

Board of Education Regular Meeting 2023

Thursday, June 1, 2023 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 18, 2023 - 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.D.2. Special Education Ad Hoc (*Stephanie Strazza*)

VI.E. Liaison Reports

VI.E.1. Board of Finance (*Ed Sbordone*)

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII.A. New Fairfield High School Schedule Update

VII.B. District Priorities Progress

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

VIII.A. FY24 Budget

IX. ACTION ITEMS

IX.A. Personnel Report

IX.B. Healthy Food Certification

IX.C. New Textbook Adoption Suspension of the Rules
[referring to *Mosa Mack Science – Middle School*]

1. *Mosa Mack Science – Middle School*

IX.D. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request (*To be voted on after Executive Session*)

IX.E. Custodian Leave of Absence Request (*To 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 PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

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

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

MINUTES – May 18, 2023

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

ABSENT: Samantha Mannion

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, Pupil Personnel Director Katherine Matz, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Elementary School Assistant Principal Steven Groccia, Elementary School Assistant Principal Jennifer Hilderbrand, Supervisor of Special Education Melissa Busnel, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, and Selectman Khris Hall

Broadcast Coordinator Quintin Flower 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. May 4, 2023 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Amy Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda to add Action Item E “Vote to rescind censure of BOE member at the April 25th meeting.” Tim Blair seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jeff Guiliano spoke in support of the budget and encouraged everyone to vote this Sat. May 20th. Rick Regan spoke of the budget and his concerns with the advisory questions on the ballot. Lisa Tramazzo encouraged everyone to vote yes for the budget on May 20th.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Dominic Cipollone reported on the following:

- Spoke of lessons learned from the budget process. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

B. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Crow

- Spoke of an awards banquet at the at the Amber Room. Four students of the district were awarded the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents award.
- Announced the Elementary School Assistant Principal Steven Groccia will be leaving the district to take a job as Assistant Superintendent for the Cos Cob district. He congratulated Mr. Groccia on this opportunity and thanked him for the work he has done in New Fairfield.
- Announced that Supervisor of Special Education Melissa Busnel will be returning to the classroom as a teacher. A search will be conducted for her replacement as Supervisor of Special Education in the near future.

C. Student Representatives' Report

Junior Representative Brennan Hearty spoke of the following:

- Juniors will be taking NGSS Science testing next week.
- The High School and Middle School Art Show will be next week.
- Final exams will be conducted from June 14th to 19th.
- High School graduation will be held on June 16th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan gave the following report: The Business Operations Subcommittee met on May 18th. They reviewed the budget from April 30th and projected a worst-case scenario deficit of approximately \$391,550. This deficit may be lowered by applying SPED Contingency, School Heating Assistance, Excess Cost Grant, and ARPA and ESSER funds. There may also be other savings in the operating budget to offset this deficit.

The subcommittee discussed the Building Projects and noted that the high school project remains on time and on budget but abatement will cease until the end of the year. The elementary school punch list is still being worked on and the roof is leaking again. The issue with the leak has been identified and will be addressed soon. The playground at the elementary school will be closed for two weeks in the summer for repairs.

The subcommittee reviewed the per pupil expenditure for the district and noted that many factors go into determining this number. They noted that it is not the ideal measurement to compare district costs.

The subcommittee discussed attrition and how it affects the budget.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone gave a summary of the BOF meeting from May 17th. The following motion were made:

- A motion to require anyone making a public comment to state their names before speaking was denied.
- A motion to approve the Suspense List from the Tax Collector was approved.
- A motion to approve the audit firm of PKF O'Connor Davies was approved.

2. Parks and Rec Commission - Kimberly LaTourette noted that this commission met on May 8th and discussed the following:

- A new Field Fees Committee is being formed.

- The pavilion at Rebel Turf is currently run under the auspices of the Parks and Rec Commission. They discussed the possibility of handing this responsibility over to the Board of Education.
- The Sip and Stroll will be held on Saturday, May 20th.
- A Waterfront Director is still needed for this season.
- The Day Camp is almost full for the summer. There is a maximum of 150 campers per week.
- There will be Boat Dock Attendants on duty this summer from Thursdays to Sundays.
- The first outdoor movie will be on Friday, June 16th at Memorial Field.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Attitudes and Behavior Survey

Dr. Craw spoke of the Attitudes and Behavior survey designed to give information to the district to provide the safest possible environment for students.

High School Principal James D'Amico spoke of the survey and introduced Kathy Hanley from the Western Connecticut Coalition and Reverend Liz Yoho from the New Fairfield Prevention Council. He also thanked everyone on the follow-up team. He gave a brief overview of the data from the responses.

Behavioral Health Director from Western Connecticut Coalition Kathy Hanley spoke of the role of the coalition and how it supports prevention councils. She spoke of external and internal assets and opportunities for growth. Reverend Liz Yoho from the New Fairfield Prevention Council spoke of four core measures and the Community Asset Challenge in order to promote less risky behavior.

Members of the BOE thanked the Prevention Council. A calendar of Prevention Council meetings will be made available and all members of the public are encouraged to get involved.

B. Safety and Security Update - Executive Session

VIII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

A. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Dr. Craw gave an updated scenario of the budget reductions for the 2023-2024 budget. These reductions include \$800,000 from the operating budget and \$100,000 from the Capital and Nonrecurring budget. He spoke of how the resignation of Steven Groccia affects the budget and how some programs can be restored.

MOTION: Tim Blair made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 budget scenario as presented, pending the outcome of the budget referendum. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for May 16, 2023, as recommended by the administration. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. New Textbook Adoption

Suspension of the Rules - referring to *EdGems* Core Math - Middle School

1. *EdGems* Core Math - Middle School

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to suspend the rules referring to new textbook adoption of *EdGems* Core Math - Middle School. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the following new textbook: *EdGems* Core Math - Middle School. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

C. Healthy Food Certification

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

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to 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, 2023 through June 30, 2024. 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. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **OPPOSED:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

D. 2023-2024 STRIDES Calendar

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Katherine Matz spoke of the need to have the calendar for the STRIDES program in order to accommodate students in the STRIDES program that wish to attend classes at Naugatuck Valley Community College. This calendar includes the required 180 days of school.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2023-24 STRIDES school calendar as presented. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

E. Vote to Rescind Censure of BOE Member

Amy Johnson spoke of her desire to have the censure of her at the April 25th meeting rescinded. She noted that other members of the Board of Education have made similar comments and she should not be singled out. Tim Blair spoke of his regret in voting yes to censure Amy Johnson at the April 25th meeting and noted that there have been questionable social media posts in the past by other Board members. Ed Sbordone noted that if there have been other violations by BOE members, that they should be brought before the BOE.

MOTION: Amy Johnson made a motion to rescind the censure made against her at the April 25,

2023, meeting. Tim Blair seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair and Amy Johnson,

OPPOSED: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathy Baker spoke of the Post-Grad party that will be held on Friday, June 16th at Quassy. She spoke of “Surprise a Senior” and encouraged residents to go onto Facebook page to connect with a high school senior that has yet to be selected.

Millie Kellogg thanked Dr. Craw for the updated budget scenario. She encouraged everyone to vote in favor the budget on Saturday, May 20th but to answer “too low” for the advisory question.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dominic Cipollone asked for a report of the SEE Project for the High School Seniors. He asked for an overview and a comparison of the SEE Project with other districts. He suggested that his report be sent to the Curriculum Subcommittee first. The SEE Fair will be held on Tuesday, June 13th.

Greg Flanagan asked for a report regarding if other districts charge spectators for athletic events.

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kimberly LaTourette noted that High School Senior Ryan Fitzpatrick will be holding a wheelchair basketball tournament on May 24th at 5 p.m. in the high school to raise funds for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Team. Donations for this event are welcome.

Ed Sbordone asked about the attendance of Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members at tonight’s meeting. It was noted that First Selectmen Pat Del Monaco and Selectman Khris Hall were in attendance. No members of the Board of Finance were in attendance.

Stephanie Strazza thanked Dr. Craw for considering student needs in restoring some of the programs in the budget.

Dominic Cipollone encouraged everyone to engage with and get to know young members of the public.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss a Safety and Security Update and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Crow and Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy into the Executive Session. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

High School Bell Schedule Research Update

June 1, 2023

Progress

- **Last Presentation (October 2022)**
 - Presented priorities, schedule types, research, suggested readings
- **Tonight:**
 - Share information from surveys of students, teachers and parents/guardians
 - Student in-person feedback and reaction to schedule models
 - Choice of schedule model to pilot based on this feedback

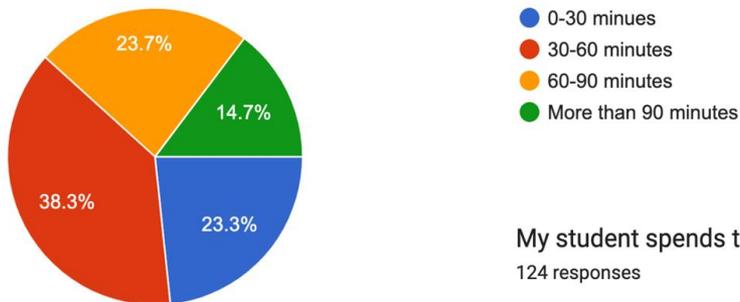
Survey Overview

- Committee wanted to focus on a few key areas that may impact student learning:
 - Time spent preparing for school/homework
 - Balance with after school activities
 - Length of classes/Use of time

Homework-Time Spent Each Night

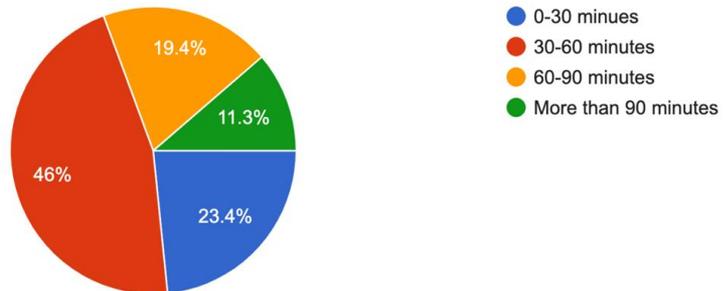
I spend the following amount of time each night on homework or other assignments:

300 responses



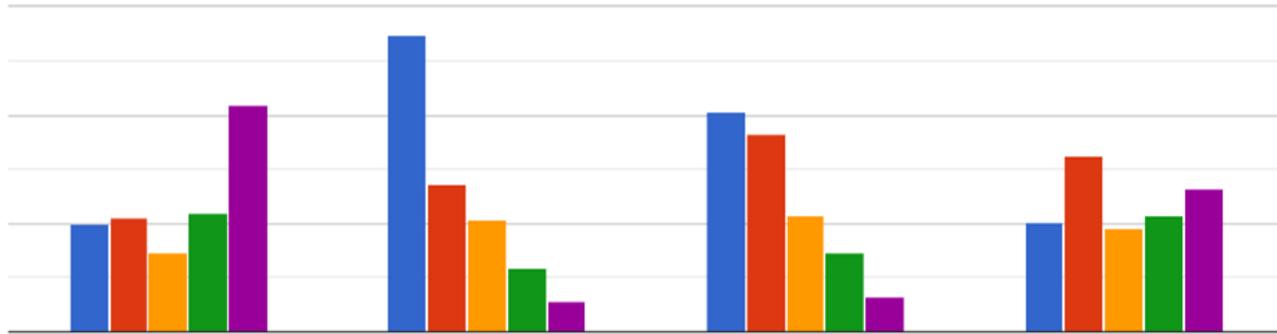
My student spends the following amount of time EACH NIGHT on homework or other assignments:

124 responses



Students- Length of Period

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree



I would prefer to have more of my classes for shorter lengths each day (for example, 6 classes that are 55 minutes long)

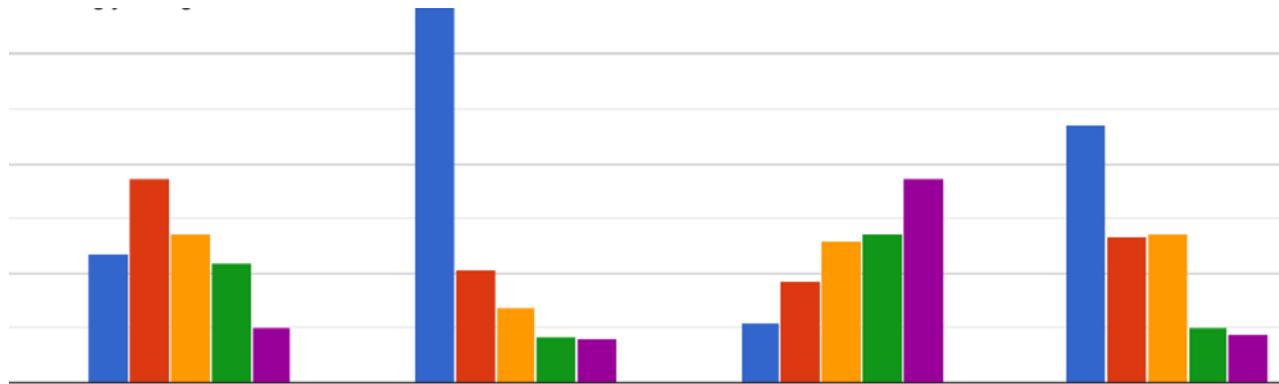
Having only half of my classes each day is preferable to having shorter classes

My teachers use the 84 minute block periods effectively

I am usually able to pay attention in class for the whole period

Students- Time to Complete Work

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree



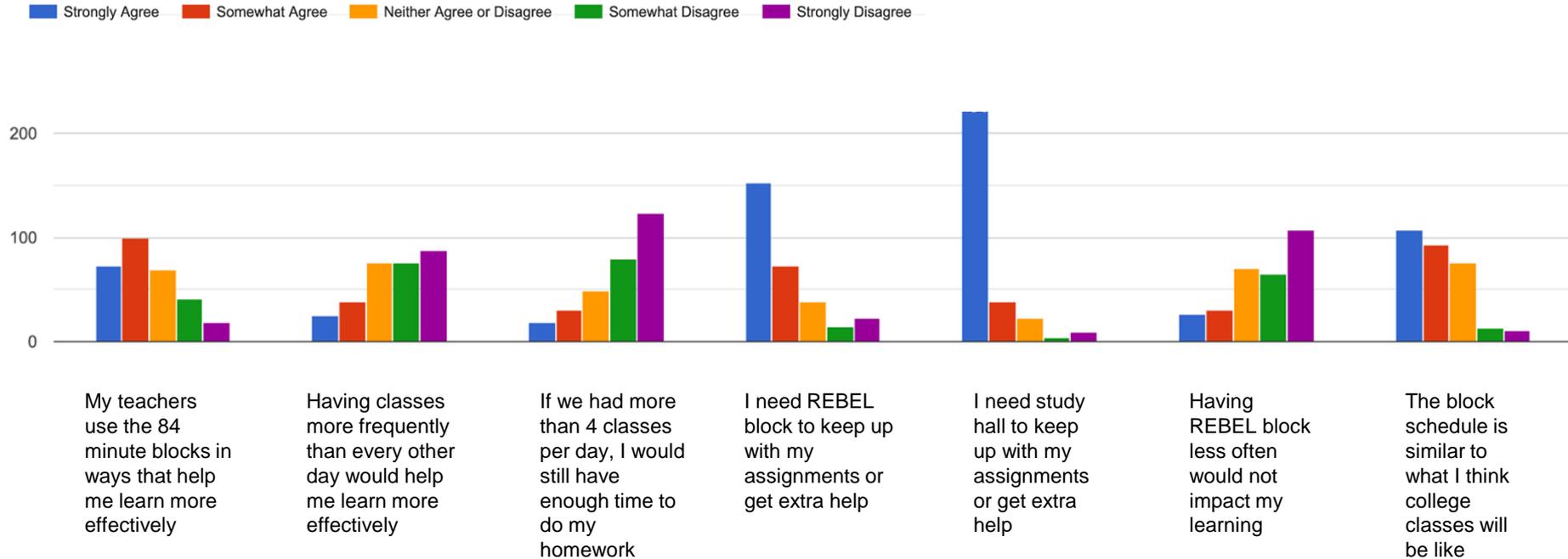
I have enough time each night to complete homework or other assignments

Having REBEL block every day is important to me

The block schedule (having fewer classes that are longer and do not meet every day) makes it difficult to make up work when I am absent

Having the blocks meet in the same order every Red/Blue day (e.g. English class being the same time every day) is beneficial

Students- Use of Time



Parents/Guardians

- Answers to the Likert scale questions parallel the student responses
 - Somewhat more favorable to having more, shorter classes
 - Slightly more concerned about the ability to make-up work with current schedule
 - Higher agreement that block is more reflective of college schedules
 - More mixed responses on effectiveness of changing frequency of classes

Comments about changing:

- Mental health/balance with other commitments
- Extra time/other accommodations
- Adjusting to new schedule

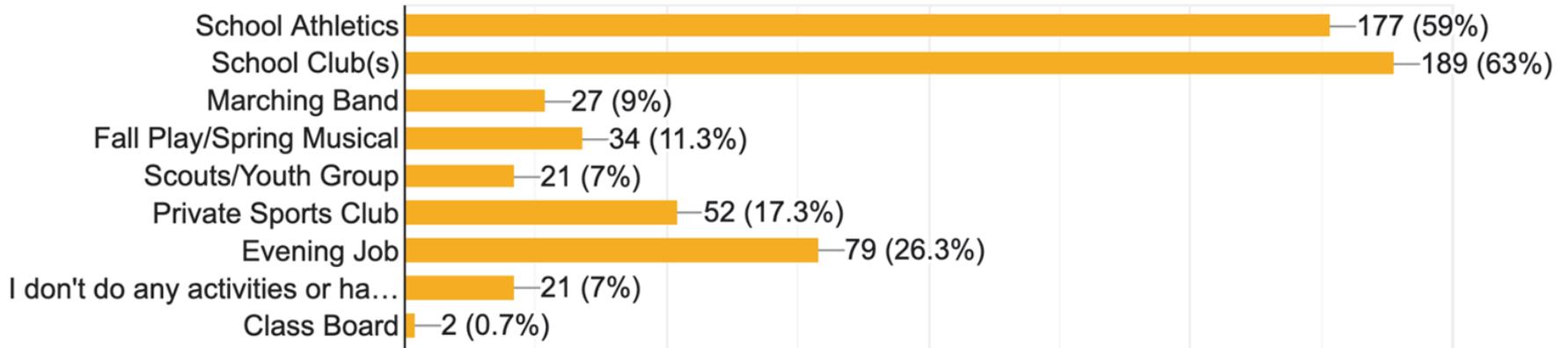
Comments about current schedule:

- Students' attention spans
- Effectiveness of long periods
- Too much “down time”
- Not enough homework

Snapshot of Student Involvement

I am involved with the following activities (check all that apply)

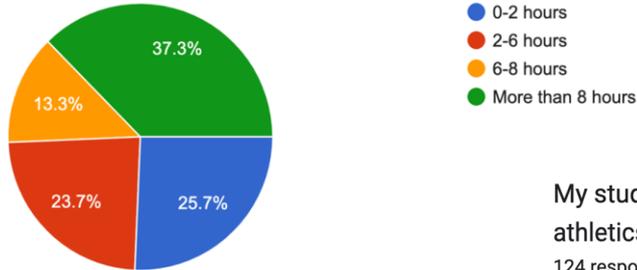
300 responses



Activities- Time Spent Beyond School Hours

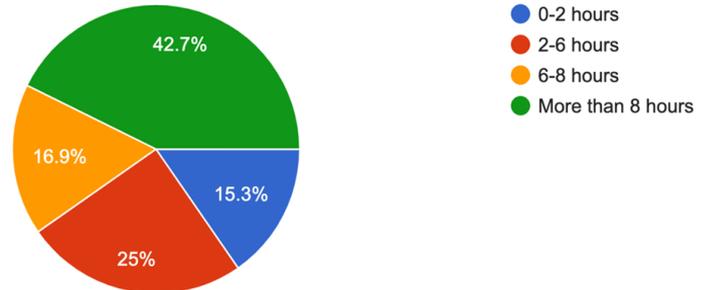
I spend the following amount of time each WEEK on after school activities such as athletics, clubs, performing arts, scouts, community service groups, private sports clubs, a job, etc.:

300 responses



My student spends the following amount of time each WEEK on after school activities such as athletics, clubs, performing arts, scouts, community service groups, private sports clubs, a job, etc.:

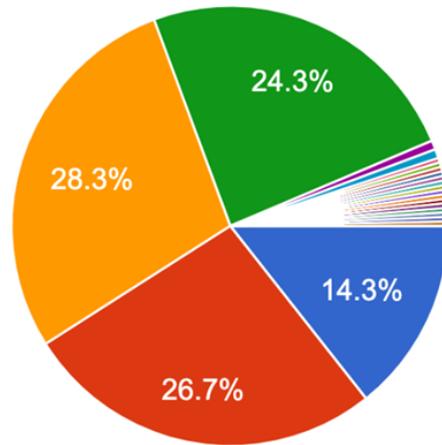
124 responses



Use of Study Hall Time

How much time, on average, during your study hall period is used for academic purposes (homework, studying, etc.)?

300 responses



- Usually less than half (fewer than 40 minutes)
- About half (approximately 40 minutes)
- More than half (greater than 40 minutes)
- Usually the whole time
- I don't have a study
- I don't have a study hall
- I don't have a study hall block this year.
- i dont have a study hall

Teachers- Benefits of Current Schedule

- Important to Culinary Arts, Family/Consumer Science, Music, Physical Education, Science, Visual Arts programs
- Inquiry-based activities and discussions/opportunities to dig deeper
- Student collaboration/project-based learning
- Time for student practice, feedback, conferencing
- Set-up/clean up while maintaining substantive instructional time
- Complete lessons/objectives in support classes
- Completing PPT/504 meetings with consistent attendance
- Review/re-teaching of certain content and skills

Teachers- Challenges of Current Schedule

- **Keeping students' attention and focus**
- Impact of student & teacher absences, snow days
- Frequency/contact time with subject matter
- Lack of rotation (first period/last period)
- Time allotment for science labs (especially AP)

Students- Focus Groups

- Worry about managing more classes, most felt that they begin to lose attention after about an hour much of the time
- Would like more breaks in the blocks
- Value of REBEL is that all teachers are available, unlike study hall, after school because of conflicts and activities
- Feel having two nights to complete work for classes helps with balance
- Quality of classes vary with the long periods, generally like the longer periods in science and arts classes
- Looked at a sampling of different types of schedules to get reactions and questions

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8:30 1 9:23	8:30 4 9:23	8:30 2 9:23	8:30 1 9:23	8:30 2 9:23	8:30 3 9:23	8:30 1 9:23	8:30 2 9:23
9:28 2 10:21	9:28 3 10:21	9:28 1 10:21	9:28 2 10:21	9:28 1 10:21	9:28 4 10:21	9:28 2 10:21	9:28 1 10:21
10:26 3 11:19	10:26 6 11:19	10:26 7 11:19	10:26 3 11:19	10:26 3 11:19	10:26 5 11:19	10:26 7 11:19	10:26 3 11:19
11:24 4 12:49	11:24 5 12:49	11:24 8 12:49	11:24 4 12:49	11:24 4 12:49	11:24 6 12:49	11:24 8 12:49	11:24 4 12:49
12:54 5 1:47	12:54 7 1:47	12:54 6 1:47	12:54 8 1:47	12:54 5 1:47	12:54 7 1:47	12:54 6 1:47	12:54 8 1:47
1:52	1:52	1:52	1:52	1:52	1:52	1:52	1:52

A	B	C	D
8:00-8:45 1	8:00-8:45 2	8:00-8:45 3	8:00-8:45 4
8:50-10:05 2	8:50-10:05 3	8:50-10:05 4	8:50-10:05 1
Connections 10:10-10:30	Connections 10:10-10:30	Connections 10:10-10:30	Connections 10:10-10:30
10:35-11:20 3	10:35-11:20 4	10:35-11:20 1	10:35-11:20 2
11:25-11:55 5 1st Lunch	11:25-11:55 6 1st Lunch	11:25-11:55 7 1st Lunch	11:25-11:55 8 1st Lunch
12:00-12:30 5 2nd Lunch	12:00-12:30 6 2nd Lunch	12:00-12:30 7 2nd Lunch	12:00-12:30 8 2nd Lunch
12:35-1:05 5 3rd Lunch	12:35-1:05 6 3rd Lunch	12:35-1:05 7 3rd Lunch	12:35-1:05 8 3rd Lunch
1:10-1:55 8	1:10-1:55 7	1:10-1:55 6	1:10-1:55 5
2:00-2:45 7	2:00-2:45 8	2:00-2:45 5	2:00-2:45 6

PERIOD (57 min. classes)	DAY 1 (6 class day)	DAY 2 (6 class day)	DAY 3 (6 class day)	DAY 4 (6 class day)
Class 1 7:30 - 8:27	Pd. 1 A	Pd. 1 D	Pd. 1 C	Pd. 1 B
Class 2 8:31 - 9:28	Pd. 2 B	Pd. 2 A	Pd. 2 D	Pd. 2 C
Class 3 9:32 - 10:29	Pd. 3 C	Pd. 3 B	Pd. 3 A	Pd. 3 D
LB1 10:33 - 10:58 (25 min.)	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK
LB2 11:02 - 11:27 (25 min.)	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK
Class 4 11:31 - 12:28	Pd. 4 E	Pd. 4 H	Pd. 4 G	Pd. 4 F
Class 5 12:32 - 1:29	Pd. 5 F	Pd. 5 E	Pd. 5 H	Pd. 5 G
Class 6 1:33 - 2:30	Pd. 6 G	Pd. 6 F	Pd. 6 E	Pd. 6 H

PERIOD (87/88 min. classes)	DAY 5 (4 class day)	DAY 6 (4 class day)
Class 1 7:30 - 8:57	Pd. 1 A	Pd. 1 C
Class 2 9:01 - 10:29	Pd. 2 B	Pd. 2 D
LB1 10:33 - 10:58 (25 min.)	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK
LB2 11:02 - 11:27 (25 min.)	LUNCH/BREAK	LUNCH/BREAK
Class 3 11:31 - 12:58	Pd. 3 E	Pd. 3 G
Class 4 1:02 - 2:30	Pd. 4 F	Pd. 4 H

8	5	7
2:45 FLEX 3:15	2:45 FLEX 3:15	2:45 FLEX 3:15
-1-2	-3-4	-5-6

Drop 4 & 6 Drop 1 & 5 Drop 2 & 8 Drop 3 & 7

	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day
7:20 - 8:29	Period 1	Period 6	Period 3	Period 8	Period 5
8:34 - 9:45	Period 2	Period 7	Period 4	Period 1	Period 6
9:50 - 10:59	Period 3	Period 8	Period 5	Period 2	Advisory
11:04 - 12:51	Period 4 (Lunch)	Period 1 (Lunch)	Period 6 (Lunch)	Period 3 (Lunch)	Period 7 (Lunch)
12:56 - 2:05	Period 5	Period 2	Period 7	Period 4	Period 8

Initial Conclusions

- Parents and Students place high value on flexible time during the school day
- NF students have many outside of school commitments to consider
- Study halls are not currently maximally effective
- Different programs (teachers) see different benefits and drawbacks of any type of schedule
- Varying effectiveness of class and study hall time
- All groups appear to feel that all class meetings being 80+ minutes can make attention and focus more difficult
- Anticipate high need for structure and explanation if the daily schedule is changed

Next Steps

- Pilot schedule(s) that places high value on characteristics that students, parents and teachers find beneficial
 - Allowance for flexible time
 - Minimize time outside of school necessary for students to prepare for classes
 - Target date: **week of 10/2/23**
- Surveys following the pilot
- Recommendation to the Board at November 2 meeting for 2024-2025 year

Pilot Schedule: “Drop 2” Hybrid Block

- Increased frequency of meetings from 50% to 75%
- Combination of shorter and longer block periods
- 45-50 minutes/75-90 minutes
- Allows for REBEL block on a regular or rotating basis
- Maintains regular bells each day

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	4
2	3	4	1
REBEL	REBEL	REBEL	REBEL
3	4	1	2
5 (Lunch)	6 (Lunch)	7 (Lunch)	8 (Lunch)
6	7	8	5
7	8	5	6

**New Fairfield Public Schools
District Priorities
Progress Report - June 1, 2023**

I. Teaching and Learning	Increase student growth and achievement by providing all students with high-quality instruction and curricula in an adaptive and flexible learning environment. (Continuation of 2021-22 goal with updated language).	
	Action Steps	Progress
<u>Curriculum & Instruction</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue the district focus on high-quality instruction. ● Unify all district initiatives and efforts around the Vision of the Graduate. ● Utilize our clear and consistent definition of high-quality instruction. ● Provide professional learning opportunities for staff on task design, consistent with the district design template. ● Continue to refine the coaching and tiered intervention systems K-8 to support student growth and achievement. ● Continue to support the implementation of Bridges and Number Corner to ensure equity of content and numeracy instruction within K-5 classes. ● Continue to evaluate the vertical articulation of the 6-12 mathematics curriculum, identification of high-quality resources and key instructional practices to support the delivery of engaging problems based numeracy instruction at the secondary level. ● Continue to provide training on best practices that support the science of reading to ensure timely and focused literacy instruction for all students. ● Continually update and revise district curriculum through a formal process and using a curriculum design template. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revised language of the HQI template to reflect Vision of the Graduate and task design matrix. ● Embed language of the Vision of the Graduate within district curriculum and planning documents. ● HQI language in teacher evaluation (TEVAL) as pre-observation form and feedback form from evaluator to support coherence and shared understanding of effective instruction. ● Learning walks to look for student engagement aligned to task design principles. ● Lesson Study experiences facilitated by John Antonetti at the elementary, middle and high schools to take a deep look at teacher moves that grow engagement in learning. ● District Monthly PL developed collaboratively with coaches and principals to intentionally extend the task design/ lesson planning work with John Antonetti. ● K-8 intervention model and school schedule structures consistent between buildings to ensure students get what they need in a timely manner. ● Continue to focus on standards and planning around understanding key learning outcomes in K-12 mathematics, using the resource as a support. ● Training sessions with all K-5 staff on understanding the lesson structure in Bridges and identifying key instructional outcomes to support student learning. (November 2022 district PL)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examining a Unit of Study in Bridges.(February 2023 district PL) - Examining a Month of Number Corner to support number sense. ● Elementary math coaches facilitated weekly professional learning sessions to support the implementation of Bridges/Number Corner. ● EdGems math resource selected to be a support for the implementation of the MS standards-based curriculum. ● K-12 math course overview and curricula revised using the CT State Department of Ed design template. ● Work with dyslexia expert for elementary teachers and interventionists. ● Science of Reading waiver submitted to the CSDE in support of existing NF ELA curriculum model and current resources to meet K-3 literacy state legislation. ● K-5 Literacy coaches and interventionists trained in the administration of DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) to support mandated screening in foundational reading skills. ● Vertical articulation work in all content areas underway to build coherence of content within and among all grades. ● Curriculum design template created to be used to support district coherence of content expectations and to align curriculum to NF vision of the Graduate and HQI.
<p><u>Special Education:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to develop and implement high-quality Individual Education Programs (IEPs) that result in academic and educational growth for students requiring special education services. ● Provide training for special education teachers, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, and building administrators on the new state requirements for identification of students with reading disabilities. ● Continue to provide training on best practices in literacy instruction for students with identified reading disabilities, such as dyslexia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A team of CT SEDS Expert Trainers was trained over the summer. In the opening PL days, all special education and pupil services faculty were trained on the software. ● Throughout the 22-23 school year, PPS leaders and secretaries have attended weekly trainings, workshops, and feedback sessions hosted by the State Department of Education ● Special education and pupil services faculty have received ongoing training on writing high-quality IEPs throughout the year. ● Training was provided to special education teachers, SLPs, and school psychologists on the new state guidelines for the identification of students with reading disabilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to support the STRIDES program such that students requiring special education services after completing high school graduation requirements can receive those services in-district. ● Per state mandate, implement the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)-provided IEP software (CT-SEDS), and work through the challenges inherent to the newly-designed software. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literacy training and professional learning was provided to special education teachers in the area of dyslexia and evidence-based structured literacy instruction, including training on the Wilson Reading Program as well as the Orton-Gillingham Approach for several teachers across the district. ● Additional consultation with an outside language and literacy specialist provided additional expertise for district staff in those areas. ● STRIDES supported students who were ready to participate in college-level academics for the first time, and expanded the number and diversity of job sites and vocational experiences available to students.
II. Healthy Learning Environment	Promote a healthy learning environment that fosters physical and emotional safety, respect and a sense of belonging for all students. (Continuation of 2021-22 goal with new language).	
	Action Steps	Progress
<u>School Culture & Climate</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Responsive Classroom K-5. ● Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Restorative Practices 6-12. ● Continue to increase a sense of belonging for all students through work with district consultants (6-12). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All K-5 staff trained in responsive classroom strategies to promote positive class climate. ● K-5 school-wide expectations for students and staff developed with input from staff. ● Staff training in restorative practices continued in grades 6-12 and with students in the ALC program. ● With the assistance of a consultant, high school student leaders and staff planned a student assembly to promote a positive school climate. ● Consultant also worked with 6-12 teachers and administrators on creating welcoming schools. ● The athletic department's Class Act Council has promoted good sportsmanship as evidenced by student conduct at athletic contests. ● Revised the District's Dress Code Policy to be more culturally and gender responsive.

<p><u>School Safety and Security</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and refine NFPS emergency response protocols and provide updated training to school staff. ● Establish safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedures at the newly configured Cons/MHHS campus. ● Continue to enhance our partnership with the School Resource Officers through regular monthly meetings and ongoing communication. Extend the SRO program to Cons/MHHS in order for all buildings to have a dedicated SRO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District Administration reviewed and updated its emergency response protocols with our security consultant. ● Emergency response protocols were laminated and posted in each classroom. ● Training was provided to all staff on updated protocols with the support of our security consultant. ● The Cons/MHHS administration and staff established new arrival and dismissal procedures for the campus; it required several iterations and modifications to the original plan. ● SRO program was implemented at all of our schools. Monthly meetings with SROs and administration provided opportunity for two-way communication. ● Conducted internet safety presentations through Internet Safety Solutions in grades 4-12 and provided a well-attended presentation to parents.
<p><u>High School Start/End Times & Master Schedule:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make modifications to the high school’s start & end times for the 2024-25 school year to align with adolescent sleep research. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-start the High School Start/End Times Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee. ○ Convene the High School Start/End Time Task Force, which will report periodically to the BOE sub-Committee with its recommendations. ● Continue to review the current high school master schedule in order to enhance educational opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convened Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee and the High School’s Start/End Time Task Force. The Task Force met several times and reported to the BOE and community at the March 2 BOE meeting. ● The study was paused as a result of the protracted budget challenges. ● The high school administration will present an update on the master schedule at the June 1 BOE meeting.
<p><u>Health and Wellness</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue with the practice of periodically administering <i>Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors</i> surveys for grades 7-12 and compare to pre-pandemic results. ● Present findings to the Board and determine next steps. ● Utilize a multi-prong approach to reduce incidents of substance use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In collaboration with the NF Prevention Council, the high school youth survey was administered in February 2023 and an overview of the results was shared at the May 18 BOE meeting. ● Next steps will include holding a Community Forum in the early fall regarding the results and next steps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate current and anticipated needs for school-based counseling services and plan programming to support students' mental health needs. Continue the use of the Aperture universal social/emotional competence screener in grades K-12. 	
III. Superintendent's Entry Plan	Develop an understanding of the district's priorities, programs, culture, and operations by listening and learning from stakeholders. (See entry plan)	
	Action Steps	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a successful and productive superintendent/board relationship. Establish relationships with stakeholders and gather feedback to inform goal setting and strategic planning. Develop an understanding of the extent to which New Fairfield's academic programs and services are meeting the needs of students. Actively gather information regarding the present status of school security, facilities and budget development. Utilize multiple approaches to effectively communicate with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple communication strategies employed to promote a productive BOE/Superintendent working relationship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Superintendent notes; Periodic Chair/Vice Chair meetings; Superintendent presence at Sub Committee meetings; 1:1 meetings with BOE members upon entry. Stakeholder meetings and interviews held with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each member of Leadership team; Heads of each bargaining unit group; HS Department chairs, MS teams, Cons/MHHS staff; Staff and PTO meet and greets; Strong presence in the schools and at events; Offered BOF members meetings with Superintendent. Stakeholder communications strategies employed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly District newsletter with note from Superintendent; Website and social media use; District website for easy access to budget and school start time information; Community tours of the newly renovated Cons/MHHS campus.
IV. Strategic Planning	Initiate a strategic planning process to set New Fairfield Public Schools' priorities for the next three years.	

	Action Steps	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a committee process, with the Board’s input, for developing the strategic plan that includes soliciting input from various stakeholders. ● Create a multi-year strategic plan with goals, objectives, action steps, and timelines for completion, which will serve to guide the next level of work for the district, including future budgets. ● Present the strategic plan to the community and the board of education for refinement and Board approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This priority was placed on hold pending the outcome of the budget process. ● The type of strategic planning process employed will be dependent on the level of reductions on the operating budget.
V. Resources to Support Learning	Provide the necessary resources for learning--defined as finances, facilities, operational systems, and human resources. Adequate resources are a foundational component for New Fairfield to achieve its Vision of a Graduate.	
	Action Steps	Progress
<u>Finance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and present a FY 24 Operational and Capital Budget request to the community that is transparent, fiscally responsible and ensures continuous improvement. ● Manage the FY 23 Operational and Capital Budget to provide resources as planned and to address unanticipated expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent’s FY 24 Budget was approved by the BOE without modification. The BOF reduced the budgeted amount by \$800,000 despite an uptick in enrollment, increased complexity of student needs, and inflation. All budget documents are accessible from the NFPS website. ● The FY 23 budget has been managed closely. SPED costs have exceeded the budget in this cost center as a result of a significant increase in the number of identified students and specialized evaluations. The District is managing these costs with controls on spending in other cost centers.
<u>Transportation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize the services of a transportation consultant to conduct an analysis of the financial requirements in moving from a three-tier bus transportation system to a two-tier system with the high school and middle school sharing bus runs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District has contracted with Transportation Advisory Services (TAS) to analyze the transportation requirements for a two-tier bus system. Study is underway and will be completed by the fall.

<u>Facilities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close out the Consolidated/Meeting House Hills Schools building project from a financial standpoint and ensure that the punch list has been completed according to the educational specifications and construction documents. ● Monitor the construction of the new high school to ensure an on-time opening for the 2023-24 school year and to ensure that the educational specifications have been met. ● Respond to state mandates in documenting and communicating the district's indoor air quality preventative maintenance plan to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to work with our owner's representatives to ensure the completion of all punch list items to the District's satisfaction. ● New high school is on budget. Fall 2023 anticipated opening is on schedule. Plans for summer relocation of HS/MS staff have been developed.
<u>Human Resources</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attract and retain highly qualified staff to support continuous academic improvement. ● Increase the substitute pool for certified and non-certified positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All certified staffing positions were filled for the 2022-23 school year. Budget reductions may have an impact on retention efforts. ● Held a Sign & Sub event that increased the pool of substitute candidates. However, we still experience a shortage of substitutes.
<u>Technology</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create continuity in access to educational support technology to support K-12 curriculum initiatives. (SmartBoards, document cameras, projection and sound reinforcement) ● Utilizing upgraded facilities, cultivate STEM initiatives to full potential with industry leading hardware and software. (K-5 STEM lab, new HS Robotics, digital media, and art/music labs) ● Streamline and clarify the digital repository of online tools and resources increasing efficiency in delivering high-quality instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second STEAM unit added at NFMS, third being selected now. ● Uniformity in SMART has increased from 60% to 95% and will improve further with the opening of the new High School. Docking stations will be universal this summer. ● K-5 STEM lab is off to a fantastic start, professional industry labs for graphics design, robotics, language, and music to open in September. ● Streamlined ClassLink portal by grade-level, partnered with Curriculum and Instruction to identify and optimize the digital tools the district has to support HQI.



New Fairfield Public Schools Textbook Evaluation Form

"Textbooks are defined as that resource which provides 50% or more of the information upon which the program of instruction is based." (policy 6161)

Participating Staff Members: Amy Twitchell, Dawn Ryan, Rachel Wilson, Casey Olsen, Kate Lowry

Course: Middle School Science

Grade(s): 6-8

<i>(Use Rubric Below)</i>	Textbook 1 Title: Open Sci-Ed	Textbook 2 Title: Mosa Mack	Textbook 3 Title:
Publisher	OpenSciEd	Mosa Mack Science, INC	
Year Published	ongoing (OER)	launched 2013	
Price	n/a	\$9.16 per student	
Content			
Alignment	4	4	
Accuracy	4	4	
Instructional Match			
Alignment with NF's Vision of the Graduate	3	3	
Design	3	3	
Accessibility			
Clarity	2	3	
Inclusivity	2	4	
Add-ons	2	3	
Total Team Rating			
	20	24	
Notes		more kid friendly/age appropriate for clarity and has better resources to simply print or assign online for add-ons.	
External Rating (informational only)			
Which rating organization was consulted and what rating did the textbook receive?	Meets Expectations edReports	5 star rating from Common Sense Education	

(EdReports or other)			
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	RATING 1 - not at all 2 - somewhat 3 - generally 4 - mostly
Content	
Alignment	Content is aligned with course curriculum and content standards.
Accuracy	Content is free from errors, up to date, and unbiased.
Instructional Match	
Alignment with NF's Vision of the Graduate	Content is presented in an engaging manner and leads students to make meaning, think critically, and ask questions. The text promotes independence.
Design	Textbook contains a variety of instructional materials, including reflective questions, learning activities, and other features which promote learner engagement and active learning. Textbook contains a structured, clear, and logical progression of topics.
Accessibility	
Clarity	Textbook provides accessible and structured text and images to meet the needs of diverse learners. Readability is age/grade/setting appropriate.
Inclusivity	The textbook reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, and religion.
Add-ons	Textbook has high-quality, supplementary materials which support student learning and are free of errors and glitches.