

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via remote access through Google Meets.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Dr. Mark Joyce
Ms. Samara Robertson
Mr. Chris Russo

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Mindy Ryan, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Peter Latchaw, Principal
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Jaclyn Karabinas, Meridith Marconi

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dr. Joyce read aloud a brief statement required by law. The statement ensures all school board meetings are compliant with the Right-to-Know Law during the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and are in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-4, the public body is authorized to meet electronically.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Joyce, the public minutes of December 8, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared an article related to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Mr. Petralia provided a memorandum from Soule, Leslie, Kidder regarding Annual District Meetings. He noted the document speaks to having in-person annual meetings and/or virtual annual meetings and the protocols that will be required.

The second is a communication is a Notice of Noncompliance from the Department of Education regarding the Fall Assessment. The notice was sent to inform the District they are out of compliance with the requirements of RSA 193-C:6 regarding the statewide assessment for NH school districts. Mr. Petralia referenced the decision made at a previous joint board meeting and the Administration previously stated opposition to implementing the fall assessment testing. Nonetheless, despite SAU 50’s appeal to the Commissioner, the decision has been made to go forward and administer the fall

assessments in January. Mr. Petralia will communicate to parents apprising them of the change and their right to waive the requirement for their own child(ren).

Mr. Petralia brought forth the request from PHS for donations toward the Celebration Graduation event for the graduation 2021 class. Typically, each SAU 50 district donates \$250.

The Board will discuss the PHS donation request under New Business.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for December 9, 2020 through December 20, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$264,421.92. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for December 30, 2020 through January 12, 2021 was approved in the amount of \$60,566.68. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Ryan noted one of the manifests included the tuition to SAU 52. Once the final tuition bills are received and paid in the spring, there may be funds remaining that perhaps can be returned to the town as tax relief.

Ms. Ryan provided the Board with a letter from HealthTrust regarding the annual process to determine the amount of surplus available to be distributed back to member groups. She noted the expected total return of FY 2020 HealthTrust surplus will be \$8,519.37 for medical and \$583 for dental. Ms. Ryan noted that a portion will be allotted to employees depending on individual contribution and a portion will go to unexpended balance.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDIAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce welcomed the public visitors to the meeting. No public comments were made.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia provided Board members with the current Transportation Agreement with First Student, Inc. which is set to expire on June 30, 2021. Mr. Petralia discussed briefly preliminary discussions he has had with David Fairweather, Area General Manager. He asked the Board to grant him authority to pursue further negotiation with First Student, Inc.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen was not present in the meeting; however, she provided a written report for the Board to review.

Special Education – No formal report.

Technology - No formal report.

Principal Report

Mr. Latchaw shared that in mid/late January students in grades K-6 will take the winter STAR assessment. These results will be shared at the February Board meeting. Students in grades 4-6 will complete the NH State Assessment before the end of January. In spring 2021 students in grades 3-6 will be required to complete the spring version of the NH Assessment. On a monthly basis in grades 3-6, during STEAM students will work on

Modular Assessments from the NH Assessment.

Mr. Latchaw highlighted NPS Guidance Counselor, Leslie Scuderi's efforts in providing a weekly SEL lesson to all classes. Additionally, Ms. Scuderi has created a website and monthly newsletter to keep parents informed with in class lessons and valuable informational resources.

Mr. Latchaw noted that Northeast Passage has completed 2 remote learning sessions for all NPS students. Currently he is working on a new contract with Northeast Passage to continue their work with students in February/March 2021.

Mr. Latchaw shared that the \$2,800 SPCC funds have been used to assist with remote teaching and services (updated monitors, document cameras, headphones, microphone adapters etc.).

The Board commended NPS teachers for the excellent job they are doing during the post-holiday remote learning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures Update

Mr. Latchaw shared the work that had been done ahead of time in planning for a transition into remote learning. He added that the NPS plan is currently in sync with CDC guidelines. No recent changes have occurred.

NEW BUSINESS

Warrant Articles

Ms. Ryan shared that two warrant articles will be created. The first article is for the operating budget in the amount of \$2,412,439 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the District.

The second article will be regarding Retainage and the increase of any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general fund from the preceding year from the current percentage of 2.5% to 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment.

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Russo the Board approved the two warrant articles; Proposed Operating Budget, and Retainage. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Annual School District Meeting

Dr. Joyce noted he had received communication from the Newington Fire Chief receiving approval from the Fire Marshall to hold an in-person Town meeting. Dr. Joyce suggested holding the meeting outdoors in the spring. Mr. Petralia shared information about the way the Town of Rye had recently voted postponing their annual meeting and the protocols involved in the postponement.

Dr. Joyce differed further discussion regarding the Annual Meeting logistics until the February School Board meeting.

Audit Report

Ms. Ryan provide Board members with a copy of the 2019-2020 financial audit. There was further discussion regarding findings within the audit. Ms. Ryan also provided a brief updated on the current

fund balances.

Celebration Graduation

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved a contribution to the PHS Celebration Graduation Class of 2021 in the amount of \$250. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Mr. Russo asked Mr. Latchaw to find out how the donations were being used and noted that the Newington School Supporters (NSS) offered possible matching contribution.

Transportation Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board granted authorization to the Superintendent to continue negotiations with the bus transportation company First Student Inc. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

POLICY

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved for first reading the following required policies; EBB – School Safety; GBCD – Background Investigation & Criminal History Records Check; and JCA – Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interest and Manifest Hardship and JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved for first reading the following recommended policies: BGAA – Policy Development, Adoption & Review; BHE -School Board Use of Email & Other Electronic Communications; EB – Workplace Safety Program & Joint Loss Management Committee; GBCE – Training and Information Relative to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved for first reading the following withdrawn policies: JEC – Change of School or Assignment – Manifest Educational Hardship and JLI – Joint Loss Management Committee. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

- Newington Budget Committee Review – Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Secondary Advisory Committee Meeting - Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Remote
- Public Hearing on FY 2022 Budget & Warrant Articles – Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Newington School Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 4:00 PM via Google Meets
- SAU 50 Parent University Virtual Presentation – Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacklyn Karabinas thanked the teachers and administration for the seamless remote schedule they created for families. She is grateful for the time they spent preplanning for remote learning.

Mr. Latchaw read aloud a text message he received from Nels Tooker stating Mr. Tooker’s appreciation for the support of the Board and School Administrators.

OTHER

NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board adjourned their meeting at 4:45p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Approved by the Newington School Board Roll Call Vote: 3-0 at the 2-9-2021 Board meeting.

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date