

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840 Phone
(603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 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
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Mindy Ryan, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Peter Latchaw, Principal
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Staff: Abby Lundborn

Visitors: None

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 Dr. Joyce, the public minutes of September 8, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS – None

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for June 30, 2020 through June 30, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$19.25. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for September 1, 2020 through September 25, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$131,338.26. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for September 26, 2020 through October 9, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$54,096.06. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Ryan noted that the Fund Balance currently stands at \$344,000. She noted the DOE reports are in the shared drive for viewing. The \$20,000 that was voted on into the Building and Grounds Trust. The DOE Unassigned Fund Balance shows \$167,854 that will go towards tax rate setting. Ms. Ryan will let the Board members know when the tax rate is approved.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDIAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce thanked Ms. Lundborn for attending the meeting. He thanked her and the NPS staff for their continued outstanding work and dedication.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia shared an update from a recent SAU 50 Administrative Council Meeting. Building leaders reviewed certain sections of the school's re-entry plans, making suggestions for edits and additions. The areas of review included Procedures for Staff / Students sick at school; Student or Staff returning to school; and reporting and investigating COVID-19 in the educational facility.

Mr. Petralia provided an update on tents. Included in the shared drive is an invoice from Taylor Rental related to the cost for Newington Public School. Originally, Newington School Supporters (NSS) generously donated resources to rent the tents, as weather continued to be favorable the district engaged in further rental of the tents.

Mr. Petralia noted that there is an invoice from Hart Plumbing related to work completed prior to the start of the school year with faucets and bubblers. Related to this expenditure is a request to transfer funds from the Health Insurance line to Plumbing Repairs, which will require Board approval under the New Business portion of this meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen shared that a final determination was made at the recent Administrative Council meeting in terms of administering the NH State Interim Assessments. The SAU Administrative Council made the decision not to take the NH State Interim Assessments. A letter to parents will be drafted explaining the decision.

Ms. Killen has established regular bi-weekly meetings that will continue through Thanksgiving with SAU 50 nurses. In said meetings safety protocols, updates, and challenges are discussed. Nurses are seeing a slight increase of students with symptoms of colds etc.

It was noted by SAU 50 nursing staff that the NH Public Health will send official letters to anyone that needs to quarantine. Administrators plan to ask for a copy of that letter for any student or staff that did test positive for COVID to have on file.

Ms. Killen noted that district nurses discussed how to further promote flu shots for all families. Flu shots cannot be mandated for students, but nurses can promote it and provide resources for families on where to receive flu shots.

Ms. Killen shared that an update to the established law on concussions in terms of the return to a learning plan. These updates will need to be added to SAU 50.

Ms. Killen noted she and Mr. Petralia participated in training and now are certified as a COVID-19 Education Safety Managers.

Dr. Joyce asked Ms. Killen and Mr. Latchaw to extend the Boards appreciation to the nurses for all their extra efforts as front line of defense for the SAU 50.

Director of Technology Report

Mr. Grattan had no formal report but offered to take questions from the Board. He noted that he was in the process of establishing a Wide-Area Network Fiber Initiative for the FY 2022 budget. In order for it to go forward it would need to be SAU 50 wide collaboration.

Mr. Russo asked questions regarding specifics to pricing and bandwidth thresholds. There was discussion regarding the needs of remote learning students regarding bandwidth used from the school. Mr. Latchaw noted it was not currently an issue as only one student is working fully remotely.

Principal Report

Mr. Latchaw shared both teachers and students have done a great job transitioning and adapting to new protocols and policies. Moving forward STAR assessments have begun. October 23rd is the end of the first trimester. October 30th and November 6th will be parent conference during the remote learning days.

Mr. Latchaw acknowledged Leslie Scuderi, Guidance Counselor, for the great work she has done in classrooms with promoting the development of each student as a whole person, as well as social emotional lessons.

Mr. Latchaw is thrilled with the work teachers have done with technology. They have made great stride in getting all the Google platforms up and running successfully in this first trimester. There will be further training with the Google team for staff and parents.

Mr. Latchaw noted that Armstrong Duct cleaned all the ducts within the school. There were a few small issues that were found that will be repaired.

Mr. Latchaw shared that due to a water main break in town on October 8th, NPS transitioned into a remote learning day at 10:30 a.m. He thanked parents and staff for their understanding during that unexpected transition.

Dr. Joyce thanked staff and parents for their flexibility and willingness to be so responsive in that matter.

Mr. Latchaw has set up IXL to use remotely for Spanish until a teacher is found. NPS continues the search to hire a full time interventionist. Mr. Latchaw is hoping to find a long-term substitute that can fill that position for the time being.

Ms. Robertson asked if students who need to quarantine are receiving remote instruction from their core teacher. Mr. Latchaw stated those scenarios are treated as a regular sick day for students where they can log into Google Classroom assignments and communicate with teachers via that medium.

Dr. Joyce took a moment to welcome to Jacqueline Karabinas to the meeting. He let her know the meeting was being recorded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-Entry Plan

Mr. Petralia noted collectively the Administrative Team added language as reviewed in his report previously.

Mr. Latchaw noted that NPS does not have a nurse in the building at all times. He asked the Board to grant permission to establish a COVID task force for NPS in an effort to ensure review of the re-entry plan and making suggestions moving forward.

The Board will review the idea under New Business. Ms. Robertson agreed a task force for Newington is important to establish. Mr. Petralia will serve as SAU representative on the task force.

Mr. Latchaw reiterated the process of tracking students who are absent and symptoms they have reported.

Mr. Latchaw reviewed the NH DHHS process for notification regarding COVID-19 cases.

Update on Tents

Mr. Latchaw noted they had received an invoice for the extension of tent rental. There was discussion regarding how to move forward to pay for tent use for November and even in the spring (purchasing a tent versus rental fees). Dr. Joyce asked for the topic to be placed on the November agenda for further discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the board approved the rental of outdoor classroom tents from Taylor Rental for the month of November 2020. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Transfer – Hart Plumbing

A request was made by Mr. Latchaw to transfer funds from the Health Insurance budget line to the Plumbing Repairs budget line in the amount of \$6,890 to cover costs incurred to swap out faucets and water bubblers.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the approved the transfer of funds in the amount of \$6,890 from the Health Insurance budget line item to the Plumbing Repairs budget line item to cover costs pertaining to the replacement of sinks and bubblers. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Newington Public School COVID-19 Task Force

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the board approved the establishment of a Newington Public School COVID-19 Task Force. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

The NPS Task Force will be added to the agenda as a standing item going forward.

POLICY

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for first reading the following recommended polices: EBBB – Accident Reports; EBCG – Communicable & Infectious Diseases; GBGA – Staff Health; JLCA – Physical Examinations of Students; JLCA-R Physician’s Report of Examination; JLCB – Immunizations of Students; JLCC – Head Lice/Pediculosis; JLCCG – Exclusion of Students Who Present a Hazard. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for first reading the following required policy JLCCF – Wellness. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for withdrawal the following recommended polices: GBGAA – HIV/AIDS - Staff; JLCCA – HIV/AIDS - Students. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

The next Newington School Board meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

The SAU 50 Joint Board is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OTHER

NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board adjourned their meeting at 4:48 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Approved by the Newington School Board on November 10, 2020 – Remote Meeting

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date