

**New Canaan High School Parent Faculty Association**

**PFA General Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Wagner Room, New Canaan High School

Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

Renee Fill welcomed everyone to Coffee and Bagels with Dr. Luizzi.

Renee made a motion to approve the November 14, 2018 General Meeting minutes. All approved and the motion carried.

Wendy Eason made a motion to approve a bylaw amendment to add the assistant treatsurer position to the PFA Board. All approved and the motion carried. Wendy stated that our net operating income is $31,645 and we will spend in accordance with our budget.

Dr. Bryan Luizzi, NCPS School Superintendent welcomed everyone to “Bryan, Budgets, Bagels and Start Times (Bells!).

Bryan began by describing the budget process which begins in October and ends on April 4 when the budget is expected to be approved. Bryan encouraged parents to attend the public meetings before then and provide feedback.

According to Bryan, the objective of this year’s budget is to balance sustaining practices and add new innovations. The 5 goals are:

1. Increase student learning
2. Improve communication
3. Enhance teaching and extend learning
4. Promote global citizenship
5. Practice good stewardship for all district resources

The return on our investment is:

* 70% in one or more sports program – our high school is one of smallest schools in FCIAC – competing against much larger schools, more boys at Greenwich HS than students in our entire school
* Visual & performing arts
* Student clubs and activities – important component of student life
* Provide opportunities for students to participate and connect outside of school life – not at 100% participation yet. That’s the goal.
* Smarter balance assessment – we are at top of our DRG (% of students meeting or exceeding goal 2017-18) in most competitive DRG

NCHS benchmarks are: graduation rate, 4-year college attendance rate, average SAT score, AP courses, increased AP participation, etc. Bryan explained that the budget is not a spreadsheet – it’s an investment in our students.

Statewide Spending comparisons: New Canaan is spending less than Redding, Weston and Westport on net current expenditures per pupil (NCEP) – we are 27th in the state. We work hard to manage this – Darien is a little better than us by about $5 per student.

The themes of the budget: be responsive to change, work to insource functions to save money, support high quality instructional and assessment pratices, demonstrate responsible stewardship of district facilities and resources, focus on safety and security of students and staff and incorporate technology to improve educational effectiveness.

Bryan noted that the budget is going up 1.9% but still we are one of lowest in our DRG.

Our benefit account is also going up by 5.85% in order to meet insurance obligations (this is a non-negotiable #) which equals a total increase of 2.55%.

Budget initiatives – increase NCHS staffing, learning management system, expansion of access points and network appliance, library supplies for maker space, etc.

Budget efficiencies – enrollment variability adjustment, turnover savings, staff elimination and/or reduction, reduce outsourced services, insource boiler maintenance, instructional supplies. Total is -$563,555

Overall $2,286,519 = 2.55%

Capital requests $3,289,788

District wide capital request $4,058,930

Budget decisions are completely enrollment driven.

Full budget proposal can be viewed at:

<https://www.ncps-k12.org/Page/6122>

Bryan moved on to the Bell Times Options Analysis. The full report can be found at:

<https://www.ncps-k12.org/cms/lib/CT01903077/Centricity/Domain/980/NCSD_Bell_Time_Options_Presentation_BOE_Presentation_181119.pdf>

Bryan addressed changing the start times for the district and said that Newtown just changed theirs and Ridgefield is talking about it but the BOE recently pulled back and Norwalk is considering it too.

TAS is the transportation consultant who has worked with hundreds of districts to change start times. Bryan pointed out that schools exist in an ecosystem – if we’re going to make a change we need to look at it in its entirety and make sure it’s well communicated and planned for.

The end times are what drives start times – it’s all about buses and amount of time it takes them to get kids home and get to the next school.

According to Bryan the takeaway from the TAS report is that it is really hard to find a solution that will work for everyone. How would this impact the teachers? And recruiting? Again there is a complex ecosystem around the school that includes the teachers. Any change we do we need to plan appropriately with enough time.

This is a great district to work in but high school staff is concerned about being about to provide same resources with a later start.

Bryan took Q&A and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.