

# *Town of New Fairfield*

*Selectmen's Office  
4 Brush Hill Road  
New Fairfield, Connecticut*

## **SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING ZOOM MEETING**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95031285045>

Meeting ID: 950 3128 5045

Dial In: 1(929) 205-6099

**TUESDAY, April 9, 2024  
7:30 P.M.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes of School Safety and Security Committee Regular Meeting January 9, 2024
5. Discuss Temporary Bus Lot and Safety Concerns
6. EMS
7. Review Location of SOC

Executive Session Anticipated

8. Adjournment

*Town of New Fairfield*  
School Safety and Security Committee

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

7:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Erik Muhlenberg gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

**Members present:**

Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman  
Samantha Mannion, BOE  
Nick Ieraci, Sgt. Resident Trooper  
Phil Ross, Director of Facilities  
Mark Beninson, BOF  
Carrie DePuy, Director of Business Operations  
Glenn Magyar-Lead Dispatcher  
Dr. Kenneth Craw-Superintendent  
Derrek Guertin, Fire Marshal

**Other Town Officials Present:**

Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman

**Call to Order**

Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at approximately 7:34 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Approve Minutes of School Safety & Security Committee Special Meetings on June 13, 2022 and October 25, 2023**

Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on June 13, 2022 and Mark Beninson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Samantha Mannion made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2023 Special Meeting and Phil Ross seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Discuss Incident Command Systems Training**

-Melissa Lindsey asked if everyone had seen the email Maria Evans sent out regarding Incident Command Systems Training and what their thoughts are about it, it sounds interesting and worth the time.

-Mark Beninson said he thought it was worth the time.

-Derrek Guertin felt it was valuable and important for everyone to be familiar with it.

-Dr. Craw said he had shared the information with his administrative team and Paul Gouveia had already trained.

-Melissa said she would let Maria know that everyone was interested and she can set the training up.

-Mark Beninson said that all of the information is available on the FEMA site to anyone, as well.

**Review Location of SOC**

Melissa made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. with all of the voting members to discuss the review of the location of the SOC. All of the members in attendance were invited and Dr. Craw asked that Paul and Dominic Cipollone be invited, as well. Glenn Magyar asked to be included, also. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Melissa made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. All were in favor, except Derrek Guertin, who was not available at the time of the vote and was counted as abstained.

**Adjournment**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Received by email on 01/11/2024 @ 4:21 p.m.

by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

## Jean Green

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**From:** Jena Alviti [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:45 AM  
**To:** bos  
**Cc:** boe@newfairfieldct.gov  
**Subject:** JJP Ambulance Access - Urgent Matter  
**Attachments:** TEMPORARY BUS LOT GATE.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution:** External (jena@jalviti.com)

First-Time Sender [Details](#)

[Report This Email](#) [View My Quarantine](#) [Protection by Novus Insight](#)

Dear Board of Ed and Board of Selectmen Members,

My name is a Jena Alviti, and I live on Pondfield Road. As a sports parent and volunteer in town, player safety is always a top priority and front of mind. When the bus lot was "temporarily" moved to the school campus, we had concerns about access to JJP field. (My husband Jeff and others have brought it up at prior town meetings.)

I realize that our town has not yet agreed to the permanent location of the bus lot, but after witnessing a severe injury on Marty Morgan field this past week, it has become very apparent adjustments must be made immediately to the current set up.

The locked fencing around the temporary lot completely blocks all ambulance access to JJP field. The person or persons who have the key to this locked fencing will not always be available at the field in an emergency. After witnessing our ambulance response time to the high school being almost 15 minutes, I beg of you to make this small adjustment to the fencing to make emergency access to JJP possible.

Readjusting the fencing of that front corner of the temporary bus lot will allow quick and easy access to the field without anyone needing to move buses or find a key. My entire family was present when sixth grader Ryan Schwarz broke his leg in multiple places Friday night - not one coach on that field had a key to the gate that allows the ambulance to enter Marty Morgan field, not even Marty Morgan himself who was present at the time. Luckily, someone from the soccer program (I believe, I didn't catch his name) saw the chaos and ran over with a key that he just happened to have (it was not his personal key) and helped us open it just in time.

I don't need to tell you all that in an emergency, *every second counts*. This injury was a broken bone - the next one may be to someone's heart, brain, or spine. I feel that even having a key to the gates within the temporary bus lot specifically would not allow quick enough access for the ambulance to get through in an emergency. I have included pictures of what I am talking about, and hope that you will urgently consider rearranging the fencing in the corner of that temporary bus lot to avoid further liability issues and road blocks to safety in an emergency for our children who use that field every single day.

I have often heard the argument that if a player on the field is injured, they would be small enough to "carry up the hill" – but that is a very narrow viewpoint. We cannot control the extent of injury or to whom an injury occurs, and on any given day that field has players, coaches, parents, and even referees on it. If an adult has an immediate medical need down on that field, then what? It is also not proper emergency protocol for a coach or any citizen to move an injured player before EMS gets there, so that argument has zero merit.

So I am asking the boards to work together for two things *immediately*:

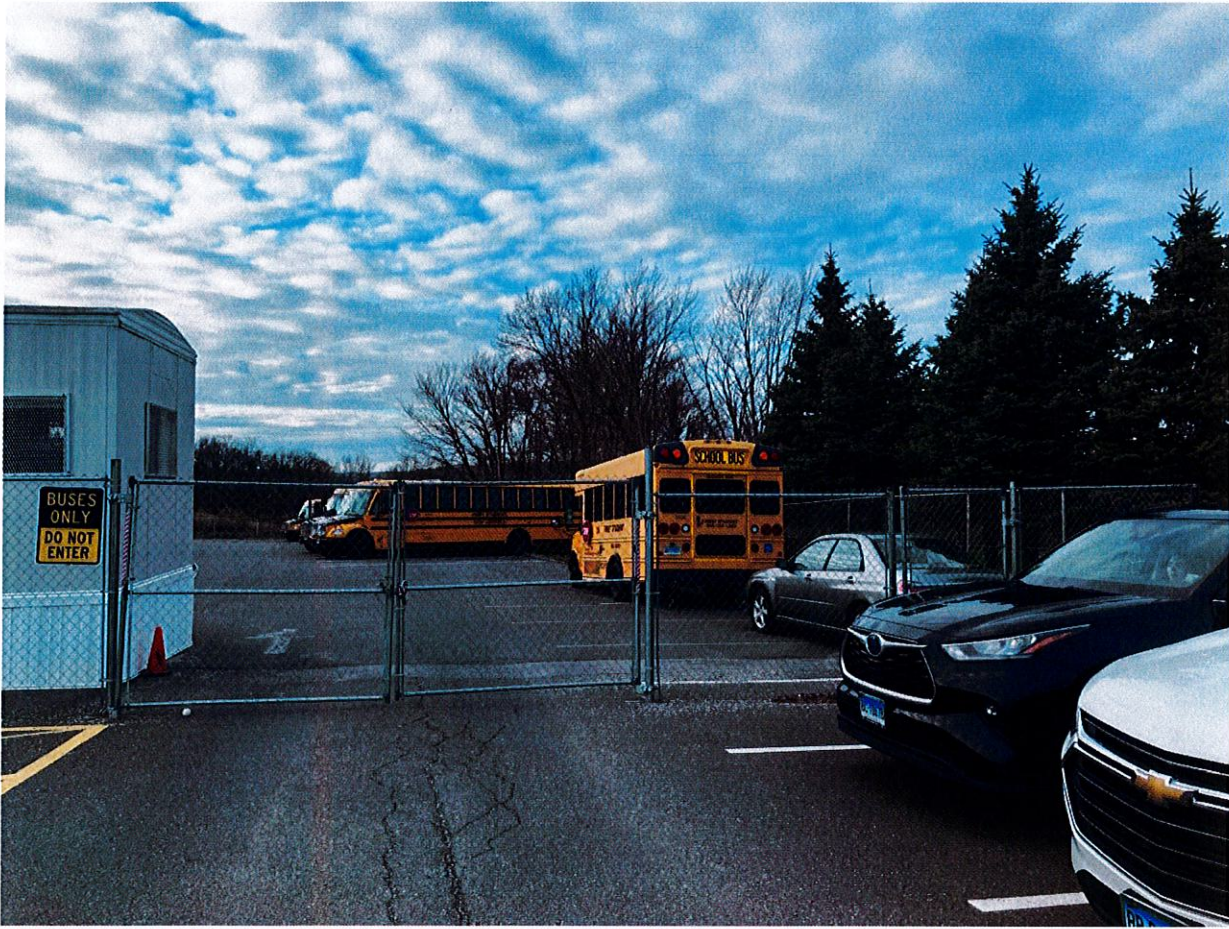
1. Move/rearrange the fencing in the corner of the temporary bus lot to provide ambulance access to JJP field.
2. Provide a key to the Marty Morgan field ambulance gate to every youth lacrosse coach. On my count, that would be around just 14 key copies. (We can use the same keys for whatever sport is in season and using that field.)

I know that these things cost money but the risk is far too great, especially since we no longer have a timeline of when those buses will ever get moved to a permanent location.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Jena Alviti

# TEMPORARY BUS LOT GATE



# VIEW TO THE RIGHT OF THE TEMPORARY BUS LOT FENCING



THE ONLY OPENING FOR WALKING THROUGH – NOT LARGE ENOUGH FOR AN AMBULANCE, AND UNDERGROUND TANKS ARE LOCATED IN THIS PATH SO IT IS NOT DRIVABLE.



THE NOW BLOCKED AMBULANCE ACCESS ROAD TO JJP



## ANOTHER VIEW OF BLOCKED ACCESS ROAD



## VIEW FROM BLOCKED ACCESS ROAD GATE – SHOWING UNUTILIZED SPACE



VIEW FROM ACCESS ROAD DOWN TO JJP TO SHOW DISTANCE OF FIELD FROM PARKING LOTS

