

NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840
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The regular monthly meeting of the Newington School Board took place on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT:

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent

Amy R. Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator
Peter Latchaw, Principal

Visitors: Elizabeth Brown, K/1 Teacher
Sara Marchessault, Parent

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly seconded by Mr. Mueller, the public minutes of August 8, 2017 were approved. Vote: Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the manifest for 08/05/17 through 08/16/17 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$11,992.51. Vote: Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, the manifest for 08/17/17 through 09/01/17 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$6,235.90. Vote: Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the manifest for 09/02/17 through 09/08/17 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$74,217.74. Vote: Unanimous

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITOR:

Sara Marchessault was present this evening. Her son Camden is in the 2/ 3 grade NPS and she is here to learn more information about the school.

Elizabeth Brown, the K/1 grade teacher, was also present this evening.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Petralia notified the Board that New Staff Orientation took place on August 21st. There were 18 new staff members from the district in attendance. There was also a second year teacher panel to introduce new staff members to the school, answer questions, etc. Nels Tooker was on this panel along with Erin Fleming from Rye. Jeanne Moynahan was also in attendance, as a representative of the SAU Joint School Board.

The first day of school was August 29, 2017. Aside from a few bus issues that have since been rectified, the day went smoothly. Mr. Petralia thanked Mr. Latchaw for his preparation and hard work.

Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that they gave him the authority at the last meeting to hire a new Health and Physical Education teacher. He is pleased to announce that Meridith Clemons was recommended and hired to fill this role for the 2017-2018 school year at NPS. Mr. Petralia will provide a formal recommendation.

The Secondary Advisory meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22nd. This is a chance for the Board to present information to SAU 52 in Portsmouth. There is also the Bradley Kidder Law Conference on October 4th in Concord, New Hampshire. Interested board members can contact Tracy Dumais at the SAU 50 office if they would like more information or to register.

Dr. Joyce asked if there were any issues with the road being closed. Mr. Latchaw said they weren't aware it was going to be closed more than a day, but it should re-open this weekend. The road closure has affected two families, but they have been very flexible.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Killen shared that House Bill 166 became effective in August. The bill states that students must take a state assessment once in elementary school, once in middle school and once in high school. The State is looking to get a waiver.

It has not yet been determined which assessment will be used, as it is still in executive council. It could possibly be the same company that distributes Smarter Balance, but most likely not the same test. Ms. Killen should have more information by the end of the week.

Ms. Killen will be putting together an Assessment Wide Committee to discuss options and decisions about testing. It will also be helpful to have people ready to train other staff members on the new assessment. Dr. Joyce wanted to know if this could alleviate some testing. Ms. Killen shared that they could decide what grade would do the state testing and then they could decide what to use for informal testing during the non-assessment years.

Schoology was formally approved by all of the SAU 50 school boards. Ms. Killen has had a conference call with the system's company, as Ms. Curtis has been working with Powerschool and Schoology to sync the two programs together. Teachers and staff viewed a brief introductory video on Opening Day and those who were interested were given the opportunity to sign up to learn more about the system. There are about 10-15 teachers interested in piloting the new program and training for these teachers will be scheduled later in the fall.

Financial Report:

Ms. Ransom explained that the district is in good financial standing. Everything has been encumbered and there is 5.27% of the budget left, or approximately \$109,000. Dr. Joyce wanted to know if they encumbered the entire tuition amount needed in case a high school aged student moves into the district and they need to tuition him/her to Portsmouth High. Ms. Ransom shared that it is encumbered and would be adjusted if a student were to move into the town.

Principal's Report

Mr. Latchaw shared the working document he has for the school goals. Goal # 1 talks about School Culture, Goal # 2 revolves around Learning Progression, and Goal # 3 details the expectation that each student will have at least a year's growth during the school year.

Mr. Latchaw wanted to thank Ms. Brown for joining him this summer for Kindergarten Camp. They picked up all 10 Kindergarten students from their homes by bus and enjoyed a nice day at the school with the new students.

August 30th was the Back to School Cook-out. It was on the second night of school and a nice time to get all of the families and teachers together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Mr. Latchaw thanked the Board and Mr. Petralia for their leadership and efforts put into this year's Road Race, which was held on September 9th. They all participated and worked hard to make this a successful community event.

Two of the professional development days were taken up by the A.L.I.C.E. training. Staff was provided with different scenarios and trained on situations what could happen while at the school. There is a presentation for parents in the works for late October to review the safety of the school.

Ms. Marchessault inquired as to whether or not there was any other internal safety precautions that happen at the school. Mr. Latchaw shared that all doors are locked at 8:15 a.m. He also has a walkie-talkie that goes directly to the Newington Police Department, so they don't have to call 911. There is also the camera system outside the school.

The Artist in Residence Program is having Sticks and Stones come to NPS this fall. Sticks and Stones focuses on anti-bullying and social awareness.

Board Members

Newington School Supporters

The Board thanks the Newington School Supporters for a great road race.

Budget

Mr. Katkin will have a completed the FY '17 budget to present to the Board and Ms. Ransom will have a working document for FY '18 to share as well.

SAU Joint School Board Meeting

The Joint Board meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at NPS.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Review

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, policy IKB was unanimously approved for Adoption.

On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, policy IIAE was unanimously approved for Adoption.

Mr. Petralia is pleased to recommend Ms. Meridith Clemons as the new Health teacher at NPS.

On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mr. O'Reilly, to accept the new hiring of Meridith Clemons as the new Health teacher for Newington Public School. Vote: Unanimous

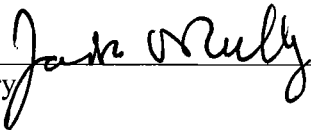
Sara Marchessault reminded the Board that on Saturday, September 16th, Newington Public School is having a yard sale at 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Mueller, the Board adjourned their meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Briana Spechuilli

Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane O'Reilly", is written over a horizontal line.