

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, May 11, 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
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Peter Latchaw, Principal
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Jaclyn Karabinas, Kim Lodge, Nels Tooker

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 Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the public minutes of April 13, 2021 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the non-public minutes of April 13, 2021 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia included presented the facility priority list created by Richard White. He also shared a letter from NPS staff member Kim Lodge regarding intent to negotiate on behalf of the Association of Coastal Teachers and NEA – New Hampshire.

Mr. Petralia requested the Board enter non-public later in the meeting to discuss a request for early enrollment for a Kindergarten student for 2021-2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Joyce gave accolades to Ms. Green for her work at SAU 50 acknowledging the fact that she had recently resigned.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for April 10, 2021 through May 11, 2021, was approved in the amount of \$101,819.56. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Green noted the total remaining fund balance is 13% of the budget (\$301,613). She noted the maintenance items approved at the April meeting had been encumbered.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDIAL VISITORS - No public comment was stated.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to formally accept Federal Grant Funds for 2021-2022 under New Business.

Under Personnel Mr. Petralia will nominate two candidates for open positions for the 2021-2022 school year. One is full-time Case Manager and the other is a part time World Language teacher (20% FTE).

Mr. Petralia will ask the Board to enter into Non-Public to discuss ongoing negotiations with First Student Inc.

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to establish a date, time and location for the Summer Board Retreat, preferably end of July or the beginning of August.

Mr. Petralia shared he had met with Greenland and Rye School Boards and each expressed initial interest in entering into a tuition agreement with Newington in the even Portsmouth Middle School does not reopen full-time in the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Petralia noted an upcoming Secondary Advisory School meeting with SAU 52 in which he will inquire about their fall reopening plans.

Dr. Joyce asked the topic be placed on the June Agenda.

Mr. Petralia shared he recently held a meeting with the Association of Coastal Teachers Executive Board. He thanked Newington Representative Nels Tooker and other members of the Executive Board for a productive meeting and informative discussion.

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Killen provided her written report to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no further questions.

Special Education – No formal report.

Principal Report

Mr. Latchaw reported no new action steps related to the COVID Task Force meeting.

Mr. Latchaw shared NPS celebrated National Walk/Bike to School Day on May 7th. He extended thanks to the Newington Police and Fire Departments for setting up a bike obstacle course for the students. The event was a great success with an overwhelming majority of NPS students participating.

Mr. Latachw noted that during April vacation Mr. Grattan worked to add the filtering software to all the iPads and Mac Airs.

Dr. Joyce inquired about the addition and usage of the outdoor tent. Mr. Latchaw confirmed that it has been utilized often for various classroom activities.

Mr. Russo asked information regarding classroom arrangements for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Mr. Latchaw shared that the configuration will consist (at this time) of a Kindergarten (9 students), a Grade 1 (12 students), a Grade 2 (5 students), Grades 3 & 4 together (17 students), Grades 5 & 6 together (10 students). Added to the schedule for all classes will be a “WIN Block” (what I need), to assess and meet the needs of all students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures Update - No updates at this time.

Transportation Agreement

An update on the negotiations with First Student regarding the Transportation Agreement will be discussed in non-public.

Facilities Assessment Priority List

Dr. Joyce thanked Mr. White for providing the facilities priority list and Mr. Latchaw for proactively getting detailed estimates of some of the items listed. There was discussion regarding some of the more pertinent items that need to be tended. These items include removal of existing gas hot water heat and addition of 30 gallon electric heater with piping to the sink area, addressing concerns regarding indoor air quality testing, and an inspection for asbestos in building materials. There was additional discussion regarding electrical quotes that will be voted on at the June Board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved the three facilities quotes provided by Mr. Latchaw from Hart Plumbing, Absolute Resource Associates and RPF Environmental. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Middle School Enrollment at GCS & RJH

Topic to be discussed at the June Board meeting.

Newington Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Committee Update

Mr. Latchaw had no updates from the Committee. Dr. Joyce suggested that the topic be further discussed during Board retreats this summer. Going forward possibly a representative from each district can be part of the committee. Mr. Petralia suggested sharing the concept of an SAU-wide perspective at the SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Federal Grant Approval

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved the acceptance of all federal funds including IDEA, Title 1, COVID 19 and other federal funds for the 2021-2022 academic year. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

PERSONNEL

Mr. Petralia made the recommendation for the Board to accept the nomination of Kim Grattan as SPED Case Manager and Heather McDonald .2% FTE World Language teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the board approved the nomination of Kim Grattan as Special Education Case Manager for the 2021-2022 academic year. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the board approved the nomination of Heather McDonald as .2% FTE World Language Teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

- Secondary School Advisory Committee Meeting – Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Google Meet
- SAU 50 Joint School Board Meeting – May 26, 2021, 6:30 PM Remote
- Newington School Board Meeting – June 8, 2021

OTHER

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board entered into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A II (c) at 4:51 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

RE-ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Russo seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board voted to come out of non-public session and return to regular session at 5:02 p.m. Roll Call 3-0

On a motion by Dr. Joyce seconded by Mr. Russo the Board voted to seal the non-public minutes. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:04 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Approved at the Newington School Board meeting on June 8, 2021. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date