Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:00 PM
New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT. In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will change to remote and a virtual link will be provided on our website and distributed. , 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

III.A. August 20, 2026 - 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

VI.E. Liaison Reports

VI.E.1. Parks and Recreation Committee
(K.LaTourette, G. Flanagan)

VII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

VII.A. District Priorities

VII.B. NEASC New Fairfield High School Accreditation Process

VII.C. NFHS WALL OF FAME

VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**

VIII.A. Personnel Report

VIII.B. 401a Approval

VIII.C. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Requests *(To be voted on after Executive session).*

VIII.D. Report Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Administrators' Association July 1, 2027-June 30, 2030. *(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 PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS**

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NFAA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, via zoom at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES – August 20, 2026

PRESENT: Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

ABSENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, High School Principal Dr. Katherine Blore, Elementary School Principal Jennifer Hilderbrand, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Monika Krepsztul, and Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy

Quintin Flower read the rules and regulations for a virtual meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Samantha Mannion called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 4, 2026 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus
B. June 11, 2026 - Regular meeting - Approved by consensus
C. June 23, 2026 - Special meeting - Approved by consensus
D. June 29, 2026 - Special meeting - Approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved by consensus

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman's Report - Vice Chairman Samantha Mannion spoke of all the hard work that was done over the summer, specifically with facility projects and hiring of staff for the year. She wished the teachers, staff, and students a wonderful school year. Lastly, she welcomed Joanne Tolles to the Board as the newly appointed member of the BOE.

B. Superintendent's Report **-** Dr. Kenneth Craw gave an update of the opening of school

- Thanked the Buildings and Grounds Crew for all their hard work over the summer.
- Commended the office staff and administrators for their hard work. All classroom teacher positions have been filled for the school year. A new high school principal has been hired. Seventeen new educators were welcomed to the district.

C. Committee Reports - None

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that that the BOF met on June 24th and approved the Medical Plan for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and reviewed the RFP for an audit firm for 2027-2028. They met again on July 22nd and reviewed the Annual Tax Collection reports, the Town

Treasurer reviewed the Investment report. The BOF finalized the RFP for the Town Audit with a bid opening scheduled for October 14th. The BOF reviewed the Town Fraud policy.
2. Parks and Recreation Commission - The Parks and Rec Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, August 10th was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The next Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for September 14th.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Introduction of New Fairfield High School Principal

Dr. Craw introduced Dr. Katherine Blore as the new High School Principal and gave a brief description of her background.
Dr. Blore thanked everyone for the opportunity and noted that she is looking forward to serving as the High School Principal.

B. 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget Update

Director of Business and Operations Carrie DePuy noted that some money will be returned to the town from the Special Education funding that was given earlier in the year. She noted that New Fairfield was not selected to receive money from the State from the recent Special Education Grant. She reached out the State to find out the reason. There was a brief discussion about why New Fairfield did not receive any funding.

Dr. Craw emphasized that the district really appreciated the money given from the Town for Special Education expenses. As promised, money left over will be returned to the Town.

C. New Fairfield Middle School Facilities Conditions Study Update

Carrie DePuy noted that there is a facilities evaluation scheduled for Friday, August 21st at 10:00 a.m. to walk through the Middle School. A committee will be put together to review the findings. She asked for a representative from the BOE, Town, and PBC to serve on this committee. Ed Sbordone and Peggy Katkocin offered to serve on this committee on behalf of the BOE.

D. Bus Lot Update

Carrie DePuy noted that the PBC voted to go out to bid for the Bus Lot. The bid packages are expected to go out within the next few weeks.

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 August 13, 2026, as recommended by the administration. Amy Johnson seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board asked for an overview of "exit" interviews for employees that leave the district.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There was a brief discussion of the BOE having a table for New Fairfield Day on Saturday, Sept. 26th.

Kimberly LaTourette and Amy Johnson welcomed Joanne Tolles as the new BOE member and Dr. Katherine Blore as the new High School Principal.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Samantha Mannion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Kimberly LaTourette seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Amy Johnson, Peggy Katkocin, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Joanne Tolles

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos