

**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, December 11, 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  
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 5:01 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly seconded by Mr. Russo, the public minutes of November 13, 2018 were approved. Vote: 3:0*

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo the non-public minutes of November 13, 2018 were approved. Vote 3:0*

**COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the manifest for November 14, 2018, through December 4, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$88,548.03 Roll Call: 3:0*

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo the manifest for December 5, 2018 through December 7, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$3,303.52. Roll Call: 3:0*

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Petralia commended Ms. Sherman on the great job she has done and continues to do in the Business Office. Dr. Joyce reiterated that he appreciates that Ms. Sherman shares the Manifests each month in a timely fashion.

Ms. Ransom stated that the auditors will be at the Central Office next week.

Ms. Ransom is awaiting confirmation on the number of tuition students. Dr. Joyce expressed he felt there was a positive balance with no unexpected expenses on the horizon.

Mr. O'Reilly noted that the Town Budget showed school costs up for this year, but that they will be going down for the next fiscal year. Ms. Ransom indicated that at the budget committee meeting she have information in the binder as it relates by school, county and state.

Mr. Petralia presented two initial school calendar drafts for the 2019-2020 academic year (August start, September start). He has received no further updates in regard to the Governor's Task Force in regard to the post Labor Day school start. Mr. Petralia included in the Board packets a letter from Barrett Christina the Executive Director of the NHSBA, to Governor Sununu, expressing his opinion on why the academic calendar should not be moved by the state legislature. Mr. Christina expressed in the letter that local control of the academic calendars should remain with district school boards.

Mr. Petralia has asked all Principals within the SAU 50 to review the calendars and provide feedback in pertaining to professional development days and teacher work days required under the RESPA Agreement. Each draft calendar accounts for the 180 open school day requirement. There are also potential make-up days added in June. Mr. Petralia noted that there would be further discussion in regard to the calendars moving forward.

Dr. Joyce asked if the move to a September start date would require legislation. He also asked Mr. Latchaw if parents were aware of the potential for later end date in June.

Mr. Latchaw stated that the academic calendar could be set on a yearly basis. The start date would depend on when in September the Labor Day holiday falls (some years it is on September 2, some years as late as September 8). Mr. Latchaw noted that based on his survey, 75% of his parent population would prefer an after Labor Day start for the 2019 year.

Mr. Latchaw reminded the Board that the Blizzard Bag Program currently allows three days of remote instruction but has the potential for up to five days. This in turn would help limit the number of snow days added in June even with a September start.

Dr. Joyce noted that they will act further on the calendar at the January Board meeting.

Mr. Petralia shared with the Board the NH Educator Code of Conduct and Ethics. He noted that these items were recently shared at an SAU 50 Administrative Meeting.

Mr. Petralia stated that Parent University launched the previous Tuesday Evening. Ms. Reinhardt introduced the presenter and Ms. Tsetsilas guided the program.

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Latchaw shared that Mr. Tooker attended the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference. Based on the training he received at the conference, Mr. Tooker has created coding lessons with his students. The 5/6 students were divided into small groups to lead lessons in STEAM class for K, 1/2, and 3/4 classes on December 7. Dr. Joyce asked if, the student teachers mimicked Mr. Tooker's

teaching style. Mr. Latchaw stated that the students had a variety of ways of approaching the lesson plan. One of the greatest positives was watching the older students support the younger students as they learned at their own pace.

Dr. Joyce inquired about the holiday luncheon and the End 68 Hours of Hunger food donations needed. Mr. Latchaw reiterated that Newington previously did not have many options for families in need of support. He commended the Newington Fire Chief for proactively supplying resources for Newington families.

Mr. Latchaw expressed thanks to Ms. Arsenault, the guidance counselor at Rye Elementary School (and Newington resident). She has been invaluable in helping Newington proceed with the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program by partnering with the program in Rye to help meet the need for Newington families.

Mr. Latchaw stated that the skating rink is not up and running due to a ripped liner. The replacement liner is expected to arrive soon.

Mr. Latchaw discussed the need for flexible coverage to support the after school program. He noted the program has increased in numbers with up anywhere from ten to sixteen students participating a day. On the days there are sixteen students he feels it becomes taxing on one after school coordinator.

Mr. Petralia asked if it was supervision, staffing or both issues. Mr. Latchaw indicated both, adding that he did not want to limit the number of kids participating in the program on a given day.

Dr. Joyce asked if it was reasonable to set a first come first serve platform with those giving advance notice priority. Another suggestion was to make parents pay by the week rather than per day. Mr. Latchaw felt the flexibility of the program would be lost because some parents have last minute emergencies where students need after school care.

Ms. Fuller suggested that he solicit parent volunteers on an on-call type basis as backup. If parents are obligated to sign by noon on a given day and it appears the number of participants is large, the on call volunteer could then be utilized to support the main after care coordinator.

Mr. Latchaw updated the Board on facility maintenance issues. Dowling visited NPS to address ice buildup in the kitchen refrigerator. The initial report from the technician was that there is a pin hole in the refrigerant which can be brazed and repaired. However, there could also be a hole in the compressor itself which could mean a replacement of the commercial refrigerator. Mr. Latchaw is working on scheduling a follow up assessment from Dowling to find the location of the leak over the Christmas Break. Potentially they will have an answer by December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. O'Reilly noted that if it was determined that a replacement refrigerator was needed multiple quotes must be reviewed.

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo the Board authorized the purchases of a new refrigerator given the review of multiple quotes prior to purchase. Vote: 3:0*

## Policy

Dr. Joyce brought forth several policies that the Policy Committee previously agreed should be rescinded based on the fact that they were covered by recently established policies or no longer applicable.

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board agreed to rescind the following policies: KBD, KDBA, KDA, KDB, KDD and KDE. Roll Call: 3:0*

Dr. Joyce reviewed additional policies that need to be reviewed as a first reading. He encouraged the Board to look at the implications of each of these policies. He highlighted the fact that legal counsel had been given on several of the policies.

*On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board agreed to move the following policies to the status of First Reading: IMG, KDCA, KED and KFA. Roll Call: 3:0*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Latchaw indicated that the current classroom volunteer in grade three/four has a certified therapy dog she hopes to bring into the classroom one day a week so students may read to it.

Dr. Joyce asked if policy IMG (under review), would comply with this topic. It was decided that a decision would not be made until after policy IMG had a final vote in the coming months.

Dr. Joyce indicated that he would like to have the Board meet with Ms. Ransom to discuss the budget. It was decided they would meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High.

Ms. Ransom passed out the Preliminary Budget Books to the Board members.

Ms. Ransom noted that she had received Mr. Latchaw's staffing requests. She stated that health and dental insurance increased. NH retirement increased in percentage for teachers and decreased for all other staff.

Ms. Ransom indicated that there was a decrease in Special Education numbers due to a corresponding decrease in anticipated IEPs.

Dr. Joyce asked if the budget represents a student placement holder. Ms. Ransom indicated yes, there are two placement holders for the high school and one for the middle school.

Dr. Joyce asked Mr. Petralia about warrant articles for Trust Fund accounts. Ms. Ransom indicated that there was currently approximately \$110,000 in the Special Education Trust Fund, \$60,000 in Building and Grounds Trust Fund and \$52,500 in the Tuition Trust Fund.

Mr. Russo asked if the Tuition Trust Fund was in addition to the three student placement holders. Dr. Joyce replied yes and explained that the advantage of a trust fund allows for relief if an unexpected cost occurs. The fund allows for the cost to be covered while not depleting the budget.

Mr. O'Reilly noted that the Emergency Fund caps at \$100,000. Dr. Joyce noted that use of the funds is under the School Board control.

Ms. Ransom noted that warrant articles are funded in the order they are printed. The Board should prioritize the most important items at the top of the list.

Mr. Latchaw mentioned that he requested several air conditioner units be purchased under the 2019-2020 budget. Ms. Ransom indicated that request was included in the budget and the corresponding reference material was located within the binder.

Mr. Russo thanked Ms. Ransom for the presentation of the binder indicating it was one of the most well composed budget reports he has reviewed.

**NON PUBLIC - None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. Reilly, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:55 p.m.  
Roll Call: 3:0*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Fuller  
Secretary to the Superintendent  
December 13, 2018



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

1/8/19

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date