

Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 6:00 PM

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (5/1/24 at 6:00 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/98764409767> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 987 6440 9767, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II.A. February 28, 2024 - Regular

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

III.A. Policy 5141.5 - Suicide Prevention/Intervention

III.B. Policy 5118 – Nonresident Students - Residency Policy Update

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Special
Date of Meeting: 2/28/24 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Kathy Baker, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion
Members absent:
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Kris Woleck, Dominic Cipollone
Minutes submitted by: Amy Johnson
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (2/28/24 at 7:00 p.m.)
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91696076407> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 916 9607 6407

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 31, 2024 – Special Revision to minutes - *Kim LaTourette* (not Samantha Mannion) submitted the January 31, 2024, minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024, meeting as amended

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 4115 – Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support

CABE recommends that we replace our present policy with this new policy concerning educator and leader evaluator support. This change in policy and legislation allows the district more flexibility. Kris Woleck oversees PDEC. We are required to have a new educator and evaluator plan in the fall. Plans need to be ready by the fall of 2024/25. We need to bring our PDEC committee forward. It is about educator growth. New Fairfield already has some policies in place to support this, and this policy looks at some of the things that need to be in place, including standards and criteria, set of rubrics, single point competencies, goal setting process, opportunities for feedback, processes around evaluation and reviews of practice. Staff members get feedback, and it is sustainable. We did this in the past and it was put on hold. Teachers know their goals need to be connected to one of the competencies. If a staff member isn't meeting competency, we will need to have tiers of support. This allows the PDEC committee to be active in the process and they will update the board. A lot of areas we are already meeting guidelines. This is the best plan to bring forward. The Superintendent will be making reports to BOE by June 1st of each school year.

Motion: To move Policy 4115 – Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support as written to the full board for consideration

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

B. Bylaw 9323 - Construction of the Agenda

Language inserted by CABE reflects changes in CT state statute. The word *and* was added to the last sentence in the first paragraph.

C. Bylaw 9324 – Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials

This is a total replacement of our current Bylaw 9324. Under #1, paragraph two, delete 3:00 P.M. and insert 4:00 p.m., and delete Fridays and Friday, and insert *Mondays* and *Monday*. Board members and the community have advance notice. Agendas and associated materials will be available after 4:00 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday meeting.

Motion: To move Bylaw 9323 and 9324 with the agreed upon revisions to the full board for consideration.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Bylaw Concerning Electronic Participation at Board of Education Meetings – Subcommittee members were asked if they would like to consider solidifying previous discussion of this topic into a bylaw or proceed with agreement informally. It was agreed to stay with the status quo for the time being as technology is not available to do hybrid meetings. The subcommittee would like to revisit this topic in the future.

VI. OTHER – It was requested that there be a recap of the residency topic at a future meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 7:33 p.m.

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

The New Fairfield Board of Education recognizes that suicide has become a leading cause of death among young people and consequently, is a concern to the school system and the community it serves. The Board recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that while the school may recognize potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in depth counseling but must refer the youth to an appropriate place for such an assessment and counseling.

It is the policy of the Board of Education to actively respond in any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates an intent to attempt suicide or to physically harm himself/herself.

~~A student who is at risk to be harmful to himself, is a student that the school district is concerned about.~~

Risk factors for youth suicide will be based on the statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which includes, but is not limited to youth who are:

1. bereaved by suicide,
2. disabled or have chronic health conditions, such as mental health or substance use disorders,
3. involved in the juvenile justice system,
4. experiencing homelessness or placed in an out-of-home setting, such as foster care, or
5. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.

It is the policy of the New Fairfield school district to monitor such actions carefully and to provide a climate that is safe and healthy within which the focus is to help students deal with difficulties and concerns, while at the same time giving due consideration for the student's legal rights and responsibilities.

The intent of this policy is to protect the safety and welfare of the students attending the New Fairfield Public Schools. This intent demands that the school district through its general philosophy and the curriculum focuses on the identification of significant behaviors that may indicate a student at risk. This in no way limits the district personnel from taking a reactive mode, but makes every effort to focus on a prevention mode through a healthy, positive, productive school climate. The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will **direct the superintendent to** establish program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in the programs.

This policy represents one part of a district-wide effort to respond effectively to suicide.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules

Policy adopted: June 16, 2005

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Students

Nonresident Students

Definition

A nonresident student is a student who:

1. resides outside of the school district; or
2. resides within the school district on a temporary basis; or
3. resides within the school district on a permanent basis but with pay to the person(s) with whom the student is living; or
4. resides within the school district for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations; or
5. is placed by the Commissioner of Children and Youth Services or by other agencies in a private residential facility. However, under this circumstance, a student may attend local schools with tuition paid by the home district unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate. A student not requiring special education who lives in town as a result of placement by a public agency (other than another Board of Education and except as provided otherwise in this paragraph) is a resident student. A student requiring special education may attend local schools (with special education cost reimbursements in accordance with statutes), unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate.

Nonresident Attendance Without Tuition

Upon written parental request, nonresident students may be allowed upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to attend district schools without tuition under one or more of the following conditions:

1. A family moves from the district after January 1st of the school year and parent(s)/guardian(s) request that a student complete the marking period;
2. A family residing outside of a district has firm plans to move into the school district within 90 calendar days as evidenced by a contract to buy, build, rent, or lease;
3. A twelfth grade student and his/her family who are in residence through the last day of the first marking period of senior year wishes to complete his or her education in the district;
4. Students reside temporarily within the district because of family changes or students attending local schools residing temporarily outside of the district because of family circumstances. Approval shall not exceed three (3) calendar months; if subsequent approval is necessary, it shall be considered based upon information available at that time.
5. Mental or physical health of the student as certified by a physician, school psychologist, or other appropriate school personnel.

Students

Nonresident Students (continued)

Exchange Students

No tuition is required for foreign students living within the district under an approved and recognized foreign exchange program. Exchange students will be accorded all the rights and privileges of a resident student during the period of enrollment, which can not exceed a period of one school year.

Nonresident Attendance

With the exception of Sherman students attending New Fairfield High School, New Fairfield does not accept nonresident students. Students of nonresident staff may be considered for attendance contingent upon class size, transportation, and other considerations including disciplinary and attendance records. (See Policy 5118.111)

Evidence of Residency

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall require documentation of family and/or student residency, including notarized affidavits, provided that prior to a request for evidence of residency the parent or guardian, relative or nonrelative, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be provided with a written statement of why there is reason to believe such student's may not be entitled to attend school in the district. An affidavit may require a statement or statements with documentation that there is bona fide student residence in the district, that the residence is intended to be permanent, that it is provided without pay, and that it is not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations. In addition, the Superintendent is responsible for developing and implementing administrative procedures for ongoing residency verification. If an individual has provided false documentation to attend New Fairfield Public Schools, then this may lead to liability for tuition and to criminal penalties for fraud.

Removal of Nonresident Student from District Schools

If after a careful review of affidavits and other available evidence, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee believes a student is not entitled to attend local schools, the parent or guardian, the student if an emancipated minor, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be informed in writing that, as of a particular date, the student may no longer attend local schools, and the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education (if known), where the student should attend school. If after review district residency is established by the evidence, the parent or guardian, the student if an emancipated minor, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be so informed.

Students

Nonresident Students

Removal of Nonresident Student from District Schools (continued)

If a student is removed from a district school for residency reasons the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall: 1) inform the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older of hearing rights before the Board of Education and that the student/s may continue in local schools pending a hearing before the Board of Education if requested in writing by the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older 2) that upon request, a transcript of the hearing will be provided 3) that a local Board of Education decision may be appealed to the State Board and that the student/s may continue in local schools pending a hearing before the State Board if requested in writing by the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older 4) that if the appeal to the State Board of Education is lost, a per diem tuition will be assessed for each day a student attended local schools when not eligible to attend.

Board of Education Hearing

Upon written request, the Board of Education shall provide a hearing within ten (10) days after receipt of such request. If there is a hearing, the Board shall make a stenographic record or tape recording of the hearing; shall make a decision on student eligibility to attend local schools within ten (10) days after the hearing; and shall notify the parent, guardian, emancipated minor, or student eighteen (18) years of age or older of its findings. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4-177 to 4-180 inclusive of Connecticut General Statutes.

The Board shall, within ten (10) days after receipt of notice of an appeal, forward the hearing record to the State Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e through 4-185 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.
10-186 Duties of local and regional Boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state Board. Establishment of hearing board.
10-253 School privileges for students in certain placements and temporary shelters.

Policy adopted: October 19, 2000
Policy revised: June 16, 2005
Policy revised: December 20, 2007
Policy revised: June 18, 2009
Policy revised: November 17, 2011
Policy revised: June 5, 2014
Policy revised: October 30, 2014
Policy revised: November 21, 2019
Policy revised: March 21, 2024

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Verification of Residence

NEW ENROLLEE/STUDENT TRANSFER/CHANGE OF ADDRESS
(within New Fairfield)

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

I, (print name) _____ the parent or legal guardian of
(name) _____ (address) _____ certify
that the above named student actually lives full time (typically 7 days per week) at the above
address. The telephone number at the same address is _____ and the telephone number
in an emergency is _____. Grade _____.

This information and the documents provided are accurate. I authorize representatives of the New
Fairfield Public Schools to verify this information, and I understand falsification of any
information or documents required for this verification will result in revocation of registration for
the student and may lead to liability for tuition and to criminal penalties for fraud. **In addition to
the imposition of civil penalties, perjured or fraudulent statements could lead to possible
criminal prosecution.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

.....
(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

Residency Status: own rent reside with: _____

In order to verify district residence, parents or guardians, an emancipated minor or the child over
18 must sign above and provide documents from the items listed below.

- ___ 1. Copy of a Valid Connecticut Drivers License or Connecticut Department of Motor
Vehicles Non-Driver Identification Card indicating New Fairfield residency
and
- ___ 2. ___ Warrantee Deed with Schedule A, or escrow papers
or
___ Dated rental agreement
and
- ___ 3. Copy of *one* of the following at address within the district in the parent's or guardian's
name:
 - ___ a. Utility bills (dated within the last three months)
 - ___ b. Notarized letter from landlord or owner acknowledging parent's/guardian's
and student's residence
 - ___ c. United States Postal Service On-line Official Change of Address Confirmation
- ___ 4. Residency Affidavit forms to be filled out by person with whom family and student reside.
Verification visit by Residency Confirmation staff will follow; child may attend school.
- ___ 5. Verification visit by Residency Confirmation staff (for situations not covered by 1 and 2);
child may not attend school until complete.

Documents seen by: _____ on _____

CONFIDENTIAL

RESIDENCY AFFIDAVIT

The New Fairfield Board of Education, in compliance with statute 10-253(d) of the State of Connecticut, requires this form to be completed for any student who claims residence in New Fairfield and is not residing with his or her parent(s) and whose parents are not residing in New Fairfield. This form is required when there is a question about the child's actual residence. The student, parent and person with whom the student is living must fill out this form together.

Date: _____

1. Student's Name _____ DOB: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Student's New Fairfield Address _____ Tel. # _____
(No. and Street) (Town) (State)

3. Name of Person with Whom Student Lives _____
Relationship _____
Address _____ Tel. # _____
(No. and Street) (Town) (State)

4. Date Student Moved Into New Fairfield _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

5. Student's Former Address _____

(No. and Street) (Town) (State)

6. Former School _____ Grade _____

7. Name of Student's Father _____
Father's Address _____

(No. and Street) (Town) (State)

8. Name of Student's Mother _____
Mother's Address _____

(No. and Street) (Town) (State)

9. Name and Address of Student's Court Appointed Legal Guardian, if other than Parent:

HOST'S/GUARDIAN'S STATEMENT

I, hereby, certify that _____ is my _____
(Student's Name) (Relationship)
and he/she legally resides with me at _____.
(No. and Street)

I, further, certify that this is intended to be a bona fide permanent address that this child will be living with me _____ days and _____ nights per week, and that I am not receiving payment for having this child reside with me.

I, further, certify that this child is residing with me because

As the host/guardian of the student named on this form, and as a resident of the Town of New Fairfield, I attest to the accuracy of the information contained in this form. Further, I certify that, as a permanent resident of the Town of New Fairfield, the student is eligible for free school privileges. I agree to notify school officials immediately regarding the termination of the student's permanent residency in the Town of New Fairfield, in which event the student will no longer be eligible for free school privileges. Finally, I understand that, should the student be found to be attending New Fairfield Public School illegally, the Town of New Fairfield reserves the right to recover the costs for such education from me, the undersigned. I understand that a perjured or fraudulent statement may lead to my criminal prosecution under the criminal statutes of the State of Connecticut. I also understand that this document may be used in a court of law as evidence against me.

If you are the guardian of the student, please indicate the date and source of your authority:

Date _____ Authority _____

I, _____, understand that I have full responsibility
(Person's Name)
for this student concerning any and all school disciplinary, administrative, and medical matters.

Signature of Host/Guardian Date

Notary Public Date

CERTIFICATION OF RESIDENCE
(For student living in other than a rental unit dwelling)

Date: _____

RE: _____

As part of our residency process, we are requesting that you as the landlord/owner of or the family residing at the following residence providing this notarized statement verifying that:

Name of Student(s) _____

Name of Parent(s) _____

Reside at the following address _____

I, _____ certify that the named student(s) and parent(s)

(Landlord, Owner, Local Resident, Relative, Guardian, etc. - cross out what does not apply)

() live/rent, or () reside with me at the above-listed address, in a home owned or occupied by me in the Town of New Fairfield.

.....
I realize that if I make a false statement as to residency, I may be held liable for a share of the cost for the education of said student if they, in fact, do not reside in New Fairfield.

I understand that my failure to respond to this request, or that a perjured or fraudulent statement may lead to the disenrollment of the above-named student(s). In addition, the parent(s) may be prosecuted under the criminal statutes of the State of Connecticut. I, also, understand that this document may be used as evidence in a court of law. **In addition to the imposition of civil penalties, perjured or fraudulent statements could lead to possible criminal prosecution.**

I agree to immediately notify the New Fairfield Public Schools if this student ceases to reside at this address.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

If you have any questions regarding this form, please contact:
Superintendent of Schools
New Fairfield Public Schools
3 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

DATE:

RE:

DOB:

Dear:

In order for a student to attend public school in New Fairfield, the child's parent or legal guardian must live in New Fairfield or **you, the parent, must officially establish** that your child resides in New Fairfield with "another person" under the following conditions:

1. Residency with another person is intended to be permanent.
2. Residency is provided without pay from the child's family.
3. Residency is not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations in the New Fairfield Public Schools.
4. The other person signs a notarized affidavit (Host's/Guardian's Statement) that your child is residing with them.
5. You, the parent, submit a notarized Parent's Statement and Residency Affidavit.

Enclosed is a four page form titled "Residency Affidavit" which contains the parent's and guardian's statement. Please fill them out completely, having the parent's and guardian's statements notarized. Please schedule an appointment with the Principal or his/her designee within ten (10) days to review this information.

Unless we receive these documents which prove your child does have a permanent address in New Fairfield, we will, as described in the policy, begin disenrollment proceedings.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Superintendent
New Fairfield Resident

DATE:

RE:

DOB:

Dear:

Enclosed is a copy of the Residency Affidavit on file for the above named student as well as a Residency Affidavit Renewal Form.

Please review the information on the original Affidavit, complete the Renewal form, and return both documents to me.

This information must be returned by _____ in order to assure _____ continued enrollment at _____ School.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to call me at _____.

Sincerely,

Principal

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06812

RESIDENCY AFFIDAVIT RENEWAL

Date: _____

To Whom It May Concern:

I, _____, certify that the residency affidavit on file on behalf of my
(Name of Local Resident)

_____, _____,
(Relationship) (Student's Name)

remains true. The above named student resides with me at

_____, New Fairfield, Connecticut,
(Address)

and the telephone number is _____.

(Signature of Local Resident)

In addition to the imposition of civil penalties, perjured or fraudulent statements could lead to possible criminal prosecution.

Signed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

DATE:

RE:

DOB:

Dear:

An investigation has been conducted to determine whether your child is a "permanent resident" of New Fairfield. Our investigation leads us to conclude that your child is not a "permanent resident" of New Fairfield and is, therefore, denied enrollment in the New Fairfield Public Schools for the following reason(s):

- We have established your permanent residence to be: _____.
- We cannot find any permanent residence in New Fairfield for your child.
- We have been informed by _____ that your child _____ has been with _____ on a temporary basis and will be leaving this residence by _____.
- We were informed on _____ by _____ that your child, _____, no longer resides in New Fairfield.

You, as legal guardian of your child, have a right to a hearing on denial of school access based on residency by the New Fairfield Board of Education, at which time you may present evidence contrary to our investigation.

Within ten (10) school days of your receiving this letter, you must notify me in writing that you want a hearing by the New Fairfield Board of Education because of denial of school accommodation.

If no such request is received in ten (10) days, your child will not be allowed to attend school in the New Fairfield Public Schools.

If you choose a hearing, you have the right to bring representation, and the hearing will be conducted in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Superintendent
Superintendent of Nexus Town
New Fairfield Resident

DATE:

RE:

DOB:

Dear:

On _____ we sent you a registered letter outlining our investigation, which concluded that your child does not have a permanent residence in New Fairfield. Further, we afforded you an opportunity to request a hearing by the New Fairfield Board of Education regarding eligibility for school accommodation in New Fairfield.

As of this date, you have not responded to our correspondence. Based on our investigation, we are denying school accommodation to and dis-enrolling _____ as of this date. If your child has any school property or personal items at _____ School, please call _____ to arrange an appointment to deliver or pick them up.

We encourage you to contact the _____ Public Schools in order to enroll your child so that his/her education is not interrupted.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Superintendent
New Fairfield Resident

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
NONRESIDENT STUDENT REQUEST FORM

Nonresident Attendance without Tuition

Upon written parental request, nonresident students may be allowed, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to attend district schools without tuition under one or more of the following conditions.

Please check appropriate reason:

- A family moves from the district after January 1st of the school year and parent(s)/guardian(s) request that a student completes the marking period. Moving date: _____
- A family residing outside of a district has firm plans to move into the school district within 90 calendar days as evidenced by a contract to buy, build, rent, or lease.
A fully executed copy of the contract to buy, build, rent, or lease must be included with this request.
Expected closing/rental date: _____
(Any change to the date must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent in writing.)
- A twelfth grade student and his/her family who are in residence through the last day of the first marking period of senior year wishes to complete his or her education in the district;
- Student(s) reside temporarily within the district because of family changes or student(s) attending local schools residing temporarily outside of the district because of family circumstances. Approval shall not exceed three (3) calendar months. If subsequent approval is necessary, it shall be considered based upon information available at that time.

Briefly explain any pertinent information in support of this request. _____

Attach additional sheet if necessary.

****Please note that if the request is granted, the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to and from school.**

I attest to the accuracy of the information contained in this form.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name and Grade: _____

Present Address: _____

Future Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

(For office use only)

Request Approved:

Denied:

Date Family Notified: _____