

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
James Katkin, Business Administrator
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Additional Staff: Tracy Dumais, Secretary to the Superintendent

Visitors: None

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the public and non-public minutes of February 9, 2018 were approved. Vote: 2-0-1

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Petralia shared that he had received a parent request regarding SAU 50 policies, *JFA Legal Residency of a Student* and *JFAB Admission of Non-Resident Students*, which will be further discussed during this evening's non-public session.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the manifest for February 1, 2018 through February 15, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$63,147.89. Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the manifest for February 16, 2018 through March 12, 2018 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$97,093.73. Vote: 3:0

REPORTS

Business Administrator's Report

Mr. Katkin was present to answer the Board's questions regarding the Capital Improvement Plan that was presented at the February school board meeting. Dr. Joyce asked if the installation of the air handling equipment needed to be factored into the FY 2020 budget cycle. Mr. Katkin stated that the unit should last for another three years or so, but the Board may want to consider looking into obtaining quotes and estimates from service contractors. Dr. Joyce also suggested conducting an air quality study

as well. Mr. O'Reilly suggested that the Board start adding additional funding into the capital improvement account for FY 2020 to assist with larger, more expensive items that will need to be replaced in the near future. It was also noted that the Capital Improvement Plan should be shared with the Newington Budget Committee next year.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the Board approved the Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Vote: 3:0

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia updated the Board on the student walkout demonstrations that were held today, commemorating the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students lost their lives to gun violence. Mr. Petralia stated that there were a few grades 7 and 8 students at Greenland Central School who protested peacefully in the school's parking lot, which was monitored by the Greenland Police Department and lasted approximately 20 minutes. Mr. Latchaw noted that there were no student demonstrations at NPS.

Mr. Petralia also requested a brief meeting to be held following the annual school district meeting on Saturday, March 17th, for the nomination and election of professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year. The Board agreed and a brief meeting will be held following the annual meeting.

Legal Updates

SB 193

The House Finance Division Subcommittee met on Wednesday, February 28th to discuss an amendment to SB 193 (Education Savings Account / Voucher) program. The Full Finance Committee will likely vote on the proposed amendment around March 13 or 14 and send it back to the House floor. The House will probably vote on SB 193 on March 21 or 22. Significant changes include the elimination of the earlier proposed "stabilization grant" which would reimburse school districts a portion of their lost revenue. The new version will only distribute a "one-time" adjustment grant of \$1,500 to the municipality. Students receiving special education services have been removed, thereby eliminating this identification as an "eligible student."

A public hearing on SB 193 amendments was scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2018 at 1:00 PM.

SB 357

A hearing on SB 357 (permitting school boards to ban firearms in a safe school zone) will be scheduled for March 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM in Reps Hall.

HB 1492

The House Education Committee voted last week to move HB 1492 (Manifest Educational Hardship) for interim study. The key changes would have included making the parent solely responsible for determining whether a hardship or best interest issue exists. Interim study signifies that the bill is essentially dead for the year.

Public School Infrastructure Fund Update

The New Hampshire Department of Education extended the grant application deadline to Monday, March 12th at noon. The DOE has announced that the next meeting of the Commission to review grant applications is scheduled for March 19, 2018. The grant applications for Newington Public School will be reviewed at that meeting. Mr. Petralia thanked Ms. Ransom for assisting the SAU 50 building leaders with this grant process.

Mr. Petralia also provided a list of upcoming workshops from the NHSBA, which include the “New School Board Member” workshop which has been rescheduled for May 2nd. Any members wishing to attend a workshop should contact Ms. Dumais at the SAU Central Office for registration.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report

Ms. Killen provided the Board with a review of the STAR Winter Growth Assessment. It was noted that the benchmark increases from fall to winter and that many students are far above the benchmark. Dr. Joyce inquired as to when action plans are created to assist students who need improvement. Mr. Latchaw stated that action plans were addressed during the last staff professional day.

Ms. Killen announced that she will be hosting a curriculum orientation prior to the SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting on March 28th. The orientation will take place at Greenland Central School from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All board members are welcome to attend and refreshments will be available.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Latchaw announced that the Cosmic Bowling fundraiser was held on February 18 and raised \$545 for the school. Mr. Latchaw thanked Kristin Poulin and the Newington School Supporters for organizing the event.

Mrs. McKenna organized Jump Rope for Heart again this year at NPS on 2/23. Jump Rope for Heart is not only a fun, healthy activity for students, but it also is a wonderful opportunity for parents and community members to volunteer at NPS. The annual Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success again this year, with the school raising \$3,122. Mr. Latchaw thanked everyone who volunteered and for their generous donations which not only go to help the American Heart Association, but also earns money for athletic equipment for our own school.

Mr. Tooker’s 5/6 grade class coordinated with “Bananagrams” and allowed NPS students to take over the Bananagrams Instagram account for two days, which occurred on March 8-9. Mr. Latchaw shared the photos of the takeover with the Board.

Mr. Latchaw announced that a community dinner and silent auction to support NPS will be held on May 12, 2018. Tickets are limited and will be on sale until April 15th. The cost is \$75 per ticket. Please contact Jennifer Philbrick or Molly Grube for more information.

Mr. Latchaw attended an ALICE instructor Trainer workshop on March 1-2. Mr. Latchaw is pleased to share with the Board that he is now a certified ALICE instructor. He will continue to work with the Newington Police Department to train NPS staff, students and families. Mr. Latchaw noted that his goal is for NPS to be recognized as an ALICE school. In responding to Board questions, Mr. Latchaw noted that the lockdown procedure that dates back to 2004 is no longer effective and needs to be updated. In situations of safety concerns, it is noted that best practice is to have an understanding and a plan of action and to also empower teachers to make the decision(s) of what’s best for students.

Assistant Business Administrator's Report

Ms. Ransom noted that one high school student has recently moved out of Newington, which meant an \$11,000 credit was returned to Newington. The fund balance is currently at 5% and has approximately \$104,000.

New Copier for Newington Public School

Ms. Ransom informed the Board that the current copier at NPS will need to be replaced, as it is currently experiencing maintenance issues and it is difficult to obtain replacement parts due to its age. There is currently one bid for the replacement machine, and Ms. Ransom is waiting to receive two more bids. The current bid lists a trade value of \$2,800 and the cost of a new copier is \$9,000, which includes the maintenance agreement. There is also a lease option, but historically, the copiers have always been purchased in the past. Ms. Ransom assured the Board that once the older machine is replaced, she will be given the memory card for safe keeping. She hopes to have an update on the additional bids at the April board meeting.

Board Members

Building and Facilities Update

It was decided that the driveway repaving project will be put on hold until the end of June.

Mr. O'Reilly informed the Board that the summer program has not yet been finalized with the YMCA as of yet, but will provide the dates as soon as they are available. It will be a five day program, similar to last year's program.

New Business

Approval of 2018-2019 Academic Calendar

The Board reviewed the 2018-2019 school calendar. Ms. Killen noted that the current draft of the calendar meets the criteria for student and teacher work days.

On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board approved the 2018-2019 academic calendar for Newington Public School. Vote: 3:0

Policy Review

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, policy KBDA – Classroom Visits was approved for 1st reading Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, policy KDA – Communications with the Community (previously known as Public Information Program) was approved for 2nd reading. Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, policy KDD – News Media Relations was rescinded. Vote: 3:0

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, policy KDE – Crisis Management Communications was rescinded. Vote: 3:0

OTHER

Update on March 16, 2018

Mr. Petralia announced, that after much discussion with building administrators, staff, and school board chairpersons, the professional development day for teachers has been switched to a regular instructional school day for students and staff. This was done in an effort to avoid additional make up days in June due to the school cancellations caused by inclement weather.

Personnel

Mr. Latchaw informed the Board that the Special Education Coordinator position has been posted on the NPS website and also on SchoolSpring.com. A timeline has been created and so has a hiring committee. Mary Reddick is currently the coordinator at NPS, but will be retiring at the close of the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Latchaw also informed the Board that the current after school enrichment coordinator is resigning effective April 12th.

Mr. Latchaw also noted that the hours for the current guidance counselor have been increased to three hours per week.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Newington Annual District Meeting – March 17, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Newington Town Office
- SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting – March 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Greenland Central School
- Newington School Board Meeting – April 10, 2018 at 6p.m. at Newington Public School

NON PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the Board entered non-public session at 6:57 p.m. Vote: 3:0

RECONVENE

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the Board returned to public session at 7:22 p.m. and sealed the non-public minutes, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Vote: 3:0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:22 p.m. Vote: 3:0

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Dumais

Secretary 