

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 12, 2020 at 3:00 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
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Peter Latchaw, Principal
Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Other Staff Present: Anne Brady, Paraprofessional; Beth Brown, Teacher; Kim Lodge, Teacher; Abby Lundborn, Teacher; Nel Tooker, Teacher

Visitors: Emily Savinelli

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 Dr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the public minutes of April 14, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 2-0-1(abstain).

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the non-public minutes of April 14, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 2-0-1(abstain)

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the public minutes of April 22, 2020 were approved. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared a retirement letter from a staff member which will be discussed further during the Personnel portion of the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the manifest for April 11, 2020 through May 11, 2020 was approved in the amount of \$89,109.70. Roll Call: 3-0

Ms. Ryan gave a brief update on the remaining budget balance which currently sits at 2.7%, approximately \$57,000. Purchase orders will continue to be entered for remaining outstanding good and services.

Dr. Joyce questioned the balance amount to be resourced into the Trust Fund. Ms. Ryan noted the current balance does not reflect revenues nor any remaining Special Education cost. Ms. Ryan will have the funds for the Capital Improvement Account for the June Meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce thanked the teachers in attendance for their excellent work during remote learning. He invited them to address any concerns or issues to the Board. None were stated.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia referenced the recent letter from Governor Sununu regarding Emergency Order #38. While the specifics may not currently be pertinent to Newington it contained valuable information specific to a notification of renomination of staff.

Mr. Petralia shared on Wednesday, April 29th he convened a meeting with members of the Association of Coastal Teachers, the New Castle Teachers' Organization, and school board members from across SAU 50 to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement. Dr. Joyce was in attendance for the virtual meeting. The purpose of the meeting, as requested by the Association, was to address the changes in working conditions caused by the current remote learning environment.

Mr. Petralia announced that the Executive Board of the Clipper Foundation awarded a \$1,000 gift donation to Newington Public School. Mr. Latchaw submitted a request to the Foundation to purchase additional MacBooks. Mr. Petralia asked the Board to entertain a motion to accept the donation later under New Business.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen provided a report to Board members in advance of the meeting. The Board had no further questions for Ms. Killen.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw provides a few highlights from his report. He reiterated that the funds from the Clipper Foundation would be used to purchase additional MacBooks to be used if any of the current computers needed repair.

Mr. Latchaw praised the NPS teachers and the remarkable job they have done adjusting to remote learning and keeping up with all of the additional and new challenges that have occurred while continuing to provide the highest quality of education possible during these challenging times.

Mr. Latchaw noted all NPS students will continue with Spring STAR assessments which will take place remotely on May 22nd.

Mr. Latchaw gave an update regarding the transition for sixth graders heading to Portsmouth Middle School. There will be several opportunities for parents and students to connect virtually with PMS Principal Davis including a virtual tour, parent meeting and student forum with current Newington 7th and 8th grade students.

Mr. Latchaw requested that the Board allow him to gather quotes to have the air duct system thoroughly cleaned. The Board said he could go forward in that process and recommended it be added to the maintenance schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Remote Instruction

The instruction is remaining constant with the remote learning plan previously established by Administration. No new updates to report.

Clipper Foundation Emergency Fund

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to entertain a motion to accept the gift donation to Newington Public School from the Clipper Foundation.

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board approved receipt of a \$1,000 gift donation from the Clipper Foundation to be used for Macbooks as indicated by Principal Latchaw. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Federal Grant Approval

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board voted to approve receipt of federal funds for the 2020-2021 academic year. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Memorandum of Agreement

Mr. Petralia noted that the revised MOA had been distributed to each school board. Boards have met in non-public session to discuss negotiation strategy related to counter proposals. He highlighted that there is a specific section regarding last day for teachers. Mr. Petralia asked the Board to enter into non-public (later in the meeting) for further discussion regarding the Memorandum of Agreement.

Committee Assignments

Committee Assignments will be discussed further at the Board Retreat mid summer.

OTHER

Newington Family Scholarship

Dr. Joyce noted three deserving Newington seniors would receive the 2019-2020 Newington Family Scholarship. The fund holds a total of \$2500, which will be dived equally between recipients.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board voted to equally divide and distribute the Newington Family Scholarship among three Newington senior applicants. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the Board approved the nomination of Jamie Bastille as Reading and Math Specialist as well as Building Substitute. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson the accepted with regret the resignation of Dana McKenna as Speech-Language Pathologist. Roll Call Vote: 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

On behalf of the teachers Ms. Brown extended appreciation for Board consideration when reviewing the Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Tooker extended thanks to Ms. McKenna and that the teachers will be sad to see her go.

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:III (c) at 3:50 p.m. Roll Call: 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 seal the non-public minutes at 4:03 p.m. Roll Call: 3-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Robertson, the Board adjourned their meeting at 4:05 p.m. Roll Call: 2-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent

*Approved by the School Board 6/9/20
Virtual Meeting - Approval*

Samara Robertson, School Board Secretary

Date