

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, March 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Dr. Mark Joyce
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 – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the public minutes of February 12, 2019 were approved. Vote: 2:0

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared a resignation letter from Kelly Winfrey as the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in Newington for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. The change is due to an increase in student needs in other towns within the SAU 50 for which Ms. Winfrey is contracted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the manifest for February 13, 2019, through March 8, 2019 was approved in the amount of \$92,801.28. Roll Call: 2:0

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that on Wednesday, March 13th, the House Education Committee will review HB 380, relative to the duty of superintendents regarding criminal records checks; HB 414 relative to notifying parents regarding bullying complaints; and HB 489, relative to changing a pupil's school or assignment due to a manifest educational hardship.

Mr. Petralia reiterated his recommendation, in regards to the 2019-2020 academic calendar, that the Board approve the pre-Labor Day start in order to remain consistent with the other districts within the SAU 50 as well as the Portsmouth Public schools.

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that the New Castle School District had recently approved an extension of the winter recess by two days allowing two full weeks of holiday vacation. Two additional days were added on to the end of their school year

Mr. Petralia gave a brief update on the progression of the Director of Technology search noting a strong pool of candidates had applied. Semifinalist interviews are scheduled for Thursday, March 14th and Friday March 15th. Finalist interviews are scheduled for March 20th.

Mr. Petralia thanked the Newington School Supporters for the donation toward an upcoming Parent University Event, "In My Shoes," being held on April 2nd at 6:00 PM, at Maude H. Trefethen School. Special Education Director, Sarah Reinhardt and Rye School Board member/parent Paula Tsetsilas have collaborated together on the event. Northeast Passage will also play a pivotal role in the presentation.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Killen presented a review of the curriculum document and documents up for adoption. She updated the Board members on information she would provide for them digitally. She asked that Board members review and be prepared to vote on Music and Social Studies Pre-K to Grade 5 for adoption in April 2019.

Ms. Killen completed her visit to Portsmouth High School to review freshmen classes. She plans to visit Portsmouth Middle School in May at the time Newington students have their tour. She will present to the Board her findings at an upcoming School Board meeting.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw highlighted a few items on his report. He noted that recently nurse Erin Russo recertified NPS staff members with CPR and AED training.

On March 22nd, Project Based Learning expert, Brad Belin, will work with NPS staff to help grow the PBL program.

A recent Cosmic Bowling fundraiser event to benefit Newington School Supporters raised \$523. The Jump Rope for Heart event raised \$4,200 for the American Heart Association. Mr. Latchaw thanked the community for their continued support. He noted how great it was to have so many folks participate in the jump rope celebration event.

Newington Police Chief Michael Bilodeau's fingerprinting class was a huge success. In the spring there are plans to continue with a casting class.

Mr. Latchaw noted that he and the NPS staff continue to review math programs and are making progress in the steps to adopt a new program aligned with school board policy. He stated teaching staff have played an active role on the committee.

Mr. Latchaw invited Board members to the upcoming March Maker Madness showcase to be held Thursday, March 21st from 2:00-3:00 PM. He reminded everyone of the Destination Imagination Tournament that will be held in Manchester on March 16th.

At the March Newington School Supporters meeting a representative from the New Heights program will make a formal presentation to create an after-school enrichment programming option on a regular basis for NPS students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Non-Resident Tuition Agreements

Mr. Petralia gave an update on the final versions of the Non-Resident Tuition Agreements. He reiterated that principals will distribute the forms to potential applicants. The forms should be sent directly to the SAU 50 Central Office once completed.

Dr. Joyce asked if a motion to accept the final version of the tuition agreements need to be made or if the Board could wait until the April meeting.

Mr. Latchaw stated he hoped the Board would vote this evening so he could distribute the forms to interested parties as soon as possible.

On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce the 2019-2020 Non-Resident Tuition Agreements were approved. Vote: 2-0

Building and grounds improvements were discussed. Dr. Joyce requested that motion sensor lights be added above the front door of the school. Mr. Latchaw confirmed that there would be switch lighting installed in the parking lot and a motion light above the front door.

Mr. Russo noted that the Technology Committee meeting had been postponed until March 25th.

Funding for Speech and Language Therapist

Funding for the Speech and Language Therapist was discussed. Mr. Petralia recommended the Board vote on the position tonight so that he may present staff nominations after the Annual District Meeting on Saturday.

*On a motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Dr. Joyce, the Speech and Language Therapist position was approved as an employee contract position at .10% FTE for the 2019-2020 academic year.
Vote: 2-0*

Dr. Joyce reiterated that in the future it would be possible to increase the percentage for the therapist position as needed, however, it would not be possible to decrease the percentage.

Academic Calendar

Dr. Joyce thanked Mr. Russo and Mr. Latchaw for creating and gathering responses from the survey given to parents regarding the start date for the 2019-2020 school year. He stated his concerns that a post Labor Day start would cause issues with those families that have students attending the Portsmouth Middle School and/or Portsmouth High School.

Mr. Russo reiterated his stance that a post Labor Day start date would have multiple benefits to parents, custodial staff, and teaching staff. He noted his understanding of the concern regarding uniformity with SAU 50 and SAU 52.

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the 2019-2020 academic calendar with an August start date, was approved. Vote: 2-0

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo the Board approved the resignation of Kelly Winfrey as BCBA for Newington Public School. Roll Call: 2-0

NON PUBLIC - None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Board adjourned their meeting at 5:39 p.m. Roll Call: 2:0

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent
March 22, 2019



Chris Russo, School Board Secretary

4/9/19

Date