

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Mr. Jack O'Reilly
Mr. Chris Russo

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Amy R. Ransom, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Other Staff Present: Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Beth Brown (NPS kindergarten teacher), Emily Savinelli (resident)

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the public minutes of January 8, 2019 were approved. Vote: 2:0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared with the Board a parent letter from a member of the Newington community. The letter was in regard to the Speech Language Pathologist position going forward for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Latchaw shared a thank you letter from End 68 Hours of Hunger for the generous amount of food donations from the Newington Community.

Mr. Latchaw shared a letter written by Nels Tooker (grade 5/6 teacher), to the Newington School Supporters for providing the school with the wonderful 3D printer.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for January 5, 2019, through January 21, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$22,046. Roll Call: 2:0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for January 22, 2019 through February 6, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$36,587.32. Roll Call: 2:0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for February 7, 2019 through February 8, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$60,369.41. Roll Call: 2:0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for February 9, 2019 through February 12, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$4,206.35. Roll Call: 2:0

Mr. O'Reilly inquired about the last payment for the security upgrades. He also referenced the tuition money not used for Portsmouth due to two students not attending Portsmouth schools. Ms. Ransom indicated that the overage would become part of the fund balances per the warrant articles.

Ms. Ransom explained that HB 184 would affect the funding of Keno for kindergarten students. Any district that takes even one tuition student into their kindergarten class will not receive Keno for the 2019-2020 academic year. She asked that Mr. Latchaw be aware of this new law. If he receives a request for a kindergarten tuition application he would have to bring it to the attention of the school board.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that HB 101 and 564 that pertain to gun free school zones would be heard on February 13, 2019 at the Legislative Office Building in Concord, NH. He noted that legislature has received over 100 emails and letters from gun advocates opposing either piece of legislation. NHSAA has not taken a stand on the issue other than advocating for the safety of staff and students.

Mr. Petralia discussed HB 184 which references Kindergarten and Average Daily Membership. The bill is intended to move full-day kindergarten to equal status in the ADM count and remove Keno as the sole funding source for full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Petralia indicated that the SAU 50 Directory of Technology position had been posted and the application deadline is February 25, 2019. He included in Board packets the search committee timeline and thanked Mr. Latchaw and Mr. Russo for sharing their expertise and participation on the committee. Mr. Petralia explained the search committee will assist in selecting the best candidates for the first round and make a nomination in time for the March 27th SAU 50 Joint Board Committee meeting.

Mr. Petralia informed Board members that the next Secondary Advisory Committee meeting will be held March 5, 2019. He asked that board members send him agenda items to be discussed at that meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen gave Board members an update on HB 1612 noting that in addition to an existing law on student privacy a data governance plan also needs to be completed. A part of that plan includes the security of data access. Ms. Killen formed a technology sub-committee to work through the elements of the data governance plan and establish what is already in place, what

needs to be completed, and allocating who will be in charge of overseeing each element is completed.

Ms. Killen discussed the privacy requirements for hardcopy and digital information. She included in Board packets policy JRA – Annual Notification of Rights Under Ferpa, and a copy of the FERPA policy. She reiterated to Board members that they must be careful not to reference at any point identifying information in regard to students or staff. Non-public session is the time for discussion of a private issue to take place.

Ms. Reinhardt presented to the Board a letter she sent to Mr. Petralia in October 2018 in regard to FERPA and the Right to Know Law. She reiterated that student records are exempt from Right to Know.

Ms. Killen shared a report on Math readiness of the current Newington freshman students at PHS. Current student assessments have indicated they are prepared and continue to do quite well in Math at the high school level.

Mr. Russo thanked Ms. Killen for her work in establishing the technology sub-committee and her guidance in assisting in the requirements of HB 1612.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw highlighted several parts of his Principal report. He outlined the process NPS uses to assess student academic growth throughout the school year noting that STAR testing is one small portion of the growth assessment.

Mr. Latchaw shared a brief presentation on the setup of the Progress Report Cards and corresponding detailed Progress Notes that teachers include for each student.

Ms. Brown presented to the Board members examples of strategies she uses to track academic growth within the kindergarten classroom. She shared examples of how students that may require extra help in certain skills are tracked and assisted. Students that may prove to be more accelerated in their learning are engaged and challenged as well.

Mr. Latchaw highlighted the upcoming Experiential Learning Week that will be held the week of March 18th. There will be eight different courses offered to students and students will choose the course in which they want to participate. Courses range from furniture making, dance, 3D printing, fitness, water color painting and will culminate in a showcase for community members to view at the end of the week.

Mr. Latchaw acknowledged the NPS Destination Imagination team that would be competing in the upcoming competition this March. He noted that NPS was the only school in the SAU 50 with a team participating in DI this year.

Mr. Latchaw invited attendees to a NSS bowling fund raiser to be held at Cosmic Bowling on February 17th from 4-6PM.

Mr. Russo thanked teachers for the great work they do on the Progress Report Evaluations for each student.

Mr. Latchaw informed the Board of a roof leak that had recently been repaired.

Mr. Latchaw made a request to have additional lighting place outside of the school. He indicated that student pick up in the evening hours is unsafe due to a poorly lit entrance. Ms. Ransom indicated that there was enough money in the facilities line of the budget to accommodate the cost of adding lights.

On a motion made by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board approved funds for additional lighting outside the school up to \$750.00. Vote 2-0

Ms. Brown asked the Board if they have a representative that would attend the Newington School Supporters meetings. Mr. Russo said that he would be happy to attend those meeting on behalf of the School Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Funding for the Speech and Language Therapist for the 2019-2020 academic year was discussed and if going forward the position would be contracted service or an employment contract.

Ms. Reinhardt explained to Board members the compensation structures for different service providers within the district.

Newington resident Ms. Savinelli spoke in reference to the letter she had previously sent Mr. Petralia. She indicated that she has a child who has received contracted services from an outside provider and contracted services from a staff member. Ms. Savinelli provided several examples that support her stance that the role of a Speech and Language Therapist should be a contracted staff member that is available at the school full time. She reiterated her experience with both types of providers proved the connection and attention a vested staff member of the school community provides for support to a student is significant greater than that of an outside contractor the visits the school for brief periods of time during a school week.

Mr. Russo noted that he held the current Speech and Language therapist in high regard and is concerned that a shift to contracted service may result in a loss of the current staff member.

Mr. Latchaw reiterated his experience that holding the Speech and Language Therapist as a staff position creates a tremendous value to the school community as they are invested in the school on a different level. Ms. Brown stated she seconds Mr. Latchaw's statement.

Ms. Reinhardt noted that when she looks at contracted services and the time allotted for a provider to work with a students she allows for additional time within the contract in case it is needed. She does not make the time frames tight. She added that many contracted service providers included a minimum clause within their contracts.

Ms. Killen added that whatever decision the Board makes she feels it necessary to be consistent across all the districts with in the SAU 50 in regard to service providers.

Mr. Petralia expressed that he understand both viewpoints. He referenced a recent Executive Board meeting (in which Ms. Brown was also in attendance), that contracted services versus contracted employee were discussed.

It was decided by Board members to hold on the vote of the academic calendar for 2019-2020 until the March School Board meeting.

Policy

The Board discussed three policies; IMG, JBAB, KFB.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board agreed to approve policy IMG- Animals in the School. Roll Call: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board agreed to approve policy JBAB – Transgender and Gender Nonconforming as a first reading. Roll Call 2:0

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board agreed to approve policy KFB – Weapons Free School Zone, as a first reading. Roll Call 2:0

NON PUBLIC - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 6:20 p.m. Roll Call: 2:0

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent
February 14, 2019



Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

3/12/18

Date