

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:00 PM

BOE Meeting Access: BOE (3/20/25 at 7 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/91417491026> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 914 1749 1026, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

## I. CALL TO ORDER

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### III.A. March 6, 2025 - 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. Business Operations/Resource Management (*Greg Flanagan*)

### VI.E. Liaison Reports

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

#### VI.E.2. Parks and Recreation Committee (*K. LaTourette, G. Flanagan*)

## VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

### VII.A. FY 26 Budget Update

### VII.B. Strategic Plan – Eduplanet Platform

### VII.C. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**

VIII.A. Personnel Report

VIII.B. Summer 2025 NFMS Project

VIII.C. FY 25 Budget Transfers

VIII.D. Acceptance of Donation

VIII.D.1. New Fairfield Rebels Booster Club

VIII.E. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, CILU #9 Custodians, Maintenance and Groundskeepers - July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029 *(To be voted on after Executive Session)*

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. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TOCUSTODIAN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

**MINUTES – March 6, 2025**

**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, Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, and Selectman Tom Perkins

**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. February 6, 2025 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus.

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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

John McCartney spoke in support of having the bus lot at the former Consolidated School.

Jennifer Pappas asked about a rumor of having a separate Board of Finance for the Board of Education.

**VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- Thanked Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy for going above and beyond her job duties.
- Spoke of recent racist incidents at the high school. He noted that these incidents were addressed immediately, and students were brought to an assembly to discuss the matter. He encouraged parents to talk to their children about appropriate behavior.
- He spoke of the recent resignation of Cheryl Reedy from the BOF and thanked her for all her years of service and dedication to the town.

B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Kenneth Craw reminded everyone that Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. He congratulated Monika Krepsztul on becoming the new Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Dr. Craw presented notebooks to the Board members in honor of "Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation" month.

C. Student Representatives' Reports

Senior Representative Emilia Sedlak spoke of the following:

- Spring Sport Registration is now open. The official start of the season begins March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Customized lawn signs are available for purchase for student athletes and extra-curricular participants. A portion of the proceeds will help offset costs for the Washington, DC trip.
- Boy Scout Troop 137 will be hosting their Annual Pasta Dinner on Friday, March 28 from 5-8 p.m. at Company A Firehouse.

Junior Representative Ella Skogstrom spoke of the following:

- The Spring Musical “Little Shop of Horrors” will be performed from March 20<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Submissions for the poetry contest are due on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The AFL/CIO Workers Memorial Day Scholarship essay is due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- New Fairfield Soccer Club registration has begun. The season starts on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Juniors will go to Washington, DC next week.
- SAT Day for Juniors is March 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this committee met on February 20<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed budget vs. actual and the district is in line with last year. They are watching a few line items but at this point, a budget freeze is not necessary this year. The subcommittee discussed the Excess Cost Grant.

The company that built the playground at New Fairfield Elementary responded and is willing to work with the district to come up with a solution to fix the playground.

2. Curriculum - Tim Blair noted that the Curriculum Subcommittee met on February 24<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the New Fairfield High School Course of Study. New Fairfield High School will work in conjunction with West Conn to offer ECE (Early College Experience) classes in Italian and Mandarin. Students that participate in Wind Ensemble or Chamber Singers will be able to have an Honors designation. Dr. Kris Woleck and High School Teacher Jean Gephart spoke of the Science program. Dr. Woleck spoke to the subcommittee regarding a five-year plan for curriculum.

3. Policy - Samantha Mannion noted that Policy met on February 25<sup>th</sup> and discussed the need to roll back specific policies due to new regulations. They discussed the new FASFA rules for the Class of 2027.

4. Field Fees Committee - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The field turf replacement is on schedule. A contribution of \$50,000 will come from the BOE 2025-2026 budget. The subcommittee discussed the Field Fees structure, and it was decided that it will remain the same. The Field Fees Committee voted unanimously to waive the \$1500 fee from the Baseball League for this year provided that the league makes an investment to improve the drainage and level of the infield by the spring. The value of the drainage project is estimated to be \$22,000. The Field Fees Committee discussed the status of the Rebel Pavilion.

#### E. Liaison Reports

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

##### February 26<sup>th</sup> BOF Meeting

- Thora Perkins introduced Jon Russo as the new Alternate member of the BOF.
- Parks and Rec Director Russ Loudon explained the purpose of the Lock Box for the Boat Docks.
- There was a discussion of how the Mil Rate is calculated and how it is affected by the Grand List.
- The BOF noted that medical claims for January were high and there is a negative balance in the reserve fund.
- The BOF discussed the options for the Bus Lot.

##### March 1 - Public Hearing

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey presented the BOS budget to the Board of Finance. The total requested municipal budget for 2025-2026 is \$14,691,870 which represents an increase of \$564,163 or 3.99% over the 2024-2025 budget.

BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone thanked everyone involved in preparing the budget for this year. He encouraged everyone to act civil and respectful during the duration of the budget season. He spoke of the many accomplishments of the district over the last year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw spoke of the many accomplishments throughout the district.

He spoke of key budget factors for the Operating budget and the Capital budget. Factors that affect the Operating budget include enrollment and staffing adjustments. Dr. Craw spoke of the enhancement of many

programs, especially the Fine Arts programs and the need to find appropriate space in the Middle School for the Strings programs.

Dr. Craw further spoke of budget efficiencies including relocating of staffing resources, in-district special education programs, savings to facilities and operations, revenue offsets and grants. He especially thanked Director of Technology Paul Gouveia for his work and diligence in securing a Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$316,708.

The total requested operating BOE budget for 2025-2026 equals \$50,055,039 which is a \$1,810,949 increase from the 2024-2025 budget which represents a 3.75% increase. This is compared to a 5.99% increase for 2023-2024 and 4.95% increase for 2024-2025 fiscal years.

The capital budget request is \$735,000 with the majority of needs for the Middle School.

#### March 5 - BOF Meeting

The BOF had their first budget discussion on March 5<sup>th</sup>. They noted that the audit filing for 2023-2024 fiscal year has been delayed until the end of March. They discussed the Grand List and how it affects the Mil Rate. They spoke of the budget tool, non-tax revenues, and adjustments to taxes. \$194,652 was realized as a result of closing out some past BOE projects. This money can be used to bring down debt service. The BOF also reviewed capital and medical areas of the budget. There will be a special BOF meeting on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Medical budget. The BOE budget will be discussed at the March 12<sup>th</sup> BOF meeting.

#### 2. Parks and Recreation

Kimberly LaTourette noted that this committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- Parks and Rec Director Linda Lull spoke of the possibility of opening the Town Beach without lifeguards. The beach hours will be the same as last year.
- Camp counselor interviews will begin soon.
- Summer programs include Day camp, Soccer and Basketball.
- Linda Lull noted that she met with the BOS regarding the budget and there was a request for a list of possible upcoming repairs for the High School Pavilion. It was noted that this a Town building and there was a discussion of turning this building to the purview of the Board of Education.
- Summer activities for Parks and Rec include: Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sip and Stroll; Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> - Boat Parade; Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> - New Fairfield Day; Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> - Trick or Treat; Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Turkey Run; Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> - Santa's Workshop

### **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### A. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Dr. Craw noted that the BOF will review the Board of Education budget at their March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A list of questions and answers regarding the BOE budget will be sent to the Board of Finance. Dominic Cipollone noted that the BOE is looking forward to working collaboratively with the BOF.

### **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

#### A. Personnel Report

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for February 27, 2025, 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. New Fairfield High School Graduation

**MOTION:** Greg Flanagan made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of June 13, 2025, as the graduation date for the NFHS Class of 2025. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion.

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

C. Finance Department Operations

Dr. Craw spoke of a letter that he sent to First Selectman Melissa Lindsey regarding problems and concerns with the operations of the Finance Department. He spoke of the collaborative work with the First Selectman to resolve these issues. He thanked Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy for her help with this process.

Carrie DePuy gave an overview of nine issues of concern and reported that all have been resolved except the audit. She noted that the BOE is not looking to have their own services or a separate Board of Finance. She stressed that everything is in compliance and there are no reporting issues of concern. There has been no loss of revenue. She thanked the Shared Services Team for all their help.

D. Shared Services Study

Dr. Craw spoke of the possibility of conducting an evaluation of shared services model. He recommended hiring a consultant to review documents. He spoke of the rationale and process for this evaluation and recommended the firm of Clifton Larson Allen LLC in West Hartford. There was a discussion of the cost of this consultant and if the Town should absorb some of the cost from their budget.

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

E. Summer 2025 New Fairfield Middle School Project

It was decided to delay the discussion of the Middle School Project until Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross can give an update.

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to table the approval of the New Fairfield Middle School Summer Project. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

F. Continuation of Health Benefits

**MOTION:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval to authorize the Superintendent to offer continuation of health insurance benefits for teachers who notify the intent to resign by Friday, May 23, 2025. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion.

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

G. Acceptance of Donation

1. T-Mobile \$5K Fridays Contest

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept with gratitude the T-Mobile \$5K Fridays donation of \$5,000 to rebuild the New Fairfield High School shed. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

H. Board of Education Policies

Suspension of the Rules (Policy 4118.112/4218.112, Policy 5145.5, Policy 4000.1/4200.1, Policy 5145.44)

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board suspension of the rules referring to Policy 4118.112/4218.112, Policy 5145.5, Policy 4000.1/4200.1 and Policy 5145.44. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

1. Reinstate Policy 4118.112/4218.112 – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
2. Reinstate Policy 5145.5 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment
3. Rescind Policy 4000.1/4200.1 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment
4. Rescind Policy 5145.44 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment

Rescind Policies 5145.44 and 4000.1/4200.1

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board to rescind Policy 5145.44 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, including Sex-Based Harassment and to rescind Policy 4000.1/4200.1 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

Reinstate Policy 4118.112/4218.112 and Policy 5145.5

**MOTION:** Samantha Mannion made a motion to recommend to the full Board to reinstate Policy 4118.112/4218.112 - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Policy 5145.5 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. Tim Blair seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

I. School Security and Safety Request (Executive Session)

J. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request (Executive Session)

## **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Selectman Tom Perkins asked about the job descriptions of the employees of the Finance Department. He referred to a suggestion regarding having the Town share the cost of the Shared Services Study and reminded everyone that residents pay one tax bill no matter which department the money comes from. He also cautioned everyone to get their information about the Town and BOE from meetings and not social media.

John McCartney spoke in support of the Shared Services Study. He thanked Dr. Craw, Carrie DePuy, her team and the entire BOE for bringing to light the issues in the Finance Department and encouraged getting issues in the Finance Department fixed as soon as possible.

## **X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None**

## **XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Greg Flanagan spoke as his role in BOE Finance subcommittee and noted that the issues in the Finance Department are a recent development. He further thanked Cheryl Reedy for all she did for the Board of Finance and her support of the schools and wished her well.

Tim Blair thanked Cheryl Reedy and wished her well.

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

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing School Security and a Paraprofessional Leave of Absence request and to invite Carrie DePuy and Dr. Craw into the Executive Session. Kimberly LaTourette 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 made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:51 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:** Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board to approve and expedite school security and safety improvements in the amount of \$23,965 from Cap and Non.

Tim Blair 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 of Education the approval of Diane Vannucci's request for an unpaid leave of absence beginning on January 22, 2025, with a return to work on April 1, 2025. Amy Johnson seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion and Ed Sbordone

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 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

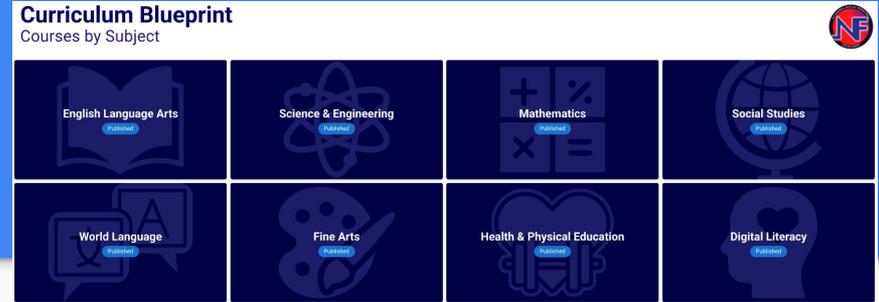
Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

# Introducing Eduplanet

New Fairfield Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
March 20, 2025



# What is Eduplanet?



## 1. Dynamic Curriculum Design Tool

- Provides collaborative, customized curriculum design formats (UbD-aligned)
- Allows shared access across PK-12 staff
- Aligns curriculum, assessment, and instructional documents to Standards and analyzes them to inform adjustments
- Provides student-accessible curriculum storyboard templates for connecting curriculum to instruction in the classroom



## Unit 1: Uncovering the Role of Cells in Life



| Draft Date         | Course            | Grades | Subjects              | Team         |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 11-15-2024 @ 02:15 | Science - Grade 7 | 7      | Science & Engineering | Jean Gephart |

### Focus of the Story

Is a corn kernel alive? How do you know?

We begin our year exploring these questions to understand the characteristics of life. By planting corn kernels, using microscopes, and conducting experiments, we gather evidence to answer whether corn kernels are alive to understand the hidden processes inside their cells.

### About the Learner

In 6th grade, students built foundational knowledge of matter, energy flow, and system interactions, exploring experiences prepared them to understand living things as systems, connect cellular processes like photosynthesis structures and functions. In 7th grade, they deepen this understanding, laying the groundwork for genetics and

#### Possible Misconceptions:

- Cells are not alive because they are too small to see or act independently.
- All cells are identical and perform the same functions.
- Plants and animals do not share similar cellular structures or processes.
- Energy production in cells (like photosynthesis) occurs in all cell types, not just specific organelles like

# Unit Design Example

## Stage 1: Learning Goals

### Established Goals

### Transfer

#### Standards

#### Long-Term Transfer Goals

#### Next Generation Science Standards

Performance Expectations: Middle School Life Sciences

- Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells. *(MS-LS1-1)*
- Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function. *(MS-LS1-2)*
- Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells. *(MS-LS1-3)*

What kinds of long-term, independent accomplishments are desired? Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Students will use their learning to model phenomena from multiple perspectives for understanding and communication to others. *(T1)*

### Meaning

#### Understandings

#### Essential Questions

What specifically do you want students to understand? What inferences should they make? Students will understand that...

- All living organisms are composed of cells that carry out essential functions such as energy transfer, growth, and response to stimuli, even if these functions are not always immediately observable (e.g., dormant seeds). *(U1)*
- The structure of cells and their organelles is directly related to their functions. These specialized structures work together to sustain life processes, enable growth, and support reproduction. *(U2)*

What thought-provoking questions will foster inquiry, meaning making, and transfer? Students will keep considering...

- How do we know if something is living or nonliving, and what evidence can we use to prove it? *(Q1)*
- Why do plant and animal cells have different structures, and how do these differences help them do their jobs and support life? *(Q2)*
- How do cells get the energy they need to function? *(Q3)*

# Curriculum Storyboards

## Units

UNIT 1

### Unit 1: Uncovering the Role of Cells in Life



#### FOCUS OF THE STORY

Is a corn kernel alive? How do you know?

We begin our year exploring these questions to understand the characteristics of life. By planting corn kernels, using microscopes, and conducting experiments, we gather evidence to answer whether corn kernels are alive to understand the hidden processes inside their cells.

UNIT 2

### Unit 2: Understanding Genetic Inheritance



#### FOCUS OF THE STORY

Why do siblings, even twins, look a little different?

We examine cells more closely to learn about DNA and how traits are passed down and shaped by the environment. Through activities like using Punnett squares to predict traits and growing different plants, we uncover how genetics applies to real-world challenges in farming, medicine, and beyond.

UNIT 3

### Unit 3: How Adaptations Drive



#### FOCUS OF THE STORY

How does what you do impact if a species thrives or becomes extinct?

Building on what we learned about genetics, we investigate how traits, the environment, and human actions determine whether animals survive or go extinct. Peppered moths and woolly mammoths help us examine how species change over time and what we can do to protect them.

UNIT 4

### Unit 4: Human Choices and Their Impact



#### FOCUS OF THE STORY

How might our snack choices affect the rainforest and animals that live there?

Continuing our study of adaptation and ecosystems, we connect how the ingredients in everyday snacks, like candy bars, are sourced and how those choices impact plants, animals, and their habitats. We investigate the effects of farming practices on ecosystems to uncover how humans shape life on Earth. This can help us make informed, sustainable decisions for the future.

UNIT 5

### Unit 5: Earth's History Through Fossils

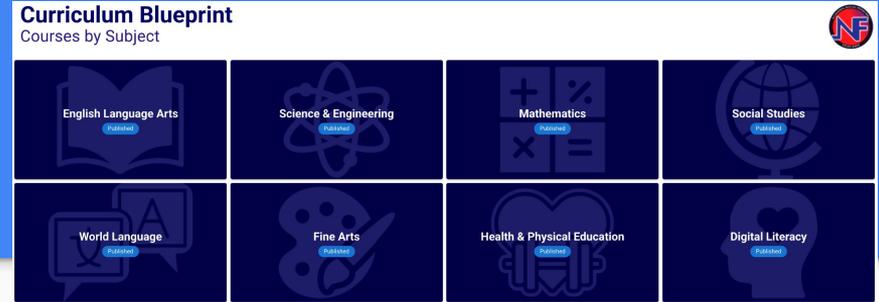


#### FOCUS OF THE STORY

How could fossils from the same animal be found on continents separated by oceans?

Combining what we have learned about ecosystems, extinction, and adaptation, we see how Earth's shifting surface affects the survival of plants, animals, and their habitats. Using fossils, rocks, and maps, we investigate how Earth's changes connect to a species' evolution and extinction and predict how Earth's puzzle pieces continue to shift and reshape the world.

# What is Eduplanet?



## 2. Forward-Facing Curriculum Platform

- Provides user-friendly curriculum access to families and the community
- Allows for timely updates of curriculum on NFPS website

# NFPS Curriculum Blueprint ([www.newfairfieldschools.org](http://www.newfairfieldschools.org))

## Curriculum Blueprint

Courses by Subject



English Language Arts

Published



Science & Engineering

Published



Mathematics

Published



Social Studies

Published



World Language

Published



Fine Arts

Published



Health & Physical Education

Published



Digital Literacy

Published

# For Families

## Grade 2 Unit Summaries



### Unit 1 - The Interdependence of Plants and Animals

How can flowers bloom in one of the hottest, driest places on Earth? Second graders begin their year as scientists measuring and collecting data with plants to understand what they need to grow best. While studying the structure of plant seeds, they use models to understand seed dispersal and how animals play an important part in making sure plant seeds are able to spread and grow in new places. Students investigate how different seed structures function to allow seeds to do this in different ways. Finally, students examine the different habitats across the Earth - forests, oceans, deserts, grasslands, and swamps - and how different plants and animals are best suited for where they live.

[\[less\]](#)



### Unit 2 - Properties of Matter

How is a metal - like gold or silver - changed from solid to liquid? That real-world phenomenon launches second graders into their study of matter. Students use observation skills to describe different characteristics and properties of matter. They investigate the effects of heating and cooling on states of matter and which materials are good insulators of heat and which materials are not. They also study how different materials can change or be combined in ways that may be reversible or irreversible. Throughout this unit, students use what they learn about the properties of different materials to solve design problems, like designing an oven mitt and building a tower out of paper. They might even be able to keep an ice cube from melting!

[\[less\]](#)



### Unit 3 - Earth's Systems: How the Earth Changes

How can rivers be different colors? In this unit, second graders integrate observation skills and mapping skills to study how the Earth's land and water has changed over time. They learn about erosion and use models to understand why there is sand on a beach and how water makes canyons through mountains. Students locate these landforms on maps to note the connections to nearby bodies of water. They conduct experiments to observe erosion and design solutions to prevent it, understanding that people can make choices to protect the land. While Earth's processes such as erosion are slow, students also learn about processes like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that can cause much faster changes to the Earth.

[\[less\]](#)

# More For Families

## Unit 1 - The Interdependence of Plants and Animals



### Focus of the Story

How can flowers bloom in "Death Valley", one of the hottest, driest places on Earth? As we begin our year as scientists, we experiment with plants to understand what they need to grow best. Then we study plant seeds and use models to see how animals play an important part in making sure plant seeds are able to spread and grow in new places. We see how different seeds do this in different ways. All of this helps us examine the different habitats across the Earth - forests, oceans, deserts, grasslands, and swamps - and how different plants and animals are best suited to where they live.

### Stage 1: Learning Goals

| Established Goals  | Transfer  |  |
|--|---|--|
| Standards  | Long-Term Transfer Goals  |  |
| <b>Next Generation Science Standards</b><br><b>Performance Expectations: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. (2-LS2-1)</li> <li>Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants. (2-LS2-2)</li> <li>Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. (2-LS4-1)</li> </ul> | What kinds of long-term, independent accomplishments are desired? Students will be able to independently use their learning to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will use their learning to question and seek answers as they make sense of real-world phenomena. (T1)</li> <li>Students will use their learning to model phenomena from multiple perspectives for understanding and communication to others. (T2)</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | Meaning   |  |
|  | Understandings  | Essential Questions  |
|  | What specifically do you want students to understand? What inferences should they make? Students will understand that... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants need water and light to grow. (U1)</li> <li>Many plants depend on animals for pollination or to disperse their seeds. (U2)</li> <li>There are many different kinds of living things in different environments throughout the earth. (U3)</li> </ul>  | What thought-provoking questions will foster inquiry, meaning making, and transfer? Students will keep considering... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do plants need to grow? (Q1)</li> <li>How do animals help plants reproduce? (Q2)</li> <li>How are plants and animals in different habitats different? (Q3)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Vision of a Learner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Knowledgeable Scholars:</b> Pursue their interests and make meaning while developing a depth of background knowledge in all of the core academic domains as well as in life skills such as financial literacy, that they can use to solve problems and succeed in life. (V0L1)</li> </ul>   | Acquisition of Knowledge & Skill  |  |
|  | Knowledge   | Skills   |
|  | What facts and basic concepts should students know and be able to recall? Students will know... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water and light, from the sun or another source, are essential for the growth of plants. (K1)</li> <li>Soil can be helpful, but is not essential, for plant growth. (K2)</li> <li>Some plants depend on the wind to disperse their seeds or pollen while many depend on animals to disperse their seeds or pollen. (K3)</li> <li>There are different habitats such as deserts, grasslands, oceans, forests, and swamps. (K4)</li> <li>There are many different organisms in each of these different habitats that are suited to live there. (K5)</li> <li></li> </ul> <b>Vocabulary:</b> Habitat, Organism, Seed, Pollen, Disperse, Variety (K6) | What discrete skills and processes should students be able to use? Students will be skilled at... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raising questions about the needs of plants. (S1)</li> <li>Planning and carrying out an investigation to test how water and light affect plant growth. (Note opportunities for applying measurement skills and data recording.) (S2)</li> <li>Developing a model to show how animals help disperse seeds or pollen. (S3)</li> </ul> |

# NFPS Curriculum Blueprint [www.newfairfieldschools.org](http://www.newfairfieldschools.org)

## Curriculum Blueprint

Courses by Subject



English Language Arts

Published



Science & Engineering

Published



Mathematics

Published



Social Studies

Published



World Language

Published



Fine Arts

Published



Health & Physical Education

Published



Digital Literacy

Published

**NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL REPORT**

Period Ending: March 17, 2025  
Board of Education Meeting: March 20, 2025

|                                  | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | POSITION                                 | LOCATION | REASON                                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|--|----------|--|
| <b>NEW HIRES - CERTIFIED</b>     |           |            |  |          |  |
| 1                                | Robinson  | Sadie      | Humanities Curriculum Instruction Leader | HS/MS    |  |
|                                  |           |            |  |          |  |
| <b>NEW HIRES - NON-CERTIFIED</b> |           |            |  |          |  |
| 2                                | DiBiase   | Michael    | Groundsman                               | District | Replacing Stephen Strang (Transfer)    |
| 3                                | Marmo     | Sonia      | School Nurse                             | MS       | Replacing Terry Eagan (Resignation)    |
| 4                                | Seaman    | Ryan       | Permanent Building Substitute            | MS       | Replacing Veronica Clark (Resignation) |
|                                  |           |            |  |          |  |
| <b>SEPARATION</b>                |           |            |  |          |  |
|                                  |           |            |  |          |  |
|                                  |           |            |  |          |  |
|                                  |           |            |  |          |  |



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

**GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

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

**DATE:** March 4 , 2025

**SCHOOL:** New Fairfield High School

**TYPE OF DONATION AND QUANTITY:** Monetary - \$ 4,000

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

**DONOR:** New Fairfield Rebels Booster Club

**SCHOOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF ITEM(S):** Purchase of a Hack Attack Pitching Machine for use by the NFHS baseball and softball teams

**APPROXIMATE VALUE:** \$ 3,500

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.