

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
Monday, March 19, 2018
7:00 PM
High School Cafeteria

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman

Members not present:

Kim Hanson, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Richard Sanzo, High School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Rob Spino, Consolidated School Principal
Michael Chapleu, High School Assistant Principal
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Sarah Pinero, Meeting House Hill School Psychologist
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman
Kathy Baker, BOE member
Dominic Cipollone, BOE member
Douglas DeRito, BOE member
Greg Flanagan, BOE member
Kimberly LaTourette, BOE member
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Rick Regan, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member and Finance Director
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Erin Badillo, BOF member
Anthony Yorio, BOF member
Adam Wagnblas, Resident Trooper Sergeant

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00pm and introduced school administrators, members of the Board of Education, members of the Board of Finance and Resident State Trooper Sergeant Adam Wagnblas. The purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear concerns and suggestions from the public regarding school safety and security in all four schools in the district. Approximately 82 members of the public attended. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen recently approved Police overtime in order to have officers at all the schools during the day for the rest of this school year.

The following suggestions and concerns were discussed:

- Safety measures such as locks and cameras for the doors to prevent anyone not authorized from coming into the buildings. BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the possibility of putting

gates or guards at the entrance to the campus so unauthorized people cannot drive into parking lot.

- Concerns that not all safety measures are used at all times.
- It was suggested that a School Resource Officer (SRO) be hired for all four schools. There was a discussion of the role of an SRO and the cost per officer.
- Some members of the public offered to volunteer to help watch the buildings especially during recess times.
- BOF member Anthony Yorio proposed forming a joint commission to do a safety audit of all the schools which would include one member from each of the three main boards, the current SRO, the Fire Marshal, the Resident State Troop Sergeant and the Director of Buildings and Grounds.
- There was a concern over the elementary school students being outside during recess. It was suggested that a fence be put around the playgrounds to help deter problems.
- Some members of the public spoke of the mental well being of young people and students and encouraged everyone to take an active role in children's lives and to say something if there are any concerns. Meeting House Hill School Psychologist Sarah Pinero spoke of ways to make students feel safe and comfortable in the schools. She spoke of ways for students to anonymously report incidents.
- High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the School Climate Team and noted ways that the administration is communicating with the high school students regarding school safety.
- Finance Director and BOE member Ed Sbordone spoke of a proposal to continue having an SRO in both Consolidated School and Meeting House Hill School for the 2018-2019 school year.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco thanked everyone for their valuable input and noted that she will keep the public informed of any decisions that are made concerning safety. She encouraged everyone to attend the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Selectmen meetings to stay informed. Agendas, minutes and videos from these meetings can be found on the Town's website. The Board of Finance will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 21st at 7:30pm. The Board of Selectmen will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at 7:30pm and the Board of Education will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 5th at 7:00pm. All of these meetings are held at the Community Room at 33 Route 37.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:53 pm.