

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, September 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: Nels Tooker, Teacher

Visitors: Jaclyn Karabinas, Christine Poulin

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 4:01 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.

Dr. Joyce noted that public comment will be recognized twice during the meeting before and after the discussion of the re-entry plan.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the public minutes of July 29, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 2-0

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the public minutes of August 11, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 2-0

The non-public minutes of August 11, 2020 were deferred until the October meeting (May 12th and July 14th also will be reviewed at this time).

Mr. Russo joined the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared three communications with the Board. The first, a Legislative Update provided by the firm of Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman. He shared that much of the document included student discipline guidelines and protocols as well as changes to manifest educational hardship. The next communication, the DOE Determination letter, indicated that the Newington School District met all requirements under IDEA and the district received positive feedback on all listed criteria. The third item was a letter from the Department of Safety regarding tent guidance.

Dr. Joyce congratulated the Newington Staff for the job well done as related to the DOE Determinations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for August 11, 2020 through August 31, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$49,986.76. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Ms. Ryan shared a brief update on end of August balances.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce thanked community members and staff for attending the meeting.

Mr. Tooker shared his appreciation and thanked all involved for their hard work in helping to ensure a successful first day of school.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia noted that in lieu of the traditional Opening Day ceremony for all SAU 50 at Greenland Central School he scheduled individual meetings with each faculty across the SAU. He met with Newington staff on September 1st.

Mr. Petralia reported that a tentative agreement between the Newington School Board and the Association of Coastal Teachers / Newington regarding the Memorandum of Agreement (Part I and Part II). The Association scheduled a ratification vote on September 3rd at which the agreement was approved. Mr. Petralia will ask the Board to accept the MOAs under New Business.

Mr. Petralia noted that he had established dates for the 2020-2021 Secondary School Advisory Meetings with SAU 52. The first meeting will be held virtually on September 22nd.

Mr. Petralia shared that he had received from NHSBA Staff Attorney Will Phillips, updated policy sections as part of the ongoing SAU 50 policy review process.

Mr. Petralia shared that the NHSBA will host the annual Bradley Kidder Law Conference, October 7th & 8th. Any Board members interested in registering for the conference need to contact Samantha Fuller.

Mr. Petralia shared an additional item not in his written report. He and Mr. Russo had recent conversation

in regard to Newington students attending Grade 7 at Rye Junior High School. Mr. Petralia shared that he reached out to the Rye School Board Chair, Margaret Honda, who expressed concern over increasing enrollment in the current pandemic environment.

Dr. Joyce suggested the topic be discussed further under New Business. Additional information may be needed.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen thanked Ms. Roberston and Ms. Karabinas for sharing their expertise and time assisting in helping to establish best practices for virtual learning.

Ms. Killen emphasized the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum (SEL) will be following CASEL Reunite, Renew and Thrive Roadmap over the course of the year. The focus will include looking at opportunity for staff to manage social and emotional priorities and practicing safe, supportive learning environment to support all students. The curriculum will allow for students to gain knowledge and skills to help them become more resilient. Currently staff are incorporating regulation and relationship building activities between teacher and student, and student to student (naming emotions etc.)

Ms. Killen added that the plan brings attention to racial inequalities and racism. She plans to create a short video for parents explain some of the key elements of SEL.

Special Education Report

Ms. Reinhardt had no formal report but offered to take questions from the Board.

Director of Technology Report

Mr. Grattan had no formal report but offered to take questions from the Board.

Principal Report

Mr. Latchaw shared that the opening day for students had gone smoothly. He thanked the community for all their support in helping to ensure a successful re-entry for students to school. He publically thanked Hood Storage for donating storage space to the Newington Public School. He thanked Mr. Russo among other members of the public for their assistance in restructuring the outdoor tents that had blown over during the weekend. He also thanked the Newington Assistant Fire Chief for lending them a bucket loader so that mulch could be spread on the playgrounds.

Mr. Russo thanked Mr. Latchaw for the work he did in establishing all the plexi-glass dividers for student safety.

Ms. Robertson also shared her thanks to the community. She inquired about possible challenges that may have arisen once school was officially in session.

Mr. Latchaw reiterated the first day consisted of a lot reminding students to stay within their pod groups. He underscored that it may take time to change the mindset of students and to relearn the process of navigating throughout the school in a safe way for staff and students. Morning drop off is also very different than in the past however went very smoothly.

Dr. Joyce thanked Mr. Latchaw for his detailed correspondence to families; he thanked the nurses for the communications shared regarding health screenings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-Entry Plan

A thorough update was given previously in the meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding

Dr. Joyce expressed appreciation to Mr. Tooker and the NPS teachers for their collaboration on the MOA.

On a motion by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Newington School Board and the Association of Coastal Teachers / Newington (Parts I and II). Roll Call Vote: 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Policy

Dr. Joyce noted the policies on the agenda were all required polices and written by the NHSBA. He recommended the Board approve all the listed policies.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved and adopted the following polices: DGA Authorized Signatures; DK Payments, Checks & Manifests; EHAC Electronic/Digital Records & Signatures; EBBC & JLCE Emergency Care & First Aid; JLCE-R Emergency Form; IHAM Health Education and Exemption from Instruction; JLC Student Health Services and School Nurses; JLCD Administering Medication to Students; JLCD F-1, F-2, F-3, R, Procedures for Administering Medication to Students. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

It was decided that the SAU 50 Joint Board meeting scheduled for September 23, 2020 would be held virtually via Google Meets.

Dr. Joyce noted that the October Newington School Board meeting will also be held virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OTHER

Mr. Petralia asked if Newington would like to revisit the discussion regarding the tuitioning of students to Rye Junior High School.

Mr. Russo stated there are currently three Newington 7th Grade students at PMS. He has not yet mentioned to those families the possibility of the students attending Rye Junior High. He shared concern that with classes starting the time do make such a transition may have passed. He reiterated he would need confirmation from Rye School Board on their decision prior to offering a tuition option to Newington families.

Mr. Petralia reiterated that Newington families' tuitioning to Rye would be responsible for their child's transportation to and from school.

NON PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board adjourned their meeting at 4:41 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Approved at the October School Board Meeting by a 3-0 vote.

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date