

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Other Staff Present: Samantha Fuller, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: Beth Brown, NPS Teacher

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 August 13, 2019 were approved. Vote: 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia presented three communications.

Mr. Petralia reviewed notice from the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA), regarding the Delegate Assembly scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020 in Concord, New Hampshire. This event is open to all School Board Members. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, November 4, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

Mr. Petralia included a letter from Governor Sununu on Education Funding. The letter presented information on the Governor's initiatives to provide more funding to New Hampshire school districts, increase special education funding, and review funding provided through the Public-School Infrastructure Grant.

Mr. Petralia shared a letter from the NH Department of Education in regard to the approval of the SAU 50 request to extend the deadline for DOE-25 report submission. The reports will be due no later than October 1, 2019.

Mr. Petralia reminded the Board about the upcoming Parent University Presentation event that will take place on October 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Rye Junior High School. Former New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice John Broderick will present at the event. Mr. Broderick will discuss his

family's journey with mental illness and what he has learned. A panel of licensed health professionals will be in attendance to answer questions from the audience and provide useful information on local resources to support emotional health in children.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the manifest for July 27, through September 9, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$101,471.79. Vote: 3-0

Ms. Ryan discussed the current 2019-2020 budget as currently stands. Of the \$2.1 million dollar budget currently, \$1.5 million is encumbered leaving a balance of approximately \$370,000.

Ms. Ryan presented the Board with two formatting styles in which she may present the financial reports going forward. Her recommendation was that the report printed directly from the Tyler System is the best format. The previous excel format she felt was more prone for human error. The Board agreed and asked that Ms. Ryan continue to provide summary notes on the financial report in regard to items that may be of concern. Ms. Ryan stated she would continue to provide summary notes on the financial statement going forward.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

Dr. Joyce welcomed Ms. Beth Brown, Newington Public School Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher, to the meeting. Ms. Brown commented that the start of her school year had gone well thus far.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia shared that it had been a smooth opening day for students on Tuesday, August 27th. Each member of the SAU 50 administration was on site at each of the school prior to the arrival of buses and students. Throughout the morning he was able to visit each school. He noted that there had been a couple of delays with bus routes which will be remedied with First Student, Inc.

Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that the Secondary Advisory Committee will meet on September 24th at Portsmouth High School. Mr. O'Reilly will be there to represent Newington.

Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that the SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting is scheduled for September 25th at 6:30 p.m. at NPS.

Mr. Petralia noted that he and Mr. Latchaw had recently attended a Newington Safety Meeting with officials. Mr. Latchaw spoke more about the evacuation drill and plans for a practice drill for NPS students.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen asked the Board if they had any question regarding the report she had shared with them prior to the evening's meeting. There were no questions at this time.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw reported that all positions are filled at NPS. Jamie Bastille, a fully certified educator, was recently hired as a permanent substitute/general educational para professional and will work approximately 35 hours per week.

Mr. Latchaw shared a recent letter from the City of Portsmouth stating that going forward NPS will be charged monthly for the fire services provided at the school (ie: fire sprinkler system). The yearly total impact on the budget will be approximately \$700 which will come out of the utilities account.

Mr. Latchaw noted that the majority of work on the fire panel replacement had been completed. The contractor, Impact Fire, will complete the project by October 14th. The Newington Fire Department recently tested the system prior to the start of school to ensure it was working and up to fire code.

Mr. Latchaw has been working with the Police Department to bring the ALICE program to the school to ensure safety of students and staff. A safety drill will take place which will include state police and homeland security officials. The school will be evaluated on its standards and procedures, and will occur in two phases.

Mr. Latchaw provided Board members with a sample letter that will be sent to parents/guardians prior to the drills.

Mr. O'Reilly asked if the communication will begin and end with the phrase "this is a drill." Mr. Latchaw confirmed it would.

Other

Mr. Petralia stated he will attend the first Newington Town Budget Committee meeting with Ms. Ryan on October 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Petralia and Ms. Ryan will have a draft Budget Timeline for the Board members to review on the next business day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Latchaw discussed ideas for creating a Parent Survey of Newington students attending Portsmouth Middle School. Due to the small number of survey participants he suggested meeting with them as a group in person rather than sending a survey. He felt this would afford the opportunity to ask follow up questions to participants.

Dr. Joyce noted that there is merit to keeping the process simple and allowing anonymity. He recommended that a survey be sent out consisting merely of a few questions such as: how did you like your NPS student's experience, what did we do well, what can we do better? He then suggested inviting participants to speak directly with Mr. Latchaw if they so desire.

Mr. Russo suggested asking the question, do you think your student was prepared when they entered middle school?

Mr. Latchaw stated that there were approximately eighteen families in total that he would like to survey. He will create a draft survey and have the Board review it.

Mr. Latchaw discussed the Maintenance Matrix that he and Mr. Russo are compiling.

Dr. Joyce inquired about the lead testing being done on all the newly renovated water outlets. Mr. Latchaw and Mr. Petralia said they would contact Jodi Wick about setting up the testing.

NEW BUSINESS - None

PERSONNEL - None

NON PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:37 p.m. Vote: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent



Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

10/8/19

Date