

**NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, December 8, 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: Jaclyn Karabinas

**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 Ms. Joyce, the public minutes of November 10, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Petralia shared a communication from Newington Town Administrator Martha Roy regarding the town tax rate. Ms. Roy, on behalf of the Newington Budget Committee and Select Board, requested information on anticipated savings for 2020 and or expected projects/purchases that could be deferred until 2021.

The Board will discuss Ms. Roy’s request under the Financial Report section of the agenda.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for November 3, 2020 through November 23, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$197,303.79. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for November 24, 2020 through December 8, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$71,296.29. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

Ms. Ryan in response to the discussion related to the request from the Town of Newington referred to the current amount in the Unassigned Fund Balance (\$167,854) that will go towards setting the tax rate. She will have a better scope of available 2020 resources as the year progresses.

## **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 shared an update from NHDOE Commissioner Edelbut regarding updated contract tracing procedures for COVID-19 positive tests within school communities.

The Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would not be conducting contact tracing following every positive COVID-19 test. DHHS will continue to conduct case investigations and contact tracing for children under 18 and individuals in congregate settings. School district responsibilities have not changed. SAU 50 will continue to follow state and federal guidance to minimize contact within and between student cohorts and follow our COVID-19 contingency plans.

Mr. Petralia shared updated DHHS travel guidance. Non-essential workers traveling outside of New England should still quarantine for 14 days. Under new guidance, these individuals may shorten their quarantine to seven days if they test negative for COVID-19. Mr. Petralia stated his recommendation to the Board is that the Newington School District continue to adhere to the full 14-day quarantine period.

Mr. Petralia shared a document he received from the NH Department of Public Health regarding the metrics that school districts can use when making decisions on possible school closures related to COVID. The document describes some considerations that school districts can employ when transitioning between instructional methods.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Killen shared that a new family SEL newsletter titled "Family Forecast" was distributed last week. The newsletter will contain helpful data and resources, similar to the staff newsletter, about self-care and regulation activities for parents and children.

Ms. Killen recently sent a survey to all SAU 50 staff to ask for data about their own self-care, regulation activities and how she can best support them during this time. The survey results indicated that staff as a whole were participating in self-care activities with their students as well as on their own time. She will continue her "desk-side chats" with teachers.

Ms. Robinson thanked Ms. Killen for making self-care for staff a priority.

Ms. Killen shared that recently she had participated in the online forum as a guest panelist for CONVOS during COVID – How Trauma-Informed Female School Leaders Increase Resilience. She provided a link to the podcast for Board members to listen to at their convenience.

**Special Education** – No formal report.

**Technology** - No formal report.

**Principal Report**

Mr. Latchaw noted that NPS teachers recently collaborated on the creation of a remote learning schedule to be used if the district needs to go to full time remote learning. He included a copy of said plan with his written report.

Mr. Latchaw highlighted ongoing projects at several grade levels. In grade 3-4 Ms. Lodge has created a project involving metaphors, figurative language and building bridges. Students earn money from the “Bank” by finding examples of figurative language in their reading. They then cash in their bucks to purchase supplies to construct their bridge. In grade 5-6 students continue to study ecosystems and students’ carbon footprints. Students were challenged to go an entire day without using technology or electricity. They were then asked to calculate the amount of electricity they saved.

Mr. Latchaw thanked Ms. Reinhardt for her efforts in establishing a continued partnership with Northeast Passage and the NPS school community. Currently they are working via Google Meets with K-2 and grades 3-6.

Mr. Latchaw shared that NPS teachers continue to participate in professional development around the Suicide Prevention Plan. In the New Year they will work with Seacoast Mental Health services for further training.

Mr. Latchaw noted they school recently replaced a circulator pump. Hart Plumbing will also be replacing a fuse on the control panel in the near future.

Dr. Joyce thanked Mr. Latchaw for sharing the classroom vignettes.

Ms. Robertson thanked teachers for continuing project-based learning throughout the pandemic.

Mr. Russo added that these project-based learning activities are memories that stick with students far beyond elementary school.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures Update**

Mr. Latchaw shared that part of the NPS COVID Procedures Update includes notation regarding staff and students involved with activities where a person has been indicated as being positive for COVID-19. In such instances the Administration is to be notified and the staff/student(s) will be required to quarantine for ten days. If the Board chooses to follow current CDC guidelines the current NPS Guidelines and Procedures will need to be amended in three places to reflect the change to the 10-day quarantine period.

Mr. Petralia reiterated his recommendation, despite new CDC guidance, to remain with the 14-day quarantine period.

The was further discussion regarding the motion presented.

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved the amendments as listed by Mr. Latchaw, to the NPS COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures in an effort to align with CDC Guidelines. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

## **Update on Tents**

Mr. Latchaw is currently gathering quotes for tent use in Spring 2021. Dr. Joyce reiterated his concern of liability and for Mr. Latchaw to ensure that installation will be carried out safely.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY 2022 Preliminary Budget**

Ms. Ryan shared that the budget represents an increase of \$148,699 or 6.8% increase over the FY 2021 net operating budget. The main drivers include; obligations governed by collective bargaining; anticipated increase in student enrollment for 2021-2022; continued investment in professional learning for staff; continued investment in district-wide technology infrastructure to support student learning and anticipated state mandates.

Dr. Joyce thanked the administrators for their efforts in creating the budget. He suggested the Board review the preliminary budget and email questions to Ms. Ryan that can then be discussed at the December 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

## **POLICY**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for adoption 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; JLCG – 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 adoption the following finance polices: DB – Annual Budget; DBJ – Transfer of Funds; DFA - Investment; DI – Fiscal Accounting & Reporting. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved for adoption the following required polices: JFABD – Education of Homeless Children & Unaccompanied Youth; 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 for adoption the following Title IX polices: ACAC – Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy & Grievance Process ; GCBCB – FMLA Leave. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

## **FUTURE PLANNING DATES**

The next Newington School Board meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The SAU 50 Joint Board is scheduled to meet on December 16, 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 4:51p.m. Roll Call: 3-0*

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

*Approved by the Newington School Board at the January 12, 2021 Board meeting*

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Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date