

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2013 7:00 PM Eastern

New Fairfield Community Room
3 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Mr. Scott Akam: Present
Mr. Steve Burfeind: Present
Ms. Karen Chance: Absent
Mr. Ken Chapman: Absent
Mr. Vic Flagello: Absent
Mr. Kim Hanson: Absent
Mr. Kevin Hearty: Present
Mr. Sean Loughran: Present
Mr. Peter Ohring: Present

Present: 5, Absent: 4.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - III.A. August 15, 2013 - Special
 - III.B. August 29, 2013 - Special
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Superintendent's Report
- VII. Student Representatives' Report
- VIII. Committees
 - VIII.A. Finance
 - VIII.B. Curriculum
 - VIII.C. Personnel
 - VIII.D. Policy
 - VIII.E. Operations
 - VIII.F. Field Fees
 - VIII.G. Liaison
 - VIII.G.1. Board of Finance
 - VIII.G.2. Magnet School
 - VIII.G.3. Parks and Recreation Committee
 - VIII.G.4. Permanent Building Committee
 - VIII.G.5. Technology
 - VIII.G.6. Safety
 - VIII.G.7. Education Connection
- IX. Information Items
 - IX.A. CCSS – A Closer Look (CCSS)
 - IX.B. Assessment Results (Cycles of Improvement)
 - IX.B.1. CTE
 - IX.B.2. CAPT Cohort

- IX.C. Panorama Survey Results
- IX.D. Theatre Program Coordinator (Meeting Learners' Needs)
- IX.E. CABE/CAPSS Convention
- 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 fifteen (15) minutes. People who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related
- XI. Action Items
 - XI.A. Personnel Report
 - XI.B. Professional Development Committee (Cycles of Improvement)
 - XI.C. Approval of Grant Application
 - XI.C.1. Cowles Charitable Trust Grant (Meeting Learners' Needs)
 - XI.D. Acceptance of Grant
 - XI.D.1. Community Conversations Grant (Meeting Learners' Needs)
 - XI.E. Superintendent's Goals(It is anticipated that the Board will enter into executive session – to be voted on after executive session.)
- XII. Other
- XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION
- XIV. Adjournment

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – August 15, 2013

PRESENT: Kim Hanson (Chairman), Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

ABSENT: Ken Chapman, Vic Flagello, Karen Chance, Kevin Hearty

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Barbara Mechler, Lisa Steimer (CABE)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kim Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. WORKSHOP

The New Fairfield Board of Education has contracted with CABE to participate in their service – CABE-Meeting. This service enables the Board of Education Central Office staff to post meeting agendas and agenda item attachments for the Board, the school community and the public to view online. The purpose of this special workshop meeting was for the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and members of the Board of Education to be trained in the use of this online service.

IV. ADJOURNMENT- Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Kim Hanson, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Hanson

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2013
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES –August 29, 2013

PRESENT: Kim Hanson (Chairman), Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello and Peter Ohring

ABSENT: Ken Chapman, Kevin Hearty and Sean Loughran

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Barbara Mechler, High School Principal Mariana Coelho, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Aimee Turner, Athletic Director Mary Stolle and Business Manager Craig McClain

CALL TO ORDER

I. Chairman Kim Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. August 15, 2013- Regular Meeting

MOTION: Scott Akam made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2013 regular meeting as presented. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Chairman Kim Hanson noted that tonight’s meeting was the first one using the new electronic meeting format.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy noted that today was the first day of school. The staff has had two professional days after the Opening Day Convocation that was highlighted by educational technology expert Alan November.

The District calendar will go out to families soon and is also available online through the district’s website.

Dr. Roy sent some Tweets today regarding the first day of school.

Dr. Roy referred to the back-to-school article she wrote for the *Citizen News* that spoke about grit and growth and about a “fixed mindset vs. growth mindset.” She encouraged students to have a growth mindset throughout their education. Dr. Roy presented the board with a copy of Carol Dweck’s book regarding a growth mindset. Copies are also available at the public library.

VII. COMMITTEES

- a. Finance - Met on August 29th and discussed year-end figures. There is a small surplus from the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
- b. Curriculum - No report
- c. Personnel – Met and discussed the realigning of positions. Some of these positions are on tonight’s personnel report. Technology positions were also discussed.
- d. Policy – Policy 1313 is on for Action for tonight’s meeting.
- e. Operations - No report
- f. Field Fees - No report
- g. Liaison
 1. Board of Finance – No report
 2. Magnet School – No report
 3. Parks and Recreation – The playground is being replaced.
 4. Permanent Building Committee – No report
 5. Technology - No report
 6. Safety - Will meet in a couple of weeks.
 7. Education Connection- No report

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Introduction of Athletic Director

Dr. Roy introduced Mary Stolle as the new athletic director.

Ms. Stolle thanked the board and the administration for the opportunity and spoke of her extensive athletic experience.

B. CCSS- Common Core State Standards

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ms. Barbara Mechler spoke of the Common Core State Standards and showed a video regarding the Common Core.

Dr. Roy noted that according to a Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup study, more than 60 percent of adults surveyed know very little about the Common Core State Standards. She noted that this year she will work to continue to inform parents about the CCSS.

Ms. Mechler spoke of the attributes of the NWEA Assessment and spoke of DOK (Depth of Knowledge) and drag and drop functionality. This test is given to students in grades 1-10 and asks them to look at the text from the inside. These tests allow for a deeper assessment of reading comprehension and depth of knowledge.

Ms. Mechler noted that the district has a choice between giving either the CMT tests or the Smarter Balance tests. New Fairfield has chosen to give the Smarter Balance tests. Smarter Balance is given to students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. The Science test will still be the CMT.

C. CMT and CAPT Scores

Assistant Superintendent of School Ms. Barbara Mechler spoke of the CMT and CAPT tests and showed last year's scores. It was noted that there was some discussion throughout the state since the district is moving towards CCSS but the students are being tested on different curriculum.

Ms. Mechler spoke of the scores for DRG B and compared New Fairfield with other towns and grade level comparisons throughout the years. Scores were shown for Consolidated, MHHS and Middle School students. It was noted that the purpose of these tests is to measure growth.

Ms. Mechler spoke of the many high school distinctions and academic and athletic awards received by New Fairfield students.

Members of the BOE asked questions of Ms. Mechler regarding the scores and curriculum and tools to improve scores. Specific discussions included the addition of full-day kindergarten and how that has affected the curriculum. The first class of students with full-day kindergarten are now in the second grade.

D. Breakfast Program

Dr. Roy spoke of the federal breakfast program. This began at MHHS last year and Consolidated will be added this year so that all four schools will have a breakfast program.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Scott Akam made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of the Personnel Report as presented. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

B. Approval of Grant Application

1. Primary Mental Health Grant-Special Friends

MOTION: Steve Burfeind made a motion to recommend to the full board the submission of the Special Friends Grant application to the State Department of Education in the amount of \$25,000. Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

C. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 1313 - Gifts to School Personnel

MOTION: Scott Akam made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of the Board of Education Policy 1313 - Gifts to School Personnel as presented. Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

D. Gallup Student Poll

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of the Gallup Student Poll for students in grades 5-12. Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

E. Non-tuition Student Requests

MOTION: Kim Hanson made a motion to table this item. Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

F. Superintendent Evaluation and Contract - Discussed in Executive Session

XI. OTHER - None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT MATTER

MOTION: Kim Hanson made a motion to table the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a confidential student matter. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. for the purposes of discussing the Superintendent's contract to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Roy into the Executive Session. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to authorize the BOE Secretary to sign the Superintendent's contract as presented. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

Kim Hanson thanked Dr. Roy for her dedication to the school district.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT- Scott Akam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Karen Chance seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson and Peter Ohring

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Career Technical Education Results

CAPT—Cohort Results

STUDENT PERFORMANCE 2013

September 12, 2013



Career and Technical Education will provide educational opportunities for all students for academic and skill attainment and career development, as life-long learners, leading to post-secondary education and/or employment in a dynamic, technological, and global economy.

NFHS—CAREER CLUSTER FOCUS

- Computer-Aided Design
- Marketing
- Personal Finance
- Pre-Engineering

Partially funded by
Perkins Grant



MEETING THE STANDARDS

PERSONAL FINANCE

- Economics
- Introduction to Business
- Entrepreneurship, Independent Living, Business Law, Accounting, Calculus, Related Virtual High School Courses

PRE-ENGINEERING

- Robotics
- Engineering
- Physics

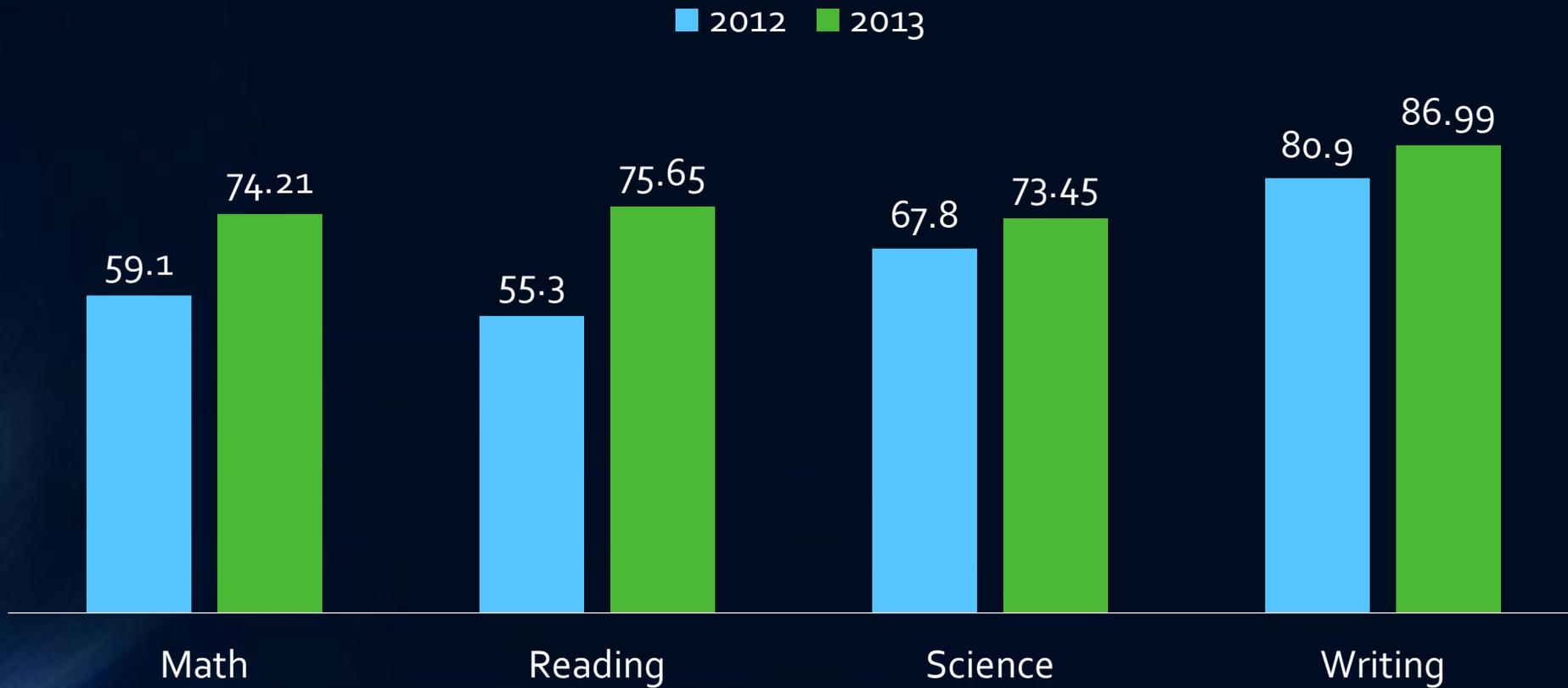


CTE COMPARISON 2011-2013



Each year represents the percentage of students meeting the CTE target.

CAPT Growth—Class of 2014 Cohort



Percentage of students meeting or exceeding goal.

Panorama Survey
New Fairfield Schools
District Report
August 2013



Consolidated School

11. If my child has a problem, there is someone at school who can help.

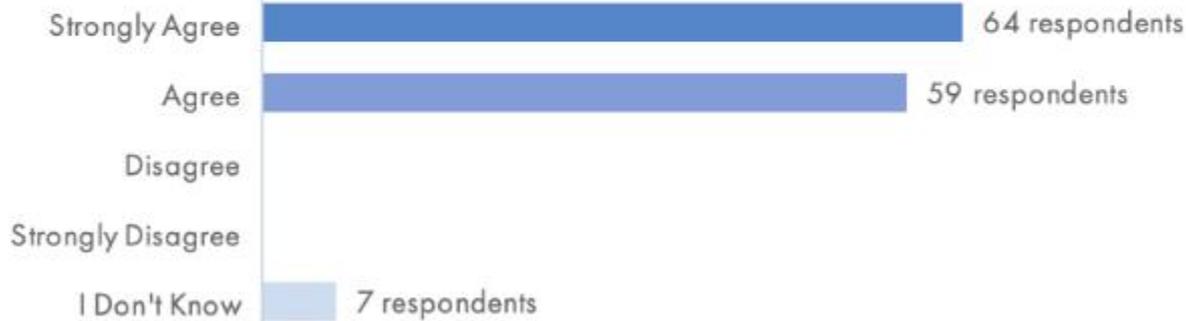
Responded Favorably

100%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)

District Average

86%



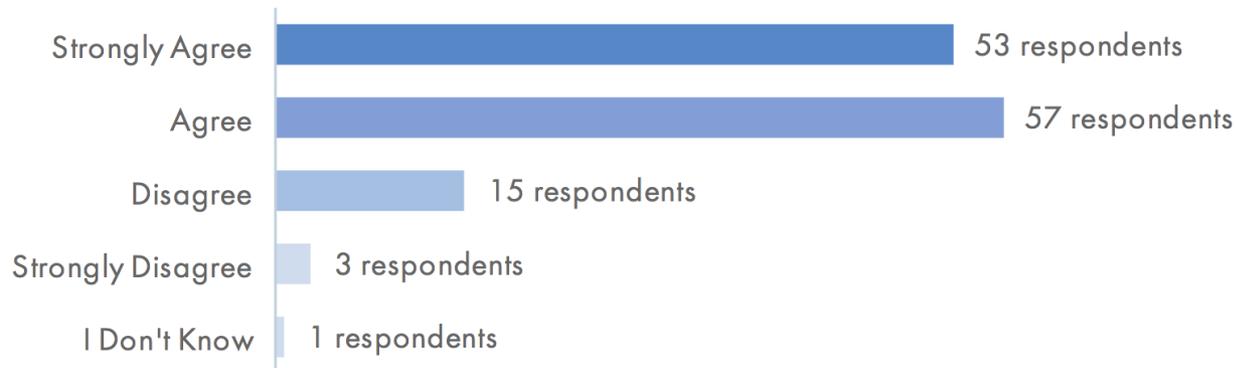
Consolidated School Focus Area

6. I know how my child is doing in school before I get my child's report card.

Responded Favorably

86%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)



District Average

86%

Meeting House Hill School

16. My child is safe at this school.

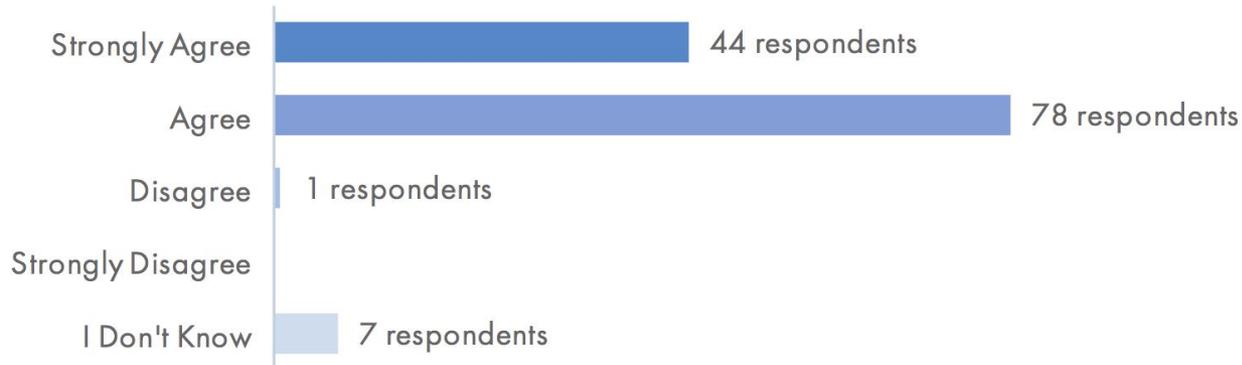
Responded Favorably

99%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)

District Average

93%



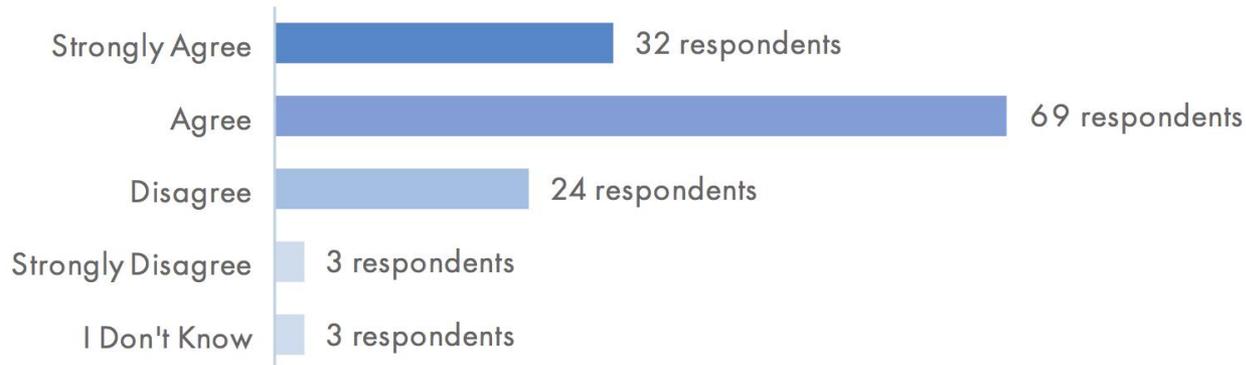
Meeting House Hill School Focus Area

4. My child is challenged to meet high expectations at this school.

Responded
Favorably

79%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)



District
Average

77%

Middle School

14. My child's teacher(s) treat me with respect.

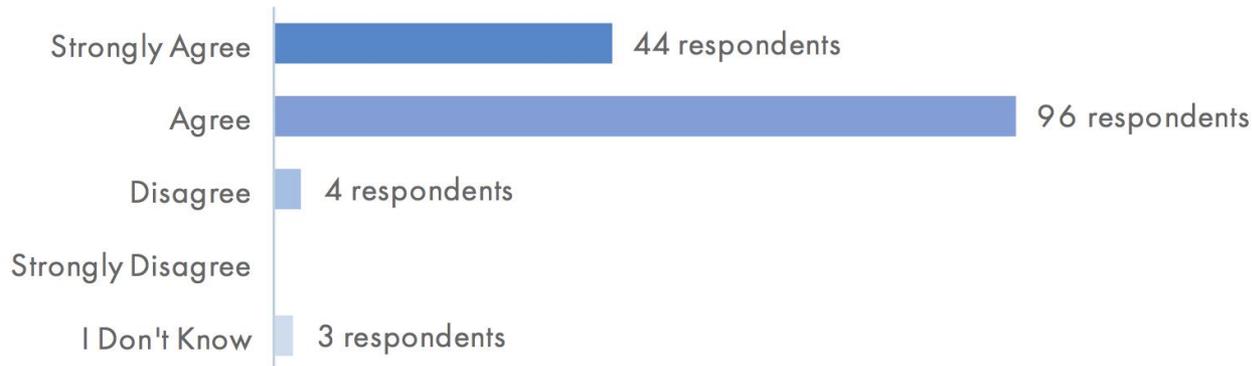
Responded Favorably

97%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)

District Average

95%



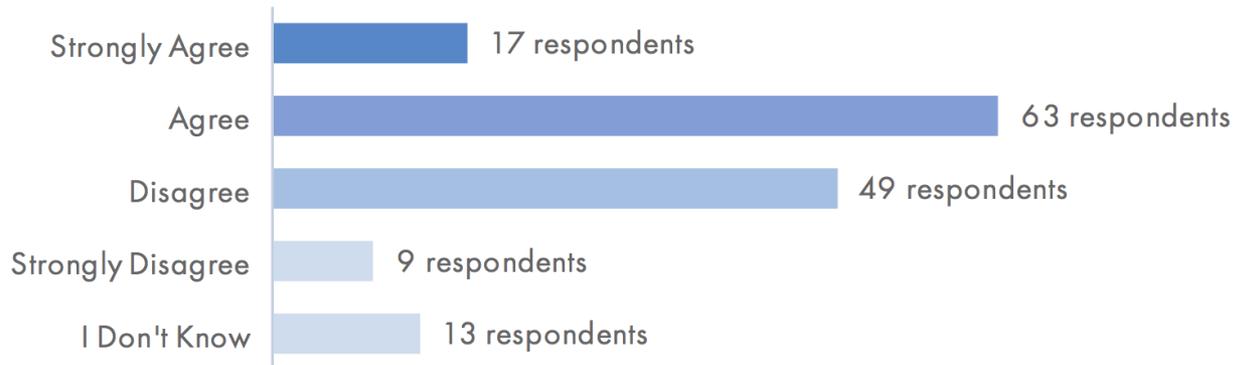
Middle School Focus Area

3. This school offers me many ways to be involved in my child's education.

Responded Favorably

58%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)



District Average

71%

High School

15. My child's teacher(s) treat me with respect.

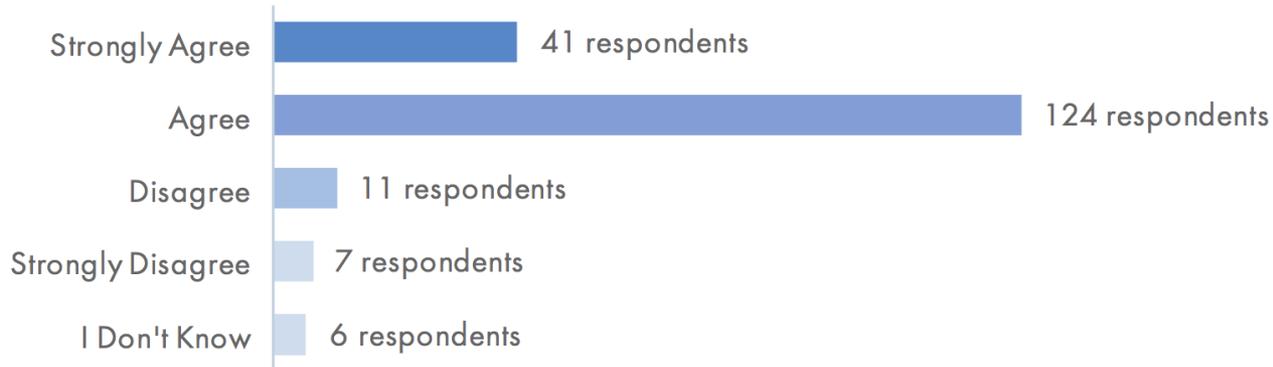
Responded Favorably

90%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)

District Average

95%



High School Focus Area

5. I often communicate with my child's teacher(s), whether in person, by phone, by email, or in some other way.

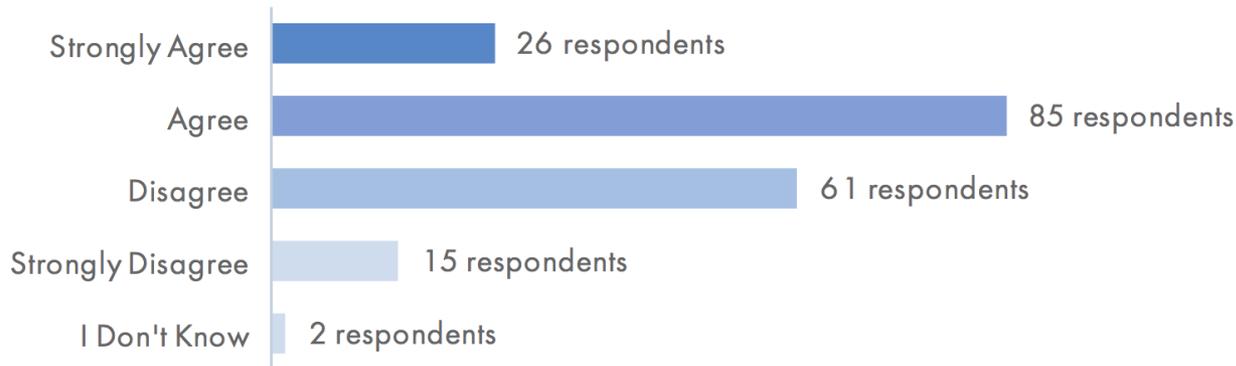
Responded Favorably

59%

Distribution of Scores
(# of responses)

District Average

74%





.7 District Enrichment/Theatre Program Coordinator New Fairfield Public Schools

Theatre Program Coordinator

Overview of Responsibilities

Work with classroom teachers to present reader's theater programs:

- Select or adapt scripts
- Create props with the students
- Teach basics of projection, vocal expression, movement
- Rehearse during school day

Fifth Grade Play

- Select scripts
- Direct the students
- Produce
- Scenery and Props: Design and create
- Costumes: Design, create and/or purchase

Support/Assist High School Fall Play Supervisor

- Provide support (see possible areas listed above) as needed
- Attend rehearsals as needed

Enrichment Coordinator

Overview of Responsibilities

- Select and schedule cultural assemblies K-12
- Work with assistant superintendent to select clubs for stipends
- Teach enrichment classes for grades K-5
- Screen students districtwide for Gifted and Talented
- Select/ schedule workshops for students identified as talented
- Run Creative Thinkers program for gifted students in grades 3-8
- Teach before and after school programs, such as the following:

Spinning Green

Book Club

Stock Market Simulation

Sewing

Art Club

Science League Club

The Cowles Charitable Trust
P.O. Box 219
Rumson, New Jersey 07760
732-936-9826

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Please complete this form and submit with your proposal packet. See page 3 for explanation of information items. Please return completed form to the Trust at the above address. FORM CAN BY TYPED OR REPRODUCED ON A COMPUTER.

INFORMATION ON APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

1. ORGANIZATION New Fairfield Public Schools
2. PREVIOUS OR OTHER NAME _____
3. ADDRESS 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
TELEPHONE: (203)312-5753 FAX (203)312-5773
4. NAME/TITLE OF PROPOSAL CONTACT Barbara E. Mechler, Assistant Superintendent
5. YEAR OF THE MOST RECENT COWLES CHARITABLE TRUST GRANT (IF ANY) 2011-2012 School Year

6. BRIEF STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY AND MISSION (PLEASE LIMIT TO SPACE PROVIDED)

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of learners dedicated to academic, social and personal excellence.

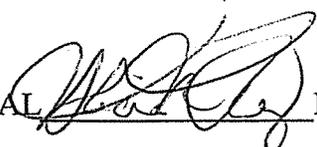
DISTRICT GOAL

To incorporate technology and use data to drive and personalize instruction, ensuring continuous improvement for all students.

CORE BELIEFS

*To foster a culture of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship, we believe that
each child is every adult's responsibility;
a safe and healthful environment is essential;
a family, school, and community partnership is critical to student success;
and that we must
support and promote global awareness, diversity, integrity, and the dignity of each individual;
foster a culture of professionalism and collegiality;
evaluate the present order to plan for the future.*

7. NAME/TITLE OF CEO: Dr. Alicia M. Roy

8. SIGNATURE OF CEO ENDORSING PROPOSAL  DATE 8/26/13

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED PROJECT

9. BRIEF SUMMARY OF REQUEST (PLEASE LIMIT TO SPACE PROVIDED)

The research shows that children who have relationships with interested adults are less likely to be violent or get involved with drugs and alcohol and more likely to do better in school and in life.

Mentoring can make a difference in many ways. Some of the goals of our program are to improve academic performance, behavior, and attitudes towards school. With these changes comes an enhanced self-esteem and motivation to succeed.

Funds will be used to support a part time employee to: recruit and train mentors; organize and monitor program operation; work with professional staff to identify students in need.

10. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT \$9,000
11. AMOUNT REQUESTED \$5,000
12. OTHER SPECIFIC SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF SUPPORT FOR
PROPOSED PROJECT (PLEASE NOTE IF COMMITTED OR PENDING)

Professional services of social worker, psychologist, guidance personnel and other professional staff will be provided as an in-kind service by New Fairfield Public Schools. In addition, all incidental costs connected with copy services and secretarial support will be provided in-kind by New Fairfield Public Schools.

PROPOSAL PACKET CHECKLIST

Please place a check next to the following documents to indicate each is included as part of the proposal packet. See "How to Apply for a Grant" guidelines for description of the required documents in the following order:

13. Proposal Cover Sheet (ORIGINAL ONLY)
14. Letter of Application (ORIGINAL ONLY)
15. Project Budget (revenue and expenses) (ONE COPY)
16. Organization's Current Budget (revenue and expenses) (ONE COPY)
17. List of Governing Body/Officers with Affiliations (ONE COPY)
18. Audit Financial Statement (ONE COPY)
19. IRS Document of Current Tax Exempt Status (ONE COPY OF
5010(3)IRS LETTER



NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
Fax: 203-312-5609 www.newfairfieldschools.org

Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Superintendent
203-312-5770

Ms. Barbara E. Mechler, Assistant Superintendent
203-312-5753

August 26, 2013

The Cowles Charitable Trust
P. O. Box 219
Rumson, New Jersey 07760

To Whom It May Concern:

Letter of Application

Description of the organization

New Fairfield public schools serves approximately 2,830 students in a small Connecticut town located on the New York border, with the City of Danbury to the south, the Town of Sherman to the north, and Candlewood Lake to the east, New Fairfield is a community of 14,250 residents, and 25.3 square miles. It was incorporated in 1740. It is the home of Squantz Pond State Park, and Candlewood Lake and it is a well known summer vacation community.

Need for the project

The community is changing from a sleepy summer community to an actively growing suburban area. In spite of its bucolic setting it is not immune to the stresses of modern day life and often students are victims of these pressures. The mentor program was put into place to help students resist unhealthy choices. Under a part time staff member the program was very successful for years.

Although there is no industrial and little commercial tax base, the community has staunchly supported education. Parent involvement positively impacts student achievement, but the current per pupil expenditure puts New Fairfield in the bottom quartile of Connecticut school districts. Funding from the Cowles Foundation would support our mission to provide for all learners academically, socially and personally. The current mentor program has been ongoing since 2005 and has positively impacted over 200 students. Continued funding will allow us to pay a part-time mentor coordinator to sustain this life changing program for adolescents.

We are a community of learners dedicated to academic, social, and personal excellence.

Objectives

1. Improve the academic performance of students identified as "at risk" due to social or emotional pressures.
2. Improve behavior of students whose social-emotional problems have been manifested through poor behavior patterns.
3. Improve the attitude of students who have problems with authority or have difficulty interacting with peers or adults.

Activities

1. Actively recruit volunteers from the community and/or surrounding communities and businesses.
2. Work with professional staff to identify "at risk" students in need.
3. Coordinate all aspects of the program including scheduling, training mentors and parent/ student follow-up.

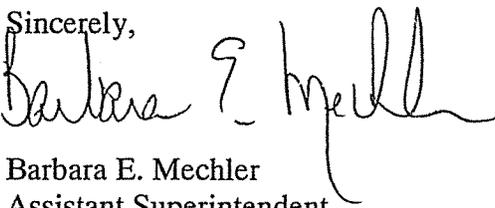
Costs

We are in our ninth year of funding. The program has been successful and each year approximately 25 students are served on a one- to-one basis through this mentoring initiative.

1. Program coordinator- \$5,000/year for one year	\$ 5,000
2. Secretarial support- \$800/year for one year - In kind	\$ 800
3. Supplies and materials-\$200/year one year-In kind	\$ 200
4. Professional staff- \$3,000/year for one year- In kind	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$ 9,000

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara E. Mechler
Assistant Superintendent

15. PROJECT BUDGET

Costs

1. Program coordinator- \$5,000/year for one year	\$ 5,000
2. Secretarial support- \$800/year for five years- In kind	\$ 800
3. Supplies and materials-\$200/year for five years-In kind	\$ 200
4. Professional staff- \$3,000/year for five years- In kind	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$ 9,000

From: Mechler, Barbara [mailto:bmechler@new-fairfield.k12.ct.us]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 2:56 PM
To: Alicia Roy
Subject: Fwd: Congratulations New Grantees

Barbara E. Mechler
Assistant Superintendent
New Fairfield Public Schools
12 Gillotti Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812
203-312-5753
Fax: 203-312-5773
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "NPolk@aol.com" <NPolk@aol.com>
Date: August 26, 2013, 2:33:29 PM EDT
To: "patricia.calvo@wrccinc.org" <patricia.calvo@wrccinc.org>, "lindak@danburychildrenfirst.org" <lindak@danburychildrenfirst.org>, "Mechler, Barbara" <bmechler@new-fairfield.k12.ct.us>, "merryleaton@ccahelping.org" <merryleaton@ccahelping.org>, "lleclerc@killinglyschools.org" <lleclerc@killinglyschools.org>, "noelfederle@msn.com" <noelfederle@msn.com>, "carrie.benier@communityfunddarien.org" <carrie.benier@communityfunddarien.org>,

"calverts2@comcast.net" <calverts2@comcast.net>, "ccwilkes@optonline.net" <ccwilkes@optonline.net>, "srigano@spefct.org" <srigano@spefct.org>, "WGuzman@Totalnd.K12.CT.US" <WGuzman@Totalnd.K12.CT.US>, "Michael@steppingstonesmuseum.org" <Michael@steppingstonesmuseum.org>, "Tomtays@snet.net" <Tomtays@snet.net>, "Stephanie@northwestunitedway.org" <Stephanie@northwestunitedway.org>, "ptalty@Cromwell.k12.ct.us" <ptalty@Cromwell.k12.ct.us>, "aburrows@Voluntownct.org" <aburrows@Voluntownct.org>
Cc: "mary-broderick@att.net" <mary-broderick@att.net>

Subject: Congratulations New Grantees

Hi, Grantee class of 2013-2014!

You have all won grants for your projects. Most of you will be holding Community Conversations. Some are working on follow up activities.

The competition was especially tough this year and with a tighter budget we had to reject some applicants. Your applications stood out. Regretfully with our tighter budget all money requests had to be reduced. We will share tips on how to save money or you may wish to raise some money locally to supplement your grant.

Your next task is to form your Planning Groups. You will need 20 people to help plan the event. Their first task is to agree upon a title for the Community Conversation. Their most challenging job is the invitation process. If you choose a diverse Planning Group it will make it easier to assemble a diverse group of participants. So in addition to education reps you will want to reach out to seniors, local employers, clergy, local government and civic leaders.

Checks and Planning Guides will be distributed at the Orientation Dinner. The dinner begins at 5:30 pm on September 11 and lasts about 2 hours. Please select two representatives from the Planning Group to attend. They should be people who will be working on the plan for the event.

The Orientation is held at the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, 2319 Whitney Ave., Hamden. You exit the Merritt Parkway at Exit 61, turn right at the end of the short ramp. Go thru 1 light and right into Hamden center. Park in front of the parking garage.

We are excited to be working with you this year. One note: No carryovers this time. After 20 years we have been told the project is winding down so everyone should plan to be finished by June.

Nancy Polk
1932 Litchfield Tpk.
Woodbridge, CT 06525
203 397 2799