

**Town of New Fairfield
Board of Finance
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812**

**MINUTES
Board of Finance Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
6:30 PM**

Meeting House Hill School Multi Purpose Room

<u>Board of Finance members present</u> Doug Jendras, Chairman Mark Beninson Wes Marsh Thora Perkins Cheryl Reedy Claudia Willard Eric Huff, Alternate Peggy Katkocin, Alternate Greg Williams, Alternate	<u>Other Town officials and Educators present:</u> Dr. Ken Craw, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kris Woleck, Ass't Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Paul Gouveia, Director of Technology James D'Amico, High School Principal Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal Mark Ottusch, Athletic Director Karen Gruetzner, Middle School Principal Allyson Story, Elementary School Principal Rob Spino, Elementary School Assistant Principal Maria Kennedy, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman Greg Flanagan, BOE member Kim LaTourette, BOE member Samantha Mannion, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member/PBC member
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Call To Order Chairman Doug Jendras called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He noted that the purpose of this meeting is to hear comments and suggestions from the public about the proposed budget for both the Town and the Board of Education for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Public Comment

Over 25 members of the public including High School and Middle School students spoke in support of the BOE budget and asked the Board of Finance to send it to the taxpayers without any further cuts. The main concerns included the possible elimination of the gifted and talented programs, funding to

the STEAM program, effects of increased class sizes and the need for freshmen sports. There was support voiced for putting money in capital projects and upkeep of the Middle School.

Many taxpayers spoke in support of the Town budget specifically of raises for elected officials and their disappointment with the budget not including money for a part-time assistant for the Animal Control Officer.

Some taxpayers asked if an advisory question could be put on the ballot asking for opinions whether the budget is “too low” or “too high”.

Adjournment

Doug Jendras made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm. Thora Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)