

**NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, February 9, 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 Green, Business Administrator  
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director  
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology  
Peter Latchaw, Principal  
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Abby Hood, Jaclyn Karabinas, Abigail Lundborn, Nels Tooker,

**CALL TO ORDER** – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the public minutes of January 12, 2021 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Petralia shared a letter from Governor Sununu related to Emergency Order #83 and guidance on Annual Meetings.

Mr. Petralia provided a communication from Richard White, who has been hired as a Facilities Consultant for the entire SAU 50, in regard to the progress being made on the facilities assessment process. The next step in the process is to engage in on-site facility visits.

Dr. Joyce expressed that the facilities assessment should provide a good status report on the condition of the SAU 50 facilities and how facility needs are being met.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for January 13, 2021 through February 9, 2021, was approved in the amount of \$102,211.64 Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

Ms. Green noted the fund balance is \$316,289 for a 14% balance. Some lines have not been encumbered as of yet. She provided a brief overview of the status of several budget lines.

Dr. Joyce asked if Ms. Green would provide a list of any transfers that have occurred. Dr. Joyce feels the list would help provide pertinent information when reviewing the budget next year on areas that may need review. Ms. Green explained that the lines currently overspent may now only be in salaries or special education other transfers made have not required Board approval. Going forward she will provide the Board with a notes page indicating any budget line transfers that have occurred.

## **RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS**

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

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Petralia thanked Mr. Latchaw and NPS staff for completing the Fall Interim Assessments in January on time and in accordance with the communication to the NH DOE in December 2020.

Mr. Petralia shared that the Newington COVID-19 Task Force had met recently, and Mr. Latchaw will provide an update from that meeting. There will be some recommended changes to the NPS COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures document based on recent changes made by the CDC and New Hampshire Department of Health.

Members of senior staff attended the Newington Budget Committee meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The public hearing went smoothly, and the proposed operating budget and associated warrant articles will move forward to the Annual District Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Martha Roy, from the Newington Town Hall, sent us an email indicating a posting error had occurred which results in the town redoing the public hearing. The new hearing date has been rescheduled to Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Petralia will be speaking with David Fairweather, Area Manager at First Student, tomorrow afternoon regarding the Transportation Agreement. He will provide the Board with an update on the status of the successor agreement at the March 9<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.

Included in the shared drive Mr. Petralia provided the Board with a copy of the draft 2021-2022 academic calendar as well as a template calendar provided by the NH DOE. The draft calendar has been shared with Mr. Latchaw who will engage with building representatives as required by the CBA.

Mr. Petralia noted that the Secondary School Advisory Committee will meet virtually on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Robertson is the representative for Newington.

Mr. Russo reiterated that the Town Budget Committee is looking for a per pupil budget cost. Dr. Joyce indicated that in the past the information was part of the budget book. The District is mandated to provide a comprehensive education with a small number of pupils. To compare Newington to a Dover or Portsmouth would not be an equal comparison. Ms. Ryan shared that she did provide the Budget Committee the most recent DOE produced 2018-2019 pupil cost in which Newington came out to approximately \$28,000 per pupil. That is the official publication of the per pupil cost. There is no other analytical sheet that she could provide

them at this time. Dr. Joyce reiterated his feeling that it is the DOE's calculation that is the standard. Dr. Joyce requested that Mr. Russo gather insight from the Newington School Supporters on the proposed academic calendar to present at the March meeting.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Killen brought forth a summary document regarding the roles required to implement the newly approved revised Title IX policy. Sarah Reinhardt will act as the Title IX Coordinator. Kelli Killen will act as decision maker and Mr. Petralia as superintendent will handle appeals. The investigator role will be contracted out to an outside attorney.

Ms. Killen highlighted several main points of the policy. The definition of a hostile environment is now clarified as "unwelcomed conduct based on sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person's access to school programs and activities." The new Title IX regulations will now only apply in the context of school "programs and activities." Schools now must respond when they have actual knowledge of sexual harassment; either reported or witnessed. Ms. Killen gave a brief overview of the steps once information is presented to the Title IX coordinator.

Ms. Reinhardt reiterated that the newly revised Title IX policy and requirements have a lot of intricacies. Using an outside investigator such as an attorney is also necessary because now the alleged perpetrator of the investigation now have the right to have an attorney in the form of an advisor.

Ms. Killen provided the Board the draft curriculum documents related to Science & Stem K-6. She requested the members review the documents and adopt them at the March 9<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

Ms. Killen provided the 2020 SAT score report and the graduating report for Newington.

**Special Education** – No formal report.

### **Technology**

Mr. Grattan discussed mobile device management of the apple devices at NPS. It is his recommendation to move forward with Mosyle Mobile Device Management to improve efficiency of technology management and keeping in line with best practices. The total cost for Mosyle to cover all student and staff devices is \$605/year. Going forward this will also allow for the remote push of apps and settings which would benefit students and staff (especially in the current remote environment).

Mr. Grattan noted the expected reimbursement for the SY20-21 E-Rate is \$869.10 based upon the current NPS Comcast Internet costs.

Mr. Grattan shared that he is in the process of increasing bandwidth at NPS to a higher speed until the fiber project is complete. He intends to use the E-Rate reimbursement to cover the additional costs until the fiber goes live (estimated time to go live is 5//20/201 or sooner for the fiber internet).

Mr. Russo noted he is familiar with Mosyle and suggested the district look into a three-year contract.

### **Principal Report**

Mr. Latchaw noted the fall and winter interim assessments have been completed.

Mr. Latchaw shared the as part of the SEL curriculum, Tuesdays during the month of March students will work virtually with Northeast Passage. He commended the continued SEL work of guidance counselor Leslie Scuderi with each grade level and monitoring social and emotional needs of NPS students. Additionally, Ms. Scuderi created a website (monthly newsletter) to keep parents informed with in-class lessons and resources

for parents.

Mr. Latchaw recently updated the districts online subscription to Otis/TEQ the online professional development platform for teachers and administrators. Many teachers have utilized the platform.

Mr. Latchaw publicly recognized school nurses Erin Russo and Liz Daily for their continued efforts and professionalism. We receive many emails after work hours and the nurses are there to respond to families questions and giving the guidance needed.

Mr. Latchaw shared that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> the NPS staff participated in a professional development workshop called Youth Mental Health First Aid, with Seacoast Mental Health.

Dr. Joyce requested that Mr. Latchaw share a paper copy of the school board report (from the annual report), to the NPS staff so they understand how greatly they are appreciated by the Board.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures Update**

Mr. Latchaw shared amendments for the Covid Guidelines and Procedures. Essentially the guidelines are directly from the CDC procedures and policies. The first update is in regard to travel outside of New England, the second is in regard to those who do not need to quarantine should they be in contact with a Covid positive person and/or outside of New England.

*On a motion by Mr. Russo to approve the following changes to the current NPS COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures (listed below). Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

- *Traveled outside of New England: 10 days quarantine from last day of travel. A Person has the option of ending quarantine after day 7 with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test at day 6-7 of quarantine (must be a molecular test to detect active infection, such as a PCR-based test). \*Students do not need to quarantine if they have a parent who travels outside of New England for work.*
- *The following people do NOT need to quarantine after an unprotected exposure to a person with COVID-19 OR after travel outside of New England: 1) a person who is 14 days beyond the second dose of their COVID-19 vaccine 2) a person who is within 90 days of a prior SARS CoV-2 infection diagnosed by PCR or antigen testing.*

### **Logistics for Annual School Board Meeting**

Dr. Joyce reiterated the plan to go forward with the traditional format for the Annual District Meeting on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Moderator Jack O'Reilly advised that there will be no refreshments available during the meeting.

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson to go forward with the regularly scheduled in person Annual District Meeting on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2021-2022 Academic Calendar**

It was requested that the Board review the draft calendar, the attending student days (180), and workdays for staff related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Latchaw will solicit feedback from the staff in regard to workdays prior to the start of the year etc. The calendar reflects a post covid academic calendar; the district can always pivot to any alternations that may be required due to the pandemic.

Mr. Petralia noted the projected last day is June 13, 2022. The draft does not include a non-attending the day before Thanksgiving (as that of the 2020 calendar).

Mr. Russo will also review with the Newington School Supporters group as well.

### **Technology Transfer**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved the transfer the amount of \$1042.50 be transferred from the Health Insurance budget line into the Library Software line to accomplish the goal of bringing all SAU 50 districts current with the library catalog system Follet Destiny. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

Mr. Grattan gave a brief overview of how the past, current and future library systems have operated within the SAU 50 (previously not HB 1612 compliant).

Ms. Green noted that a motion is not required since the transfer is not over \$5,000. The Board decided to make the motion for record keeping.

### **Non-Resident Tuition**

This agenda item will move to the March 9<sup>th</sup> agenda when comparison rates have been established.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice**

Ms. Robertson referenced a community member letter to the Board written in July. A committee was formed to find ways to integrate diversity and equity inclusion into the curriculum at Newington School. The committee is looking forward to creating a mission and incorporating community members in the work. Abby Hood, who has done a significant amount of work at the Exeter SAU in relation to this topic, is part of the committee. The group will be called the Newington Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee. This will be an ongoing committee listed on the School Board meeting agendas.

Ms. Hood asked a question about the curriculum packets for Science and Stem. Ms. Killen informed her the drafts will be under the curriculum tab on the SAU 50 homepage. Both competencies and standards are listed on the page. Going forward Ms. Killen will ensure each school site will link to the updated information.

### **POLICY**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board adopted policy EHAC – Electronic/Digital Records & Signatures. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0*

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved for second 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 second 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 rescinded 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**

- SAU 50 Parent University Virtual Presentation – Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Secondary Advisory Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Remote.
- Newington School Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Remote.
- Newington Annual School District Meeting – Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Newington Town Hall

**OTHER**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:11 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

*Approved by the Newington School Board at the March 9, 2021 School Board Meeting.*

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Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date