

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

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2012
at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

MINUTES – February 2, 2012

PRESENT: Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Ken Chapman (arrived 7:50 p.m.), Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

ABSENT: Kim Hanson, Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Barbara Mechler, High School Principal Mariana Coelho and Director of Management Services Craig McClain

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Secretary Vic Flagello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. January 19, 2012 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Sean Loughran made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 regular meeting as presented. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the following additions: Information Item B "Middle School Principal Search", Action Item E "Kindergarten Shared Position" and Action Item F. "Retirement Settlement" and Agenda Item XIII-Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Contractual Issue. Sean Loughran seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Board Secretary Vic Flagello noted that he will run tonight's meeting in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman. Mr. Flagello encouraged taxpayers to read an article in the *Citizen News* about the Board of Education budget.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of an article in the *Citizen News* about full-day kindergarten.

Dr. Roy noted the Middle School Principal Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley retired. Christine Baldelli is now the Interim Middle School Principal with Scott Bannon as the Interim Middle School Assistant Principal. Laura Olsen is now the Interim Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal.

Dr. Roy noted that February 1, 2012 was Digital Literacy Day.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on February 23rd due to winter break on February 16th, 17th and 20th.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Senior Representative Ian Ekblaw reported on the following:

- The Black and White Semi-formal will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4th.
- FBLA will do a Community Service project in conjunction with students from MHHS and Consolidated School to benefit the "Grace Rocks" foundation. This fundraiser will take place from February 1st to February 16th.
- Civil Air Patrol received the Cadet Unit award for the 2nd year in a row.
- The 2nd quarter ends tomorrow.
- Project CLEAR- donate used sneakers - ends Monday, Feb. 6th.

Junior Representative Malana Krongelb reported on the following:

- Congratulated Ana Dolak for receiving first place at the Danbury Symphony Orchestra.
- The literacy magazine *Aporia* received an award of "Excellence" from the National Council of Teachers of English.

VIII. COMMITTEES

- a. Finance - Will meet at the end of the month.
- b. Curriculum – Met tonight and discussed the Common Core Standards.
- c. Personnel – Met last week- discussed the shared kindergarten position.
- d. Policy – Met last week- approved several policies.
- e. Operations – No report
- f. Liaison
 1. Board of Finance – No report
 2. Magnet School – No report
 3. Parks and Recreation – Still looking to resolve the issue about the donation from New Fairfield baseball and where to put new field.
 4. Permanent Building Committee – Met on Jan. 31st- walked MHHS and saw all the changes.
 5. Technology - Still working on the three-year Tech Plan.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. College and Career Readiness

Dr. Roy spoke of data presented by the state regarding college and career readiness. This data is provided from the class of 2004 and tracks students through six years after high school. Information from the class of 2010 is also available. This data ranks graduation rate and AP scores. It was noted that every state is required to have a data center with this information. Peter Ohring suggested that this information be put on the district's website.

B. Middle School Principal Search

Dr. Roy spoke of the need to begin the search for a new principal for the Middle School. The first step would be to have a survey on the district's website for parents or anyone in town wishing to give input regarding specific qualities that the school is looking for in a principal. After that, a brochure will be put together to invite applicants. A committee will be formed including teachers, parents, and administrators for the interview process.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Holly Murtha asked about the possibility of putting the BOE meeting schedule on the town's website. Vic Flagello noted that he will follow up with Chairman Kim Hanson. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy noted that the Board of Education does not have access to the town's website, but that a link between the Board and Town websites existed.

XII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of the Personnel Report dated February 2, 2012. Karen Chance seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

B. The Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences

MOTION: Kevin Hearty made a motion to recommend to the full board the addition of the Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences to the high school curriculum beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, and to recommend the acceptance of the prescribed curriculum, accompanying teacher training and funds of \$8,000 per year for three years that accompany the addition of this academy at New Fairfield High School. Sean Loughran seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

1. New Course Approval- Earth and Energy Science Essentials

2. New Course Approval-Skills 21

MOTION: Kevin Hearty made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval of two new courses to be offered at New Fairfield High School as part of the Academy: Earth and Energy Science Essentials, and Skills 21. Scott Akam seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

C. Meeting House Hill School Building Project Plaque

Dr. Roy showed the board a sample of the plaque for the Meeting House Hill School renovation.

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to accept Drawing # 101400-25 as the plaque for the Meeting House Hill School renovation. Scott Akam seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

D. Non-tuition Student Request

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to accept the student request as presented. Scott Akam seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

Transportation will be provided by the parents.

E. Kindergarten Shared Position

Karen Chance spoke of a shared position for kindergarten where two teachers teach one class with one teacher in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each position is a .5 position. This is the first year of this situation and has worked very well so far.

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to recommend to the full board the continuation of the shared kindergarten position for the 2012-2013 school year. Karen Chance seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kim Hanson, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

ABSTAINED: Scott Akam

F. Retirement Settlement

This was discussed in Executive Session

XII. OTHER- None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vic Flagello made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel retirement settlement and to invite Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy into the Executive Session. Karen Chance seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

Ken Chapman arrived during Executive Session.

The board came back from Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

MOTION: Vic Flagello made a motion to recommend to the full board to award the retirement settlement bonus per Article 49.1 contingent upon receipt of a memorandum of agreement and of a letter from Isabelle Detje of her intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Ken Chapman, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty and Peter Ohring **OPPOSED:** Sean Loughran

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - Ken Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Scott Akam, Steve Burfeind, Karen Chance, Ken Chapman, Vic Flagello, Kevin Hearty, Sean Loughran and Peter Ohring

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos