

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 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
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Amy Ransom, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
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 December 11, 2018 were approved. Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo the public minutes of December 19, 2018 were approved. Vote 3:0

COMMUNICATIONS - None

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the manifest for December 8, 2018, through December 20, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$388,271.22. Roll Call: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo the manifest for December 21, 2018 through January 4, 2019 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$34,468.74. Roll Call: 3:0

Dr. Joyce opened the discussion up to any financial questions by Board members.

Mr. O'Reilly inquired if the middle school tuition payment was billed once or twice per year.

Ms. Ransom indicated that the Portsmouth Middle School and Portsmouth High School send tuition invoices twice per school year. The current financial report shows the first payment.

Dr. Joyce asked if the payment to the Contracted Services Speech Therapist as discussed at the December 19th meeting had been resolved. Ms. Ransom indicated that payment had been made.

For the purpose of clarity Mr. Petralia asked Ms. Ransom if the services rendered for the specific contracted services issue were related to the Newington School District. Ms. Ransom stated that the issues as they related to the recent payment were in correlation to Preschool services that had taken place earlier in the current fiscal school year.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia took time to acknowledge his gratitude and for the affirmation from the Board members in regard to the recent approval of his contract extension. He thanked them for their continued support.

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that he met with the President of the Teachers' Association Andrea Papoutsy, who will meet with the Executive Board in Rye tomorrow to discuss the draft calendars for academic year 2019-2020. He noted that the NHDOE had not released any further information pertaining to the post Labor Day start date. Mr. Petralia recommends the district go forward with the August start date. The Board agreed to include this item on the February agenda.

Dr. Joyce referenced the teacher/parent survey that Mr. Latchaw had previously provided in regard to the school start day. Mr. Latchaw reiterated that the Newington staff and parents indicated via survey result, a greater percentage in favor of a post Labor Day start.

Dr. Joyce inquired about the Portsmouth School District's opinion on a post Labor Day start. Mr. Petralia indicated that had not yet heard from Portsmouth.

Dr. Joyce felt it important for the Board know of the Portsmouth School District plan ahead of time so that a decision could be made that would be beneficial for families with children in both school systems.

Mr. Petralia reiterated that it was important that the schools within our school district all follow the same start day for the academic school year.

Mr. Petralia stated that he would contact Superintendent Zdravec in regard to their academic schedule for 2019-2020 and add it to the agenda for the next school board meeting.

Mr. Petralia noted that the State Board of Education approved moving forward with an amendment to Ed 306.18 (c) to allow district to set the graduation date at the beginning of the school year and not have to adjust it to accommodate for snow days.

Mr. Petralia reminded Board members about the upcoming New Hampshire School Board Delegate Assembly scheduled for Saturday January 26, 2019 in Concord, NH. He noted that Ms. Moynahan, the SAU 50 Board Chair, would be in attendance.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen asked if the Board had questions in regard to the Portsmouth High School Freshman Quarter 1 grade assessments that were in the Board packets.

Dr. Joyce stated he felt that the general sense is that Newington freshman students are doing well at the start of the year. He did question why the Earth and Physical assessments seemed out of line with other areas of the curriculum.

Ms. Killen reiterated that there continues to be going discussion and research into choosing a better suited Science curriculum for NPS.

Ms. Killen presented to the Board the new data reporting system iPlatform, set up by the DOE. The iPlatform/iReport is meant to “enhance transparency and stimulate community conversations with parents, districts, legislators and others about state of their local school systems.” – NHDOE

Ms. Killen noted that Newington currently does not show much data because of the fact that are less than ten students within some subgroups but reiterated that this resource could be used to view information about other schools across the state.

Using a projector Ms. Killen spent time walking Board members through the site and how information was displayed. She highlighted several main areas of interest as well as sections that pertained to educator information.

Mr. O’Reilly asked if the data listed were current. Ms. Killen stated that the assessments were based on the spring 2018 results. The population results were based on the student numbers as of October 1, 2018.

Dr. Joyced asked if teachers within the district had reviewed the iPlatform. Ms. Killen indicated they had recently viewed it at the Administrators’ Meeting and were establishing how they would share information within their district.

Mr. O’Reilly asked if the reimbursement for Kindergarten had been instated. Ms. Ransom indicated that this is the first year and it is referred to as “keno revenue.”

Principal’s Report

Mr. Latchaw discussed that NPS staff are in the beginning stages of creating an experiential learning week for all NPS students the week of March 11th with a learning showcase on March 15th. He noted that volunteers were needed.

Dr. Joyce gave accolades to the exceptionally talented grade 4 student that performed on the piano during the December holiday performance.

Mr. Latchaw noted that the Mesopotamian Marvel museum that took place in Mr. Tooker's class in December was a success. The students put in a great deal of effort during the Project Based Learning unit.

Mr. Latchaw stated that donations for the End 68 Hours of Hunger drive would be picked up tomorrow. He is grateful for the outpouring of support from the community. He also thanked the Newington Fire Department for collecting donations at throughout the town via firetruck.

Mr. Latchaw spoke in regard to the current after school rock climbing program. Currently thirty-seven students participate in the program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the tuition rate for next year. Board members reviewed what other area schools had listed in their budgets for the 2019-2020 tuition cost. Mr. Latchaw reiterated that it is important that the Board vote on a rate so that he may in turn notify current and potential parents of tuition students as soon as possible. Mr. Latchaw stated that out of the current enrollment of fifty-two students, fourteen of those are tuitioned in to NPS.

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board agreed to approve the tuition rate for non-employee tuition students at \$7,073.00 for the 2019-2020 school year. Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board agreed to approve the tuition rate for SAU 50 employee tuition students at \$3,536.50 for the 2019-2020 school year. Vote 3-0

Policy

The Board discussed the three policies that were on a second reading; KDCA, KED, KFA.

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board agreed to approve the following policies: KDCA, KED and KFA. Roll Call: 3:0

Mr. Petralia made note of the option to go forward with contracting the NHSBA attorney to review all current SAU 50 policies in an effort to ensure only applicable policies are in provided to the public. The districts would ultimately split the cost of such a review.

Dr. Joyce questioned if there may be a conflict between what our official school attorney may think versus what the NHSBA attorney may recommend. Newington School Board and Staff gain "quasi-judicial immunity" only when we follow the legal advice of our attorney and we do not have that when we take suggested policies of NHSBA attorney.

It was decided that the option of policy review by the NHSBA will be discussed in greater detail at the next Policy Committee meeting. More information will be brought to the March 27, 2019 SAU 50 School Board meeting.

NON PUBLIC - None

ADJOURNMENT

*On a motion by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Roll Call: 3:0*

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent
January 10, 2018



Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

2/12/19

Date