

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT

MINUTES – December 17, 2009

PRESENT: Kim Hanson (Chairman), Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

ABSENT: Ken Chapman, Kevin Hearty

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy, Middle School Principal Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley, Secondary Director of PPS Kim Culkin and Elementary Director of PPS Aimee Turner.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. December 3, 2009 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ron Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of Action Item D "Formation of Superintendent's Search." Vic Flagello seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- None

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola noted that the Superintendent's requested budget for 2010-2011 will be delivered to board members the week of December 28th. The Superintendent's budget will be presented on January 5, 2010 and there will be a budget meeting on January 6, 2010. Dr. Castagnola wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Senior Representative Ethan Green reported that:

- The Winter Concert went very well.
- There will be an Alumni Panel on January 6th.
- Swimming started this week.
- The basketball team will play tonight against New Milford.

Junior Representative Chris Cheng reported that:

- Congratulated John Reiner for placing 35th in Nationals in San Diego.
- New Fairfield will once again have a hockey team and will be combined with Immaculate High School.
- "Rowdy Rebels" were recently called the best "fan base" by the Danbury News Times.
- Wished everyone a very Happy Holiday Season.

VIII. COMMITTEES

- a. Finance – No report
- b. Curriculum – No report
- c. Personnel – No report
- d. Policy – No report
- e. Operations – Met on December 8th. They are currently in the design phase of the school projects.
- f. Liaison
 1. Board of Finance – No report
 2. Magnet School – Dr. Ed Siebert noted that January is the month to register for the Magnet School and application forms are in the superintendent's office. A letter from the New Fairfield BOE was submitted stating their disappointment with the tuition increase. New Milford's BOE also voted "no" in regard to the tuition increase.
 3. Parks and Recreation – No report
 4. Permanent Building Committee – Dr. Castagnola noted that there have been a lot of meetings regarding the school projects and encouraged BOE members to attend the PBC meetings if possible.
 5. Technology – Alicia Roy is researching technology for the school project and noted that BL Companies provides a technology consultant for the school project.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Overview of Plans for Improving Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy spoke of plans for improving student achievement. Ms. Roy spoke of the RTI (Response to Intervention) and gave examples of RTI plans. She also spoke of different tiers for students and Blue Ribbon testing which determines specific skills that may need improvement. An action plan is determined based on student responses to the Blue Ribbon testing. Ms. Roy noted that this plan addresses the needs of all students.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- Resident Bob Bell thanked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola for all his hard work and dedication to New Fairfield during his tenure as superintendent and wished him well in his retirement.

XI. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Ed Siebert made a motion to accept the Personnel report for the period ending December 10, 2009 as presented. Karen Chance seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

Ron Lyons noted that High School Football coach Andy Buchsbaum will be missed.

B. Board of Education Policies

1. Policy 4152.6(a)/4252.6- Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified- Personal Leaves
2. Policy 5114 (a) – Students – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Referral to Police
3. Policy 5141.21(a) – Students – Administration of Medication by School Personnel
4. Policy 5141.4 (a) – Students – Reporting Child Abuse
5. Policy 6114.8(a) – Instruction – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
6. Policy 7230.2 (a) – Construction – Extensions/Renovations or Replacements
7. Policy 9270 – Bylaws of the Board – Conflict of Interest

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to accept BOE policies #1-6 as presented. Ron Lyons seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

There was a discussion of the ambiguity of Policy 9270 and it was decided that BOE Policy #7 (Policy 9270-Bylaws of the Board-Conflict of Interest) will be sent to CABE for further review and then back to the policy subcommittee.

C. 403(b) Plan Resolution Approval

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to recommend to the full board the adoption of the New Fairfield Board of Education Resolutions regarding the New Fairfield Board of Education 403(B) Plan. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting) Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

D. Formation of Superintendent's Search

MOTION: Kim Hanson made a motion that the board operate as a committee in regard to the superintendent search. Ron Lyons seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

XII. OTHER

Dr. Castagnola spoke of a possible change in the bell schedule for the high school. This will be presented to the curriculum committee in early 2010.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PENDING LITIGATION

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and to invite Dr. Castagnola, Alicia Roy, Kim Culkin and Aimee Turner into the Executive Session. Michelle Rhyce seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Ed Siebert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Danielle Capalbo seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kim Hanson, Danielle Capalbo, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Ron Lyons, Michelle Rhyce and Ed Siebert.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos