATE:** June 24, 2022

**SCHOOL:** New Fairfield High School

**TYPE OF DONATION AND QUANTITY:** Monetary

**CONDITION/AGE OF ITEM DONATED:** N/A

**DONOR:** Anonymous

**SCHOOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF ITEM(S):** At donor's request, the donation is to be used for the boys' swim team for the 2022-23 school year.

**APPROXIMATE VALUE:** \$1,000

The approximate value denoted above has been supplied by the donor. The New Fairfield Public Schools does not attest to the accuracy of this value. It is the donor's responsibility for documentation to support this valuation for tax or any other purposes.

**NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

**GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

This form must be completed and submitted for all in-kind and monetary donations to a school or the district. Donations valued at \$1,000 or more require BOE approval before acceptance of the donation or depositing of funds. A letter of acceptance will be sent by the appropriate staff member with a copy to the superintendent's office.

**DATE:** July 8, 2022

**SCHOOL:** New Fairfield High School

**TYPE OF DONATION AND QUANTITY:** Monetary

**CONDITION/AGE OF ITEM DONATED:** N/A

**DONOR:** New Fairfield Youth Basketball Inc.

**SCHOOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF ITEM(S):** To be used for the replacement of the High School and Middle School gym scoreboards. This donation will be combined with check #1703 in the amount of \$3,000 from the Old Timers Athletic Association per Athletic Director Mark Ottusch.

**APPROXIMATE VALUE:** \$10,000

The approximate value denoted above has been supplied by the donor. The New Fairfield Public Schools does not attest to the accuracy of this value. It is the donor's responsibility for documentation to support this valuation for tax or any other purposes.