

# Board of Education Regular Meeting 2024

Thursday, October 17, 2024 7:00 PM

BOE Meeting Access: BOE (10/17/24 at 7 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/96952139753> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 969 5213 9753 , 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

## I. CALL TO ORDER

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

III.A. October 1, 2024 - Regular

III.B. October 8, 2024 - 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.C. Student Representatives' Report

VI.D. Committee Reports

VI.D.1. Business Operations/Resource Management (*Greg Flanagan*)

VI.E. Liaison Reports - None

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

VII.B. Legislative Update

VII.B.1.

- High School Graduation Requirements

VII.B.2.

- School Climate

VII.B.3.

- CT General Statute 10-248a Non-Lapsing Account

VII.C. Board of Education Policy *(Second Reading)*

VII.C.1. Policy 6172.3 – Educational Instruction under Parental Direction (Home Schooling)

VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**

VIII.A. Personnel Report

VIII.B. STRIDES Lease

VIII.C. Acceptance of Donation

VIII.C.1. Fitzpatrick Media Group, LLC

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 regular meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield.

**MINUTES – October 1, 2024**

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

**ABSENT:** Kathy Baker

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, High School Principal James D’Amico, Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Maria Kennedy, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, Selectman Tom Perkins, and BOF Chairman Thora Perkins

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 19, 2024 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tom Perkins spoke as a citizen and encouraged the BOE to take into account the need for capital projects in town when developing their operating budget.

Jennifer Pappas agreed with Mr. Perkins about the need for capital projects. She asked about an issue at the Elementary School playground, and it was noted that the issue would be discussed later in the meeting.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone spoke of the importance of good attendance for both students and staff.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the following:

- The lights have been installed at the turf field. Dr. Craw thanked everyone who supported that project.
- Dr. Craw thanked the district custodians, maintenance works and grounds men in honor of National Custodian Appreciation Day on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

C. Student Representatives’ Reports

Junior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- Over 70 colleges will be visiting the high school this school year either in-person or via Zoom. Students are encouraged to sign up for these visits.
- Seniors can receive support with the College Common Applications during lunch periods.

- The DECA Club Fair will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The College and Career Fair at Southern Connecticut University will be held on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Fine Arts Booster meeting will be held on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm via Zoom.
- The deadline for the National Honor Society application is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- There is no school for students on Thursday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Make-ups for School photos will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Sophomores and Juniors will take the PSATs on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The World Language Honor Society Induction ceremony will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The deposit for the Junior Class Trip to Washington, DC is due on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The BETA Club will hold the Fall Vendor Festival on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

#### D. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum - Tim Blair noted that this subcommittee met on September 23<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck presented an overview and guiding principles of the curriculum design process. Jean Gephart gave a summary of the Grades 6-12 STEM program. The subcommittee also discussed changes to the Gifted and Talented program.

2. Policy- Samantha Mannion noted that the Policy subcommittee met on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The majority of the meeting included a discussion with principals and building administrators about the use of electronic devices in the schools. The subcommittee revised a policy on homeschooling and discussed the process for Superintendent evaluation.

3. Special Education Ad Hoc - Kimberly LaTourette spoke of the following:

- Unified Sports will host Volleyball from Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be an End-of-Season event with four other districts.
- Unified Sports will have Basketball in the Winter and track in the Spring.
- The Meet and Greet for the STRIDES Program will be on November 5<sup>th</sup> with the program beginning on November 6<sup>th</sup>. A job coach was hired for this program.
- There will be two nurses at the Elementary School and one nurse for the Middle School and one nurse for the High School. A lead nurse will be hired separate from the building nurses.
- There was a discussion of staffing needs at the respective schools.
- Possible events for the SPED families include ELC Acclimation Night, a Transition Night and an Ice Cream social.
- A grant of \$5,000 was received from the State for professional development for paraprofessionals.
- The Extended School Year will be held Monday thru Thursdays from July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### E. Liaison Reports

##### 1. Board of Finance

Ed Sbordone gave an update on the BOF.

- The regular BOE monthly meeting was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> and they discussed goals for the 2025-2026 budget, including spending at least \$750,000 on capital, increasing non-tax revenue, protecting the AAA bond rating and recommending a budget that will pass on the first referendum.
- The Capital Subcommittee met on September 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development. This subcommittee will meet again on October 7<sup>th</sup> with the main focus being on BOE capital projects specifically the Middle School.

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that the lights at the turf field have been installed. She will keep us posted on the schedule for the track and field replacement. She thanked everyone involved in getting it done. There will be a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> with the PBC for approval for a temporary fix for the propane for the culinary section at the high school. It is hopeful that work can begin early next week.

Carrie DePuy noted that the issue at the Elementary School playground is under warranty and the schedule to fix will depend on the weather.

### B. 2024 Standardized Testing Results

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck spoke of standardized test scores for multiple grades, which include AP tests, SATs, Smarter Balance Assessment and Next Generation Science Standards. It was noted that the participation rate for New Fairfield students was close to 100%. Dr. Woleck spoke of strategies for moving forward including adjustment of testing dates and curriculum application. There was a brief discussion of data protocols and ways to monitor growth. There were some questions about scoring of AP exams.

### C. 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Calendar

Carrie DePuy spoke of the timeline for the budget meetings for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and noted that the schedule is very similar to last year's schedule.

### D. Board of Education Policy (First Reading)

#### 1. Policy 6172.3 - Educational Instruction under Parental Direction (Home Schooling)

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 26, 2024, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

### B. Board of Education Policy

#### Suspension of the Rules (referring to Policy 5131.81)

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to suspend the rules referring to Policy 5131.8.1. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Sue Huwer

There was a brief discussion of the need to expedite the approval of this policy and whether or not suspending the rules was necessary.

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policy 5131.81- Electronic Devices as presented with changes as discussed at the October 1, 2024 BOE meeting with an effective date of implementation of Monday, October 28, 2024, with the change of title to "Bring Your Own Device **and** Acceptable Use Policy." Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone **OPPOSED:** Sue Huwer

There was a discussion of the changes to this policy, including ways to enforce the policy and how it differs between schools. Director of Technology Paul Gouveia spoke of the wording of the policy and what exactly is considered a device.

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Sue Huwer spoke of the reasons that she was opposed to the policy for Electronic Devices. There was a discussion of the ability to enforce the cell phone policy at the high school and consequences for students not obeying the policy. It was decided that this will be reviewed again later in the school year.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NFEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing documents related to NFEA contract negotiations and to invite Superintendent of School Dr. Ken Craw and Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone to come out of Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval to ratify the agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Education Association from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, with the following correction: “Under Article 40. Section 5.1 to change the number (2) in the first sentence to the number (1) and to authorize Dominic Cipollone to sign the agreement. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

**NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
October 8, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Dominic Cipollone (Chair), Kathy Baker, Timothy Blair, Greg Flanagan, Susan Huwer, Amy Johnson, and Kimberly LaTourette.

**Time Meeting Called to Order:** 6:40 p.m.

**Motion for Executive Session:** Motion to convene in executive session at 6:41 p.m. for the purpose of discussing confidential student matter made by Dominic Cipollone, seconded by Kathy Baker. Approved 7-0.

Move that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter. Only those invited by the Board to attend may be present in the executive session. The Board invites the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Elisa H. Bartlett) into the executive session:

Dr. Kenneth G. Craw, Superintendent  
Attorney Natalia Sieira Millan, Counsel for the Administration  
James D'Amico, Principal, New Fairfield High School  
Scott Rohwedder, Assistant Principal, New Fairfield High School  
Parents of the Student who is the subject of the hearing  
Student

**Motion to Exit Executive Session:** Motion to exit executive session made at 7:08 p.m. by Kathy Baker, seconded by Greg Flanagan. Approved 7-0.

At 7:08 p.m., Dominic Cipollone made the following motion in open session:

The New Fairfield Board of Education hereby adopts the stipulated agreement entered into between the Family and the Administration.

Greg Flanagan seconded. Approved 7-0.

Kathy Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m., seconded by Dominic Cipollone. Motion approved 7-0.



SHIPMAN

# 2024 Education Legislation Update

Presented by Andy Bellach

XXXXX Public Schools  
August XX, 2024

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# High School Graduation Requirements

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 9 and 10

## Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment

Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, the Act **eliminates the option** for BOEs to require a one-credit mastery-based diploma assessment in order to graduate from high school.

## Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy

Under existing law, beginning with the graduating class of 2027, students are required to complete a one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy, which could count toward the students' humanities or elective credits. This personal finance requirement **can now count towards students' STEM credit requirement.**

# High School Graduation Requirements

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 9 and 10

## Community Service

Under existing law, BOEs may offer one-half credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed under certain conditions, qualifies for high school graduation credit. **Partisan political activities may now qualify** as community service.

## Physical Education

A **physician's assistant**, in addition to a physician or APRN, may now write a certificate to excuse a student from participation in physical education if it is medically contraindicated by the student's physical condition.

# High School Graduation Requirements

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 9 and 10

## FAFSA

Each student in the graduating class of 2027, **rather than the class of 2025**, must complete (1) a FAFSA or (2) a waiver for such requirement in order to graduate.

In addition, students who (1) are enrolled in an incorporated or endowed high school or academy and (2) hold an F-1 visa are exempt from this requirement.



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# Reminder: 2023 Legislation on School Climate

## Pursuant to 2023 legislation:

- BOEs must adopt and implement a **new school climate policy** developed by CABE and adopted by the Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative by the 2025-2026 school year.
- The school climate committee must develop and administer a **school climate survey** to students, school employees and students' families, starting with the 2025-2026 school year and every 2 years thereafter.
- Each school climate specialist, in collaboration with the district's school climate coordinator, must develop the **school climate improvement plan**. The plan must consider the results of the school climate survey and recommendations from the school climate committee.
- BOEs must also adopt a **restorative practices response policy** by the 2025-2026 school year.



# 2024 Legislation on School Climate

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 16, 17, and 19

The **Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative (Collaborative)** must develop:



1. **School climate survey standards**, including but not limited to standards for the collection of data on diversity, equity and inclusion and for the reduction in disparities in data collection between school districts; and
2. A **model school climate improvement plan**.

# School Climate Survey and School Climate Improvement Plan

Public Act No. 24-4, Sections 18 and 19

Clarifies that the school climate survey must:

- Meet the school climate survey standards developed by the Collaborative; or
- Be the state-wide school climate survey developed by the Collaborative.

Clarifies that the school climate improvement plan may:

- incorporate the model plan developed by the Collaborative.



**SHIPMAN**

# 2024 Education Legislation Update

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XXXXX Public Schools  
August XX, 2024

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# Reserve Funds

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 7 and 8

- Under prior law, a town board of finance, board of selectman, or other appropriating authority for a school district was authorized to deposit unexpended education funds into a nonlapsing account, provided that:
  - the deposited amount did not exceed 2% of the budgeted appropriation for education for the prior fiscal year and
  - expenditures were authorized by the BOE and made only for educational purposes.

# Reserve Funds

Public Act No. 24-45, Sections 7 and 8



- New legislation authorizes the BOE, rather than the town, to make these deposits, provided the same conditions are met.
- The new law permits **regional BOEs** to create a reserve fund for educational expenditures more generally, and not only for reserve funds for capital and nonrecurring expenditures, as under prior law.

*Total revision***Instruction****Educational Instruction under Parental Direction (Home Schooling)****Guidelines for Home Instruction**

Parents wishing to educate children in the home may do so in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes and regulations of the Connecticut State Board of Education. Parents file with the Superintendent of Schools in the town in which they reside a Notice of Intent form (attached to this policy) that provides basic information about the program to be provided to their child. A Notice of Intent is effective for up to one school year and is filed annually.

If decisions are made by parents or guardians to return children who for a time have been educated at home to local schools, school staff shall provide an appropriate return to the public schools.

Children educated at home are considered to be non-public school students and are not part of the system's educational responsibility and are not part of the school system.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-184 Duties of parents.](#)

[10-220 Duties of Boards of Education.](#)

Regulations of the Connecticut State Board of Education

Policy adopted:	December 19, 2002	NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Policy readopted:	February 1, 2007	New Fairfield, Connecticut
Policy readopted:	November 6, 2008	
Policy revised:	August 13, 2020	Suspension of Partial Enrollment Section of Policy
Policy revised:		

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Fairfield, Connecticut

NOTICE OF INTENT INSTRUCTION OF STUDENT AT HOME

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

The subjects to be taught are:	YES	NO
Required:		
Reading/Language Arts	_____	_____
Reading	_____	_____
Writing	_____	_____
Spelling	_____	_____
English Grammar	_____	_____
Geography	_____	_____
Mathematics	_____	_____
Science	_____	_____
U. S. History	_____	_____
Citizenship (Including a study of Town, State and Federal Governments)	_____	_____
Physical Education/Health	_____	_____

Total Number of Days Scheduled for Instruction: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Methods of Assessment of Student Progress: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge and accept full responsibility for the education of my child in accordance with the requirements of state law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature Date

I only acknowledge receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Signature

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

**DONATIONS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$1000**

**Date: September 27, 2024**

**SCHOOL:** New Fairfield High School

**TYPE OF DONATION AND QUANTITY:** Monetary Donation of \$1,000.00.

**CONDITION/AGE OF ITEM DONATED:** Brand new donation

**DONOR:** Fitzpatrick Media Group

**SCHOOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF ITEM(S):** District won T-Mobile Sponsorship

Money will be put towards the construction of a new storage shed in Rebels Stadium.

**APPROXIMATE VALUE:** \$1,000.00

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.

8157

Fitzpatrick Media Group, LLC  
DBA DistrictWON  
19071 Old Detroit Rd #200  
Rocky River, OH 44116

Fifth Third Bank  
6-271/410



9/12/2024

PAY TO THE ORDER OF New Fairfield High School

\$ \*\*1,000.00

One Thousand and 00/100\*\*\*\*\*

DOLLARS

New Fairfield High School  
mark Ottusch  
54 Gillotti Road  
New Fairfield, CT 06812



*Mark Ottusch*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

MEMO

DistrictWON - T-Mobile Sponsorship

⑈008157⑈ ⑆04100271⑆ 7523433493⑈

Fitzpatrick Media Group, LLC

8157

New Fairfield High School  
Date Type Reference  
9/12/2024 Bill

Original Amt.  
1,000.00

Balance Due  
1,000.00

9/12/2024  
Discount  
Check Amount

Payment  
1,000.00  
1,000.00

Fifth Third NEW Chec DistrictWON - T-Mobile Sponsorship

1,000.00

Security features. Details on back.

