

Town of New Fairfield
School Safety and Security Committee

MINUTES

Monday, April 26, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Dr. Richard Sanzo gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Members present:

Patricia Del Monaco, First Selectman
Samantha Mannion, BOE
Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent
Anthony Yorio, BOF Member
Sgt. Adam Wagnblas
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Maria Evans, OEM Director

Other Town Officials Present:

Dr. Karen Fildes, Director Technology/Comm.
Ed Sbordone, BOE, Finance Dir., Treasurer
Dr. Richard Sanzo, Dir. of Business Operations

Call to Order

Patricia Del Monaco, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting Dates

Rich Sanzo stated that there are minor things to discuss related to the school building project but their work on this committee is mostly wrapped up at this point as the projects are getting ready to go out to bid. He would like as an end-of-year update to be able to return to their tracking spreadsheet that they had related to the audit work that was ongoing. He would like that to be after the school year wraps up-he is around the end of June, although Dr. Cosentino and Karen Fildes may not be available-as long as it is okay with Dr. Cosentino that Rich gives the update.

Dr. Cosentino stated that she would still be here on June 21, if that is okay to meet.

Rich Sanzo said that date was good for him.

Pat Del Monaco stated that she has another meeting on June 21.

Pat Cosentino asked if June 14 was okay. June 14 at 7:00 p.m. was good for everyone.

Pat Del Monaco stated they would move on to the Speak Up Update item on the Agenda.

Samantha Mannion asked if they can add an item to the agenda for Executive Session before moving on. She asked that they add an update on Speak Up to the Executive Session, as well. Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the Agenda to add item 7a for an anticipated Executive Session for Speak Up. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Rich Sanzo stated that he would like to add that he can speak about School Security Grants generally in the public session but would like to speak about it specifically in Executive Session so that needs to be a modification to the agenda.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to modify the agenda to include School Security Grants as item 7b to Executive Session, as well. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Speak Up Update

Pat Cosentino stated that she will be broad and brief. They are using Speak Up through Gagle which was launched in February in the Middle and High School. It is advertised to parents in a newsletter and clearly visible on the website (which they are redoing). The children in grades 6-12 get monthly emails from Speak Up letting them know how to address a question, concern or problem. This is all she thinks they should talk about in open session.

Dr. Karen Fildes stated that she thinks it is okay to stay in public session to discuss the protocols they have in place and have been worked on through both the town and school in terms of how to handle the tips that come through.

Dr. Cosentino felt it would be better to share this information in Executive Session.

School Security Grants

Rich Sanzo will update more in depth on School Security Grants in Executive Session. The State of Connecticut released round 5 of their School Security Grant Program which can be utilized to fund various hardware infrastructure needs within the district. He has a draft of the grant ready to share in Executive Session. Rich, Adam Wagnblas and Phil Ross and the technology department are coordinating a meeting in the near future to update audits they had done in Committee a couple of years ago. He will be applying for those grants-they will be able to use with the current school and campus setup and also transferable when the new schools are up and running. He will share more specifics with the Committee in Executive Session. He will be submitting it by June 30. He hopes to receive some money from the state to help offset some of the security infrastructure costs.

School Safety and Design Committee for School Building Projects, Speak Up, School Security Grants Executive Session

For items #7, 7a and 7b, Pat Del Monaco made a motion at 7:16 p.m. to enter Executive Session and invited Dr. Karen Fildes-Director of Technology and Communication, Ed Sbordone-BOE, Director of Finance, Treasurer and Dr. Rich Sanzo-Director of Business Operations. The motion was seconded by Samanth Mannion. **Vote 7-0-0. (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reenter the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Maria Evans. **Vote 7-0-0. (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Maria Evans seconded the motion. **Vote 7-0-0. (Motion approved)**

Received by Email on 4/26/2021 @ 3:54 pm
By Pamela J. Dohan, Town Clerk, New Fairfield