

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, November 10, 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: Kim Lodge, Grade 3 Teacher

Visitors: Meredith Marconi, Kristen Poulin, Emily Savenelli

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 October 13, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia updated the Board on correspondence from Attorney Barrett Christina of the NH School Board Association regarding guidance for school boards with questions related to holiday travel for families and staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for October 10, 2020 through November 2, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$82,219.38. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Ryan noted transfers made to budget lines. She noted currently the only over expended lines pertain to SPED IEP needs. Those budget transfers will take place later in the academic year. She reiterated that any

budget transfer more than \$5,000 goes to the Board for approval. A transfer between \$2,500-\$5,000 may be approved by the Superintendent and Business Administrator. A transfer below \$2,500 may be approved by the building Principal.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDIAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce welcomed staff and members of the public to the meeting. There were no public comments made.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia commended Mr. Latchaw for updates in the re-entry plan. He noted that the Administration team meets regularly to provide updates to principals and to assist in keeping district plans up to date.

Mr. Petralia shared that the Newington COVID-19 Task Force had recently met with members of the community; a lot of informative dialog ensued from the meeting.

Mr. Petralia updated the Board on the Supplemental Public-School Response Fund. The funding, based on a formula of \$200 per student, will arrive to the District as a one-time disbursement based on the October 1, 2019 enrollment count. The Newington School District will receive \$13,800 through this award.

Mr. Petralia noted that previously \$2,000 had been appropriated to SAU 50 Parent University to continue the informative presentations for the SAU 50 community. Paula Tsetsilas has worked with the SAU to establish a virtual event to be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Presenter Emily Read Daniels, who has also provided professional development for SAU 50 staff, will discuss "*The Challenge and Hope of Parenting in the Age of COVID.*"

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen shared the SAU 50 Suicide Prevention Plan has been completed. SAU 50 Guidance Counselors was instrumental in creating the plan. Currently there are two items that need to be added to the plan. One, a *symptoms of suicide to be aware of* (adults and students) program for staff. The second is an addition to the school crisis plans that includes a section on how the school community will deal with a prominent death in the community, and more specifically death from suicide. Ms. Killen noted the slide deck provided in the board drive has an informational link. District guidance counselors and principals will work together to decide when and how training will be completed for building staff. There will also be a sign off sheet once training has been officially completed.

Mr. Robertson thanked Ms. Killen for focusing on the important topic especially with the holiday season upon us. She inquired as to if training would also be provided for parents. Ms. Killen stated the previously mentioned slide deck would be an appropriated handout for parents. In the future, she hopes to establish a session for the parent community.

Ms. Killen noted that the current health curriculum also teaches students to recognize the signs of anxiety and sadness (which can lead to depression as people get older).

Special Education

Ms. Reinhardt stated there was no formal report; she would answer questions the Board may have.

Director of Technology Report

Mr. Grattan shared that he is planning and filing for an all-SAU wide area network. The network would in turn create a network that would include all schools and the central office building. The project would increase synchronous Internet connections, replicated Active Directory (user management) including leveraging the ClassLink Single-Sign-On OneSync. The project is being filed under the 2021-2022 E-Rate Filing Window and the project itself would begin during the summer of 2022. He noted that two SAU 50 districts are moving ahead with implementation for the increased bandwidth internet service this academic year. He added the filing allows the SAU 50 to get a percentage of money returned per year. The cost estimate is approximately an additional \$300 per month. This will allow for the same download and upload speed.

Mr. Grattan stated the plan is to have a Single-Sign-On soft roll out during Thanksgiving break and a full roll out over winter break.

Mr. Grattan also noted that he had met with Mr. Latchaw to review technology budget needs for FY 2022. One outstanding item is to replace the current 15-year-old telephone system. The process of system replacement will most likely include wiring to the entire system.

Mr. Russo felt the Single-Sign-On will be a benefit to parents. He and Mr. Grattan discussed the amount of gigabytes and megabytes a wide area network would create. Mr. Grattan underscored that should additional bandwidth be needed in the future the vendor will be able to easily increase megabytes. He emphasized that synchronous connection is paramount. Mr. Grattan added that the updated network would allow for one firewall to cover all the districts rather than multiple firewall licenses; ultimately this will provide a cost savings.

Principal Report

Mr. Latchaw discussed the STAR report results by grade. He emphasized that several intervention plans are in place for students with identified needs. He added that the STAR results is just one of the items used to pull together the whole picture and skill level of a student.

Mr. Latchaw reported that parent teacher conference took place the last two Fridays. The meetings were held remotely and there was 100% participation. He extended thanks to parents and teachers for their flexibility in scheduling conference times.

Mr. Latchaw extended thanks to Ms. Karabinas, Google Educator, for the successful training night she provided for NPS parents and guardians. The Board also extended their appreciation to Ms. Karabinas.

Mr. Latchaw thanked the Newington Fire Department, Newington Police Department, and Newington Town Hall and community members for participating in the annual NPS Halloween Parade. Students enjoyed the special event.

Mr. Latchaw thanked Newington School Supporters (NSS) for their assistance with the Fox Point 5 Mile Virtual Road Race. The event raised \$4,890.

Mr. Latchaw shared he was in the midst of staff evaluations of those up for recertification this year.

Mr. Latchaw noted that currently all 52 NPS students are attending in-person learning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-Entry Plan

Mr. Latchaw shared that part of the responsibility of the COVID Task Force is to update and revise as needed the re-entry plan. He asked the Board for permission to change the term re-entry plan to now be addressed as the COVID 19 Guidelines and Procedures. The change was accepted by the Board and will be revised on future agendas.

Mr. Latchaw requested that the Board approve a change to the guidelines and procedures as related to temperature checks of students upon arrival to school. The colder temperatures are causing thermometer to misread temperatures taken outside the building. He requested that the amendment remove temperature checks taken on entry to the building by staff and instead be based on the at-home screening protocols already in place. Students will be checked visually upon arrival to school.

Mr. Latchaw noted students now have assigned seating while riding the bus to assist in social distancing and to provide easier contact tracing should it be necessary in the future.

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Russo the Board approved the recommended amendments to the COVID 19 Guidelines and Procedures in regard to temperature checks and with the understanding of the importance of due diligence of the parent community in their continued compliance with the request of student screenings. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Robertson reiterated that it will be important to communicate the rationale of the amendment is due to the inaccuracy of temperature check outside in cold weather. The nurses will still complete an assessment of each student and how they are feeling prior to entrance into the building.

Tents for Spring 2021

Mr. Russo inquired about the cost of purchasing tents for Spring 2021. Mr. Latchaw will gather quotes for the December meeting. Mr. Russo requested he gather quotes that include tents with sides (in case of inclement weather). Ms. Ryan recommended three quotes be gathered (minimum of two quotes).

Dr. Joyce requested the quotes included installation by the purveyor. He requested that the purveyor also have insurance for safety reasons.

Mr. Petralia recommended Mr. Latchaw reach out to head custodian in Rye, Jim Gordon, as he recently made a similar purchase for that district.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for second reading the following recommended policies: 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 following financial policies were approved as first reading: DB - Annual Budget; DBJ - Transfer of Appropriation; DFA - Investment; DI - Fiscal Accounting & Reporting. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved as first reading the following policies: JFABD – Education of Homeless Children & Unaccompanied Youth and JFABE – Education of Children in Foster Care. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved as first reading the following policies: ACAC – Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy & Grievance Process and GCBCC – FMLA Leave. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for withdrawal the following policies: GBAA – Sexual Harassment Employees / Staff; JBAA Sexual Harassment Students; JFAE – Legal Residency for Homeless Children and Youth. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

The next Newington School Board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. The Board will meet on December 16th at 5:30 p.m. to approve the FY 2022 Budget. Dr. Joyce noted his preference to pick up Budget Binders when ready at the SAU 50 Central Office. He will then distribute to the other two Board members.

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 5:00 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Approved by the Newington School Board at the December 8, 2020 remote meeting.

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date