

**NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840  
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, November 13, 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 5:00 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly seconded by Mr. Russo, the public minutes of October 30, 2018 were approved. Vote: 3:0*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Petralia provided Dr. Joyce a copy of the State of New Hampshire Department of Education letter from Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut, regarding the approval of the Blizzard Bag Remote Instruction Program.

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that the Rye School District received approval from the Commission and would be participating in a similar remote instruction program.

Mr. Petralia indicated that Newington students would begin working with the Blizzard Bags on the second district school cancellation day (not the first).

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Latchaw if parents were made aware of the Blizzard Bag program. Mr. Latchaw confirmed that the blizzard bag concept was presented to parents at Open House. He sent a hardcopy letter home to parents the previous week. Mr. Latchaw plans to incorporate a Blizzard Bag tab on the Newington Public School website.

Dr. Joyce asked that Mr. Latchaw mention the recent approval from the state for the Blizzard Bags to be included in the Principal's weekly newsletter.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the manifest for October 6, 2018, through October 23, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$94,693.54 Vote: 3:0*

*On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo the manifest for October 24, 2018 through November 13, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$128,793.00. Vote: 3:0*

Mr. O'Reilly asked to receive information regarding the stipend comparisons between the Boards. Mr. Petralia indicated he would gather the information for the Board to review, noting that the stipends were last adjusted many years ago.

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Petralia asked the Board for a brief non-public session at the end of the public meeting in order to discuss the most recent negotiation meeting with the Area General Manager from First Student.

Mr. Petralia went on to share items relating to the next academic year. Executive Director of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, Carl Ladd, recently informed administrators of a task force launched by the Governor to look at the feasibility of starting school after Labor Day going forward. This premise was related to feedback in regard to the lack of tourism revenue during that time of year.

Mr. Petralia suggested the Board draft two academic calendars for the 2019-2020 school year in preparation for the possible change.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if the change in the academic calendar would alter the current 180 mandated school days. Mr. Petralia indicated it would not.

Dr. Joyce reminded the Board that the School Board itself has the right to set the academic calendar by statute. He suggested surveying parents to gather their input in regard to the prospect of a post Labor Day school start.

Mr. Petralia indicated that he and Mr. Latchaw would create a survey to send out to parents/guardians.

Mr. Russo asked if the SAU 50 calendar was contingent on the SAU 52 academic calendar. Mr. Petralia indicated that while the two SAU's work together the calendars are often crafted differently especially during an election year. For example during this election year when Greenland Central School and Rye Elementary Schools become voting stations, both communities were adamant that no students be in the building (for either a primary or general election). Mr. Petralia felt this was a wise decision this past November 6<sup>th</sup> given the large voter turnout.

Dr. Joyce reiterated that citizens with "a license to carry" are permitted to bring concealed weapons into a school on voting day if it is acting as a polling station. Therefore, he agreed that no students should be in the school building during election days.

Mr. Petralia shared information with the Board in regard to the Clipper Grant. He noted that Newington Public School Principal Latchaw and then New Castle School Principal Lynn Zacharias were beneficiaries of a Makers Space grant in recent years. Mr. Petralia encourages school leaders to be proactive in encouraging their staff to submit applications to the Clipper Grant Foundation to receive potential additional funding.

Mr. Petralia acknowledged that both Mr. Russo and Mr. Latchaw attended the recent district wide technology meeting. During the meeting a RTM Technologies Inc. representative discussed the audit providing a detailed description of necessary updates needed throughout the districts.

Mr. Petralia informed that Board that in light of HB 1612 the NHSBA workshop sessions were quickly filling up. A new session had opened for December 12, 2018 in Concord. He indicated to let Ms. Fuller know if they had interest in signing up for the December session.

Mr. Petralia indicated that he brought the SAU 50 Joint Board Budget Binders for members to review prior to the December 19<sup>th</sup> SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting.

Dr. Joyce asked if the other Newington School Board members would be attending the SAU 50 Joint Board meeting the following night. The two other Board members replied “yes.”

Mr. O’Reilly asked who was eligible to apply for the Clipper Grant. Mr. Latchaw stated that each teacher has the opportunity to apply for the grant. Whoever oversees the application process meets with each school district to walk them through the application process.

#### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Killen gave an update on grade level/content area PLC’s. She indicated that a lot of time is being spent sharing projects and performance assessments. Discussion is then being had on how best to document evidence when students meet the competencies.

Ms. Killen provided general information regarding 2017 Newington High School graduates and their post high school educational path. She presented information in regard to the average SAT scores of Newington graduates over the course of the last four years.

Board members were pleased with the report on the recent Newington graduates.

#### **Principal’s Report**

Mr. Latchaw reiterated his goal of providing all students at NPS with high-quality programming and instruction. One example he shared was through Project Based Learning whereas the students in the Grade 3 & 4 classrooms are creating community projects (such as “no straws and beyond”). Students are reaching out to Stone Face Brewery and requesting the establishment reduce their use of plastic lids while simultaneously using cardboard straws. The students sent letters to the Selectmen in regard to the community based project.

Mr. Latchaw commended students in grades 1-6 for participating in the *Global Read Aloud*. Traditionally, this was open to students in grades 5 & 6 only. Students chose the book they wanted to read aloud. Teachers also participated, for example Mr. Tooker read a book about a Pakistani child and then the class together participated in a Pakistani food festival.

Mr. Latchaw mentioned Ms. Lundborn's Grade 1 & 2 class read a story about a skunk. This was followed up with a Wild Life Encounters visit to the classroom with a live skunk.

Mr. Latchaw then delved into the topic of Building Safety Technology. He worked with local police officials testing the school's panic button system. The security company Pelmac continues to work closely with officials to ensure all systems are working correctly. Mr. Latchaw stated that he has run several drills of the security system with students including reverse evacuation drills (whereas the students are outside and need to return inside the school building). Mr. Latchaw indicated that no individual was permitted into the building without a security swipe card.

Dr. Joyce asked for an update on plumbing repairs. Mr. Latchaw indicated that Hart Plumbing had recently been to the building to fix a circulator pump that had not been working correctly. Mr. Latchaw indicated two additional plumbing issues that needed repair/updating: the grease trap in the kitchen, and a leaky toilet. Hart Plumbing will provide a quote on the repair of those two issues.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if there was remaining funds in the emergency maintenance fund. Dr. Joyce indicated that there is a trust fund. Ms. Ransom will review the fund at the budget meeting and they will determine if money should be added.

Mr. Latchaw indicated that the ongoing technology issues with the Wifi and server were being addressed.

The Board members thanked Mr. Latchaw for his report and asked that he inform them when all security updates are complete.

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Russo to share what was reviewed at the Technology Committee Meeting. Mr. Russo reiterated that he is learning the varied intricacies of the multi-town boards. He is comparing action items specific to Newington to the bigger district-wide picture. Mr. Russo noted that partnering with an outside vendor to provide tech support/service could be costly to bring all systems up to date. He expressed hiring an in house technology staff member would potentially save money over time.

Dr. Joyce asked what the proposal in the SAU budget for such a staff member would be.

Mr. Petralia stated that the FY20 Budget speaks to the recent technology audit recommendation for a district wide Technology Director to oversee infrastructure support for each building as well as prepare for requirements of HB 1612 to be completed through June 2019. The new position is in the proposed budget.

Mr. Russo reiterated that he believes a position of Technology Director is the next best step.

**Unfinished Business** - None

### **New Business**

Parent University was discussed. Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that the initiative originated from discussions at a SAU 50 Joint Board meeting in Spring 2018. Paula Tsetilas has taken the lead as point person for Parent University working in collaboration with Sarah Reinhardt. The idea behind the program is to provide information to the parent community on a myriad of student issues; educational, emotional and social. The program will deal with various important topics including cyber bullying and cell phone usage. The Parent University concept is making advances but is currently in the infancy stage.

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Latchaw if he felt Newington parents would participate in Parent University.

Dr. Latchaw stated that Newington parents already participate/volunteer in a wide variety of local school affiliated programs. He noted that in the past there has not been a big draw when parents are solicited to participate in other organizational informative sessions.

Dr. Joyce stated that he felt we should inform the parents about Parent University through solicitation via other school groups such as the PTA rather than direct endorsement from the School Board.

Dr. Joyce noted a recent email from a Newington resident in regard to a request to walk dogs (leashed) on school property.

Mr. Latchaw stated he has reservations about allowing people to walk dogs on school property. He reiterated that dogs are not permitted during school hours (8:00am – 3:00pm) and that Newington sponsored teams often use the property until 5:30pm. He also feels it could be a liability in some instances.

Dr. Joyce referenced the current SAU 50 policy regarding animals on school grounds. He impressed to the Board that the School Administration as well as the School Board have an obligation to the safety of the students and staff first and foremost. This includes not exposing either group to potential dog feces or a loose dog that happens to get off leash.

It was decided that Mr. Petralia would reply to the community member that contacted the Board via email. He would include the current policy in his correspondence.

Mr. O'Reilly noted that there is a corresponding town ordinance on the town website.

### **NON PUBLIC**

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board entered non-public session at 5:50p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Roll Call: 3:0*

### **RECONVENE**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board agreed to leave non-public session at 5:58p.m. and return to public session and seal the non-public minutes. Roll Call: 3-0*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:59 p.m. Roll Call: 3:0*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Fuller  
Secretary to the Superintendent

  
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Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

12/11/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date