

Board of Education Regular Meeting 2024

Thursday, February 6, 2025 7:00 PM

BOE Meeting Access: BOE (2/6/25 at 7 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/94373999580>

Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 943 7399 9580 , 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

III.A. January 16, 2025 - Regular

III.B. January 21, 2025 - Special

III.C. January 22, 2025 - Special

III.D. January 23, 2025 - Special @ 4 p.m.

III.E. January 23, 2025 - Special @ 7 p.m.

III.F. January 28, 2025 - 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. ACTION ITEM

VI.A. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025-26
Operating Budget and Capital Budget

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

VII.A. Chairman's Report

VII.B. Superintendent's Report

VII.C. Student Representatives' Report

VII.D. Committee Reports - none

VII.E. Liaison Reports

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

VIII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

IX. **ACTION ITEMS**

IX.A. Personnel Report

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. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 16, 2025

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Crow, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, High School Principal James D’Amico, High School Assistant Principal Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Middle School Assistant Principal Steven Groccia, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Elementary School Assistant Principal Rob Spino, Elementary School Assistant Principal Alyce Misuraca, Athletic Director Mark Ottusch, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Director of Technology Paul Gouveia, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, and Elementary Special Education Supervisor Alex Lambert

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. December 19, 2024 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved by consensus.

V. PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S FY 2025-2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Crow spoke of the upcoming budget for 2025-2026. He noted that the district is dedicated to continuous improvement and thanked the administration and staff for all their hard work with the preparation of the budget.

Dr. Crow spoke of the Vision of a Learner and how it affects the operating budget. He spoke of important needs for the capital budget, including more classroom space and the need to remove the underground oil tank at the Middle School. He spoke of the strategic plan for the district and highlighted notable accomplishments. The presentation included ideas for enhancement to the Arts, including Strings and Theater especially in the Middle School.

Key Budget Assumptions include:

- A. Enrollment and Class size for next year is comparable to this year.
- B. Contractual obligations for employees.
- C. Federal and State mandates.
- D. Budget Efficiencies.
- E. Non-tax revenue.

The Superintendent's recommended operating budget for 2025-2026 is \$50,083,039, which is a percent increase of 3.81% (\$1,838,949) over the 2024-2025 voter approved budget. The proposed Capital budget equals \$735,000 and includes the replacement of the New Fairfield Middle School underground oil tank, NFMS Lower-level Academic Classroom (Phase I), NFMS conversion of the cafeteria into three Middle School classrooms (Phase 2), NFMS Pool HVAC and dehumidification unit, contributions to the turf replacement, replacement of the Buildings and Ground Rack Truck, and Safety and Security improvements.

Budget workshops will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, Wednesday, January 22nd and Tuesday, January 28th. The budget presentation and documents can be found on the district website.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VII. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Dominic Cipollone thanked Dr. Craw and the entire administrative staff for a very comprehensive budget presentation. He noted that he is looking forward to a rigorous budget season and hoping that it will pass at the first referendum.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Kenneth Craw noted that the attendance rate for the staff has improved and is now trending at 97%.

C. Student Representatives' Reports

Senior Representative Emilia Sedlak spoke of the following:

- Unified Spirit Week will be held from January 27th to January 31st.
- The BETA Club will host a "Festival of Cultures" on Saturday, February 1st.
- There will be no school on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Yearbooks are currently on sale on the school's website.
- Grades for the 2nd quarter will close on January 24th.

Junior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- Mid-term exams are currently being held.
- There will be an early dismissal on January 29th.
- Two full length SAT practice tests will be given to Juniors on January 29th and February 26th.
- The Italian Honor Society Induction will be held on January 29th.
- Fourteen high school students will be going to Western Regionals Honor program for Music.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on January 9th and reviewed the monthly budget summaries. They are keeping an eye on Special Education services and Business services. There was a discussion of the update for the Middle School oil tank replacement and the space utilization plan for the Middle School. The subcommittee also discussed shared services with the Town.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone gave a summary of recent BOF meetings:

- BOF Capital Subcommittee meeting was held on January 13th. They discussed capital plans for the BOE, including needed projects for the Middle School. The BOF will hold their next regular meeting on January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. via zoom.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that the propane issue has been fixed at the high school. They are still waiting to hear from the vendor about the playground issue at the elementary school.

B. Bus Lot Multi-Board Joint Special Meeting

There will be a joint meeting of the BOS, BOE, BOF and PBC to discuss the Bus Lot on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

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 January 9, 2025, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

B. New Fairfield Middle School Oil Tank Replacement Proposal

Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross gave a brief update on this proposal.

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the proposal for the NF Middle School oil tank replacement as presented. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

C. Course Proposal NFHS Orchestra

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kristine Woleck spoke of the course proposal for the Orchestra program.

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Orchestra course to be offered at New Fairfield High School as presented. Tim Blair seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

D. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 2400 - Evaluation of the Superintendent
2. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

Samantha Mannion gave a brief explanation of these policies.

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of the Education Policies listed below as presented: Policy 2400 - Evaluation of the Superintendent and Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion.

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

E. Acceptance of Donation - New Fairfield Community Thrift Shop, Inc.

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the New Fairfield Community Thrift Shop donation of \$1,800 to be put towards the field trip to France for

French students, including \$207 per family for required insurance reimbursement, \$760 for transportation, \$67 per student towards tips for tour guides. Kathy Baker seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

F. NFEA Retirement Settlement

MOTION: Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to award the retirement settlement bonus per Article 48 for those eligible teachers who, by Friday, February 21, 2025, tender their resignation to be effective at the end of the school year. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

G. School Security and Safety - Executive Session

H. Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Negotiations - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SAFETY AND SECURITY MATTERS

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO PARAPROFESSIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss safety and security, and documents related to Paraprofessional Collective Bargaining negotiations and to invite Dr. Craw and Carrie DePuy into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. Ed Sbordone seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Paraeducator MOA as presented. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, 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
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 21, 2025

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Amy Johnson and Samantha Mannion

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, New Fairfield High School Principal James D’Amico, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, and Elementary Principal Allyson Story

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the budget for 2025-2026 that was presented on January 16th. He noted that this is a “needs based” budget and compared the percentage increase for the operating budget of 3.81% to requests from other districts in the surrounding area.

Elementary Principal Allyson Story gave a presentation regarding New Fairfield Elementary School. She spoke of highlights and accomplishments for the year, including unification of Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School to form New Fairfield Elementary School, a new reading resource, implementation of reading and math in ELC, creation of a Mindfulness Room accessible to all students and the continuation of opportunities for school-family connections.

Ms. Story spoke of Cost Containment and Efficiencies, including sharing of secretarial support with PPS, restructuring of intervention support, reduction of general supplies, and deferred staffing requests.

Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner spoke of the many accomplishments in the Middle School, specifically the new STEAM room, redevelopment of the Library Media Center, the Chorus concert, the musical *Annie Jr.*, World Language enhancements and the Strings program.

Staffing and enrollment for the Middle School are expected to increase by approximately 14 students. A Strings teacher is requested to be added to the Middle School. There was a discussion of the need to add classroom space to the Middle School.

Ms. Gruetzner spoke of Cost Containment and Efficiencies, including a 20% cut in the supply line, a reduction of \$2,100 of equipment and a reduction of \$4,200 for library books.

High School Principal James D’Amico spoke of the many accomplishments for New Fairfield High School, including 2024 Advanced Placement Honor Roll, NMSQT National Recognition Awards, 32 new National Honor Society Inductees, 2024 Halo Winners, Scholastic Yearbook Award, students selected to

Western Regional Honor Ensembles, and DECA Chapter National Conference Selection. He spoke of Student Engagement in Academics and Leadership.

Staffing and enrollment are expected to remain stable for the next year. Mr. D'Amico noted that there is a higher than normal interest in New Fairfield High School from Sherman students.

Mr. D'Amico gave a presentation about the Athletic Department in the absence of Athletic Director Mark Ottusch. He spoke of the many accomplishments of the Athletic Department including Michael's Jewelers Achievement Cup, Colonial Football Officials Sportsmanship Award, Student Leadership and enhancements to the Unified Sports program. He spoke of the components of the Athletic Department, including supplies and equipment, membership fees, costs for bus trips and officials for home games. There was a brief discussion of the "Pay to Play" fee.

Members of the BOE asked questions of the respective principals. Chairman Dominic Cipollone thanked all the administrators for their hard work on this budget.

The next Budget meeting of the BOE will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Main topics that will be discussed include the budget for Curriculum, Technology, and Central Office.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 22, 2025

PRESENT: Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair and Amy Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, and Director of Technology Paul Gouveia

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Samantha Mannion called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2025-2026. Topics reviewed at this meeting included the budget for Curriculum, Technology, and Central Office.

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Kris Woleck spoke of Curriculum and Instruction throughout the district, and spoke of the 18-month strategic plan for Curriculum, Instruction and Wellness. She noted the following accomplishments that have been achieved so far in the six months since its inception:

Curriculum

- PreK-12 Curriculum Design approach,
- Model Stage 1 Curriculum units and story boards – Science,
- K-5 Literacy resource implementation – Bookworms.

Instruction

- K-8 Data protocols in place,
- Power School Data portfolio launched,
- NFPS AI Work group.

Wellness

- NFHS Developmental Guidance Program,
- Family Resources developed (screen-free play, anxiety coping strategies),
- Attention to Digital Wellness.

Dr. Woleck spoke of upcoming goals for the strategic plan for the coming year. Members of the Board asked questions regarding Science curriculum, Reading, and Professional Development.

Technology

Director of Technology Paul Gouveia spoke of the following accomplishments in Technology:

- Enhancement of the STEAM Room and robotics at the Middle School,
- Thwarted multiple Cybersecurity threats,
- Identified redundancies in Education technology,

- Instituted anti-spam measures,
- Secured Cybersecurity grants in the amount of almost \$500,000.

Mr. Gouveia thanked his team for all their hard work and response times. He spoke of new initiatives for technology, including an AI task force, maintaining the 3/6/9 Chromebook model and upkeep of the “Tech Tool Book.” He spoke of cost saving initiatives that include sharing resources with the Town, maintaining a small staff, maintaining consistent device replacement cycles, and continuing to secure grants.

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy spoke of the budget for Central Office and noted that it is reduced by \$9,563 (1.6%) due to reduction in legal services and membership dues. There are increases in the amount budgeted for Policy Service, Shared Services with the Town, and Finance and HR Software. District-wide increases are due to business machines and electricity increases.

Ms. DePuy spoke of cost containment initiatives, including locked in oil and diesel prices at a savings, LAP insurance is capped at 5%, and Magnet tuition cap.

Dr. Craw showed a pie chart of a summary of non-payroll increases. He noted that of the \$314,423 of increases, 82.6% were for Special Education services. Schools, Curriculum and Technology account for 3.9% and Buildings and Grounds account for 13.4%.

The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the New Fairfield Community Room. The Building and Grounds budget and the Capital Improvement plan will be discussed. Budget information is available on the district website.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Hacaj asked about the cost of shared services for accounting services.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

**NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
January 23, 2025**

Board Members Present: Dominic Cipollone, Kim LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Susan Huwer

Time Meeting Called to Order: 4:02 p.m.

Motion for Executive Session: Motion to convene in executive session at 4:02 p.m. for the purpose of discussing confidential student matter made by Dominic Cipollone, seconded by Samantha Mannion. Approved 5-0.

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, Joseph McQuade), into the executive session:

Dr. Kenneth G. Craw, Superintendent;
Allyson Story, New Fairfield Elementary School Principal;
Marc Scocozza, SRO;
Alexandra Lambert, Elementary Supervisor of Special Education;
Julie Reznik – Attorney;
Parent of the student who is the subject of the hearing; and
Any additional necessary witnesses.

Motion to Exit Executive Session: Motion to exit executive session made at 6:30 p.m. by Dominic Cipollone, seconded by Ed Sbordone. Approved 5-0.

At 6:30 p.m., Dominic Cipollone made the following motion in open session:

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-186, the New Fairfield Board of Education finds that the student discussed in executive session is not a resident in the Town of New Fairfield and is not homeless within the meaning of the law and, as such is not entitled to school accommodations as provided by the New Fairfield Board of Education.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent and Attorney Joseph McQuade to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion, to the parent who requested this hearing.

Samantha Mannion seconded. Approved 5-0.

Samantha Mannion moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Kim LaTourette. Motion approved 5-0.

**Town of New Fairfield
Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance
Board of Education
Permanent Building Committee**

4 Brush Hill Road

New Fairfield, CT 06812

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Joint Special meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:00 PM

Meeting House Hill School Cafetorium

<p><u>Board of Selectmen members present</u> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman</p>	<p><u>Board of Finance members present</u> Thora Perkins, BOF Chairman Patrick Hearty, BOF member Wes Marsh, BOF member Cheryl Reedy, BOF member Claudia Willard, BOF member Peggy Katkocin, BOF alternate member</p> <p><u>Board of Finance members not present</u> Mark Beninson, BOF member John Arizzi, BOF alternate member</p>
<p><u>Board of Education members present</u> Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman Tim Blair, BOE member Greg Flanagan, BOE member Sue Huwer, BOE member Amy Johnson, BOE member Kim LaTourette, BOE member Samantha Mannion, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member</p> <p><u>Board of Education members not present</u> Kathy Baker, BOE member</p>	<p><u>Permanent Building Committee members present</u> Don Kellogg, PBC Chairman Maureen Clegg, PBC member</p>
<p><u>Working Group members present</u> Dr. Ken Craw, Superintendent of Schools Carrie DePuy, Director of Business and Operations Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer Scott Pellman, Colliers Owner’s Representative Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds Ben Doto, Civil Engineer</p>	

Call To Order

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey called the meeting to order for the BOS at 7:05pm
BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order for the BOE at 7:05pm
BOF Chairman Thora Perkins called the meeting to order for the BOF at 7:05pm
PBC Chairman Don Kellogg called the meeting to order for the PBC at 7:05pm but noted that there was no quorum present for the PBC.

Pledge of Allegiance

Information Items

BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone thanked all the Boards for coming together to discuss potential solutions for the Bus lot.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Crow noted that all the information and presentations regarding the bus lot are available on-line.

PBC Chairman Don Kellogg noted that the Bus Lot working group has met approximately five times since the last Joint Meeting on June 13th. He introduced Civil Engineer Ben Doto.

Civil Engineer Ben Doto gave a presentation of conceptual plans and estimates for multiple sites for the Bus Lot. He gave a brief description of his background including his experience and projects including the Danbury Bus Lot. He noted that the schedule to complete this project would be approximately 9-12 months and would be done in phases.

Mr. Doto evaluated four possible scenarios for the New Fairfield Bus Lot and spoke of the cost estimates and pros and cons of each site. He noted that all options meet the minimum criteria.

Parcel A Former Consolidated School Site- 302 Ball Pond Road- lowest cost
Parcel B- High School/Middle School campus- 54 Gillotti Road
Parcel G- Cell Tower- New Consolidated School- 302 Ball Pond Road and 24 Gillotti Road
Parcel H- New Fairfield Drop Off Center- 33 Bigelow Road- Decided to not be an option.

Members of all the participating Boards asked questions of the Working Group and discussed the pros and cons of all the options. It was decided that Parcel H at the Drop Off Center was not a viable option. The discussion included the other three options and spoke of the possibility of having the buses at the high school and relocating the current amenities to another location and the possible need to monitor who comes on the High School/Middle School campus. There was a discussion of the possibility of closing the campus further up the hill on the High School/Middle School campus and leaving the amenities such as the playground and the Dog Park in their current location. They

discussed the option for the old Consolidated School property and factors that affect the cost of each location.

Approximately one dozen members of the public gave their options about the Bus Lot options. Ben Doto noted that the questions and opinions of the public will be taken into consideration at the next Working Group meeting. He will then give his recommendation for the best option.

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey encouraged members of the public to give comments for the next 60 days. She will provide a button on the Town's website for residents to write comments.

Adjournment

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the BOF at 9:31 pm. Thora Perkins seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the BOE at 9:31 pm. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the BOS at 9:31 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – January 28, 2025

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Tim Blair (left 8:00 p.m.) Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, and Ed Sbordone

ABSENT: Kathy Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Kristine Woleck, Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy, and Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, Elementary Special Education Supervisor Alex Lambert and BOF member Wes Marsh

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. REVIEW OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw spoke of the upcoming budget for 2025-2026. Topics reviewed at this meeting included Facilities; Capital Budget; Pupil Personnel Services; and Special Education.

Facilities

Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross spoke of saving money by working collaboratively and sharing services with the Town. He spoke of efficiencies by using in-house electricians and plumbers. He spoke of accomplishments made throughout the past year. The requested budget for Buildings and Grounds for 2025-2026 is \$802,474 which is an increase of \$42,289 (5.56%) over the 2024-2025 budget.

Capital Improvement Projects

Phil Ross spoke of Capital Improvement projects requested in the 2025-2026 budget which include:

- Remove and replace NFMS Underground Heating Oil Tank;
- Reclaim NFMS lower-level academic classrooms (Phase 1- completion);
- Partition NFMS cafeteria into three Music classrooms (Phase 2 contribution);
- Replace NFMS Pool HVAC & Dehumidification Unit;
- Annual Contribution of Turf replacement (Year 1);
- Replace Buildings and Grounds Rack Truck;
- School Safety and Security Improvements.

He gave a detailed description of each of the projects and noted that the budgeted amount of these projects would equal \$735,000.

Special Education

Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul spoke of accomplishments with Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, and spoke specifically of Unified Sports and

Unified Theater. She spoke of the goals of the Unified Sports program and engaging the entire school community.

Other accomplishments include the High School Rebel Paws Bakery, the merger of the STRIDES program with Newtown and expanded Learning opportunities with Naugatuck Valley Community College, and the enhanced Nursing Schedule.

Ms. Krepsztul spoke of New Initiatives which include:

- Aligning IEP goals to State Standards,
- Advancing Orton-Gillingham (OG) Training,
- Clarifying Special Education Course offerings at the Middle School and High School levels,
- Exploring AI Tools.

Members of the BOE asked questions regarding general supplies and furniture and the cost of transportation. There was a brief discussion of Excess Cost Revenue.

Dr. Craw showed a pie chart of the non-payroll increase which equals \$314,423. Of this increase, 82.6% is for Special Education, 13.4% is for Buildings and Grounds and 3.9% is for Curriculum and Technology. He further showed a pie chart that broke down the budget into the following categories: Payroll and Benefits (77.2%), Other non-payroll (5.8%), Facilities (1.6%), Utilities (2%), Transportation (3.5%) and Special Education (9.9%). It was noted that approximately \$480,000 was cut from the budget before it was presented by the Superintendent. The Board will vote on sending this budget to the BOF at their February 6th meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris McCartney spoke in favor of turning the Middle School cafeteria into Music classrooms.

Amy Tozzo spoke in support of having a part-time transition teacher for Special Education.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos