

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Dr. Mark Joyce (Chair)
Mr. Jack O'Reilly
Mr. Chris Russo

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Other Staff Present: Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: None

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the public minutes of September 11, 2018 were approved. Vote: 2:0:1(abstain)

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the non-public minutes of September 11, 2018 were approved. Vote 2:0:1(abstain)

COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Petralia provided Dr. Joyce a copy of the New Hampshire School Safety Preparedness Task Force 2018 Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the manifest for September 8, 2018 through September 21, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$45,937.12 Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo the manifest for September 22, 2018 through October 5, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$57,015.69. Vote: 3:0

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia officially welcomed Samantha Fuller as his new secretary. Samantha started at the SAU 50 office on October 1, 2018. Going forward, Samantha will be the minute taker for the Newington School Board meetings.

Mr. Petralia shared the packets from the last SAU 50 Joint School Board meeting with Dr. Joyce and Mr. O'Reilly.

Mr. Petralia highlighted an update on New Hampshire Senate Bill 247. This bill makes various changes in the laws regarding testing lead in water. Under the new law, all school/childcare facilities across the state are required to test the lead in the drinking water. Included in the board packets was an advisory from the Department of Environmental Services. The first round of testing is required to be completed by July 1, 2019, every five years after that, until at least three rounds are below the standard.

Mr. Petralia indicated that the SAU 50 normally employs Seacoast Analytical to test our water throughout the district.

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Latchaw to explain how water was tested at Newington Public School. Mr. Latchaw stated that the current water fountain coolers have a filter built in to the unit. The filters are replaced routinely every six months. The filter takes out the toxin and filters out chemicals in the water.

Mr. Petralia included in the school board packet an agenda from the most recent Secondary Advisory Council meeting as a reference. Mr. O'Reilly represented Newington at said meeting. Items on the agenda are generated by advisory board members that attend the meetings. The most recent Secondary Advisory Board meeting lasted approximately one hour and ten minutes.

Mr. Petralia confirmed that the following day (October 10, 2018), he would be in attendance at the AREA Meeting. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School. This meeting is an opportunity for Principal Lyons to provide information to both the SAU 50 and SAU 52.

Mr. Petralia included the RTM Technology Audit report in the board packets. He explained that this topic was reviewed at the most recent SAU 50 Joint Board Committee meeting allowing for both the SAU perspective and district perspective to be shared. The committee agreed on a November 14, 2018 meeting in order to discuss the preliminary budget and how the recommendations from the audit will affect the budget.

Mr. Joyce asked Mr. Russo (who was in attendance at the SAU 50 Joint Board Committee meeting), to share highlights from the discussion. Mr. Russo shared that the Board asked to see the position of an IT Director set within the budget in order to understand the financial affect for each district. Mr. Russo felt that there was not a clear understanding with everyone recognizing the scope of the technology issues throughout the districts.

Mr. Joyce suggested that the Newington School Board strategize ahead of the November 14th SAU 50 Joint Board meeting.

It was established that at the next Newington School Board meeting on November 13, 2018 the members would create a list of talking points to emphasize the seriousness of the issues the RTM audit presented. These talking points would then be brought up at the SAU50 Joint Board Committee meeting.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw highlighted key areas of his report including blizzard bags. He explained that currently there is an amendment that needs to be accepted to the Newington blizzard bag attendance policy in order to be counted as a school day.

Dr. Joyce noted that the pilot program had been approved and asked what the specific policy to amend was; and whether it could be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Mr. Petralia noted that at the next district wide Policy Committee meeting they will review the remote instructional day policy related to blizzard bags.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, to accept current attendance policy to allow for remote instructional days for the 2018-2019 school year. Vote: 3:0

Mr. Latchaw shared with the Board that he has adapted the format of his Principal Report. He will now place action steps and goals first providing updates as they move forward.

Mr. Latchaw credited Mr. Tooker with the wonderful experience he has created with the student run pod casts. This new format allows for students to share their learning experiences, fostering positive growth in their articulation and public speaking abilities. Included in the pod cast process is the "back end production" utilizing the music teacher Gene Guth and incorporating Garage Band. Currently the class is working on a pod cast about their trip to Mount Cardigan. The pod cast was shared with the New Castle grade five and six students. Mr. Purcell's students in turn were inspired to create and share a pod cast of their own.

Mr. Latchaw adapted the format for Parent Information Night. Previously parents would spend thirty five minutes in a classroom. This year parents spent fifteen minutes in a the classroom. Parents were invited to the gym to participate in a question/answer game. The feedback from parents was positive. Parents enjoyed the game aspect and the opportunity to learn more about other parents in their school community. Several parents in attendance called days later to offer their professional expertise through volunteering at the school.

The new security systems are almost 100% completed. The students and staff are becoming accustomed to the various new alarm/alert sounds. Mr. Latchaw is currently working with Police Chief Bilodeau to ensure that the panic alarm is all set up and functioning properly. The security monitoring stations within the building have also been adapted as needed.

Mr. Latchaw thanked Chief Bilodeau of the Newington Police for the attention he shows to the school through participation, visits and monitoring school premises.

Mr. Latchaw welcomed the new health and physical education teacher Fred Bowden to the Newington Faculty last week.

Mr. Latchaw welcomed the new after school program coordinator Jane Kendall. He mentioned that participation is up and students seem to really appreciate Ms. Kendall.

Dr. Joyce thanked both Ms. Kendall and Mr. Bowden for being a part of the organization.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if a date for the school holiday gathering had been established. Mr. Latchaw indicated that at this time it will be Friday, December 21, 2018.

Mr. Joyce stated that the board would meet next on November 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Joyce reiterated that the November meeting would be the time to discuss any preliminary budget issues/needs. During that meeting they will also compile strategies regarding technology to contribute to the November SAU 50 Joint School Board meeting.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business – None

NON PUBLIC – None

ADJOURNMENT

*On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:37 p.m.
Vote: 2:0 (1 absent)*

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller,



Secretary