

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
7:30 PM

New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Joe Hart, Chairman
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Wes Marsh
Tom Wahlig
Brian Shea, Alternate
Tony Sanches, Alternate

Members not present:

Lucy DiRocco
Art Azzarito, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Finance Department
Dr. Joseph Castagnola, Superintendent of Schools
John Boccuzzi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mike Santogatta, Director of Management Services
Phil Ross, Buildings and Grounds Director
Alicia Roy, High School Principal
Mariana Coelho, High School Assistant Principal
Dr. Dianne Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Carrie Kilian, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Aimee Turner, Elementary Special Education Supervisor
Kim Culkin, Secondary Special Education Supervisor
JoAnne Panicek, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman
Karen Chance, BOE member
Vic Flagello, BOE member
Ralph Langham, BOE member
Ron Lyons, BOE member

Call To Order Chairman Joe Hart called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Lucy DiRocco was unable to make the meeting and asked that Tony Sanches be appointed in her absence.

Correspondence and Announcements

Joe Hart thanked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joe Castagnola for putting the packets together for tonight's meeting.

Public Comment

Resident Rudy Bahrens spoke about enrollment in the schools.

Resident Darlene Anderson-Alexander spoke in favor of the Board of Education proposed budget.

BOE member Ralph Langham spoke of the Board of Education proposed budget

Resident George Kircher asked about class size in the schools and asked for a list of class sizes.

BOE member Vic Flagello spoke of capital improvements in the schools and especially the intercom system in the High School.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2008 Public Hearing as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2008 Budget Meeting as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Board of Education discussion and answers to Board of Finance questions regarding the 2008-2009 requested budget

Members of the Board of Finance went over the packets and asked questions of various administrators especially Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola and Director of Management Services Mike Santogatta regarding the proposed budget. There was a discussion regarding the proposed budget and there especially a lengthy discussion about the Special Education Department and the tuition charged by ELC typical students. There was a comparison of New Fairfield's Special Education program with that of Brookfield's. There was also a discussion regarding courses in the High School.

Discussion of 2008-2009 requested budget

Chairman Joe Hart presented the board with information regarding the medical fund. There was a discussion regarding a cushion for the medical fund and also budgeting money for emergency radios.

Approval of Auditors for 2008-2009

Al Mardis spoke of the Audit subcommittee held immediately preceding this meeting. At the subcommittee meeting, there was a discussion of the five firms that submitted bids. The subcommittee narrowed the firms down to three firms and will invite these firms to come in for further investigation.

Public Comment

Resident Rudy Bahrens spoke of the special education department

Resident Mary Bahrens spoke of the special education department and various preschools in town.

Board member comments

None

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05pm. Joe Hart seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)