

TO THE NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Newington School board met on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT

School Board Members:

Helen Maldini (Chairperson), Deirdre Link, Jack Anderson

Administrators:

George A. Cushing (Superintendent of Schools), Helen Rist (Principal)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Helen Maldini opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes from the December 12, 2006, meeting were reviewed and changes were recommended.

- Deirdre Link informed the board that her name was incorrect. 'Lin' should be changed to 'Link'.
- Statement in the Policy section should say 'thing' instead of 'things'.
- The board agreed that the minutes should have names spelled out. For example, the JA should say Jack Anderson for the ease of an outside reader.

Jack Anderson was concerned about the policy regarding how to dispute the minutes.

Upon a motion in favor of last month's minutes, made by Deirdre Link; seconded by Jack Anderson, the minutes were accepted, as amended.

Jack Anderson inquired about J.C. Penny's funding for after school programs. Helen Rist explained that she viewed their website and J.C. Penny only funds national after school programs, such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Communications:

Dr. Cushing read the retirement letter from Mary Lou Clinton-Stevens, Secretary to the Superintendent at SAU 50. Discussion of the board's appreciation of Mary Lou was made. She will be missed dearly and the board considers this a great loss for the SAU. The board agreed to talk more in later meetings to plan something for her; party or gift. There will be something formal planned by the SAU.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS:

There were no visitors present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Cushing reported on the District Report Card for NCLB. Data on the state web site-

- High School Drop out rates (95% or better)
- NECAP test scores

He explained that the district will be looking at a District Report Card. The Report Card will be focused on looking at the whole student, and will be surveyed. We will be looking into how many students go to college, students in grades 6, 7, and 8, to discover their future aspirations. The arts and extra curricular activities will also be considered. He explained that the district would like to know what teachers think about what is offered and what is required.

*An amendment of the school calendar for the 2007/2008 school year was suggested. Another district in the SAU suggested having Friday, October 5th instituted as a professional development / teacher workday instead of Wednesday, October 24th. New Castle voted in favor of moving the date. Principal Rist, agreed that the change would work well for Newington.

Motion, to accept the change of the Teacher Workday to October 5th from October 24th, made by Helen Maldini, seconded Deirdre Link. Motion passed unanimously.

* There were no changes in the special education enrollment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Helen Rist discussed the After School Enrichment Program. There was one applicant for the position of the After School Enrichment Coordinator. A handbook is currently being drafted. There needs to be more work on cost analysis. Programs are already in the process of being scheduled. Hip Hop dance every other Monday, Karate on Thursdays, and African Hand drum / Music enrichment are being considered. Helen Rist mentioned the idea of asking if Susan Smith would be interested in a cooking class. A running calendar for the program is in the works. Anticipated start date for the program is January 29, 2007.

Questions about the After School Enrichment Program: Will there be a mailer to the community for non-school members who would like to participate? Helen Maldini suggested that it might be cost efficient to email instead of bulk mail. All were in agreement. Jack Anderson mentioned that there should be a definite policy for late pick up to be included in handbook.

Also, foreign language should be included in enrichment activities. Helen Rist mentioned that many parents have volunteered to provide enrichment services. Jack Anderson recommended that enrichment program looks into chess. There is a man in Greenland who is exceptional. More research will be done on this subject.

Jack Anderson said that he would like to offer a Rocket / Solar Cadet program in the future.

*Helen Rist reviewed December's activities at the school. The Holiday Concert and Caroling at Sunbridge was a big success. Everyone enjoyed the shows. There was a holiday card swap between the students and residents of Sunbridge.

Over \$350 was raised by the Holiday Luncheon for the Friends of the Langdon Library. It was well attended.

Mike Petlick has become the basketball coach for the Newington Public School team. The students are working hard, doing a wonderful job representing the school and are having a blast.

*Upcoming Activities:

- Math-a-thon for St. Jude's Hospital
- Curriculum Fair is February 22, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

REPORTS:

COMMUNICATIONS

Deirdre Link informed the board that a parent had a question about the report cards. The parent was concerned that the students were graded against themselves instead of against the rest of the students.

Helen Rist explained that the reauthorization of IDEA forbids having special modifications indicated on the report cards. All students are graded on the curriculum within which they work. There was a cover letter sent home with the report cards explaining the new layout. Helen Rist will touch base with the parent.

Jack Anderson stated that he was working on the newsletter. He is looking for pictures of the new sign and the flag pole project.

All were in agreement that a quick blurb of basic information about the After School Enrichment Program in the newsletter would be a good idea.

Facility:

None

NEASC:

None

Technology:

Jack Anderson mentioned that classes, such as Technology Boot Camp, should be manageable with the budget for board members to attend. He also mentioned that a digital photography and Podcasting class in Exeter is available.

Portsmouth Middle School Update:

Jack Anderson said that during a recent trip to the middle school for basketball, he found the facility in disrepair.

A letter from Dr. Lister about the security system was mentioned. The ideas of putting a buzzer on the door, or having an intercom instead of a camera were discussed. The doors are unlocked and it has become a safety issue. Jack Anderson and Deirdre Link will work on a letter to the middle school addressing the concerns.

Portsmouth High School Update:

Helen Maldini stated that there is no news from the high school.

Financial:

It was noted that there is no school credit card yet.

Upon the motion made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Jack Anderson, it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest in the amount of \$366,573.06.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

At 7:45 p.m. it was moved; seconded, and voted unanimously to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II [c] to discuss negotiations. The board returned to public session at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Anderson moved; seconded by Ms. Link, to accept the negotiated bargaining agreement between the Newington School Board and the Association of Coastal Teachers / Newington. The vote was unanimous.

Helen Maldini moved; seconded by Deirdre Link, all voted in favor of the proposed 2007-2008 budget as reviewed and amended in the workshop session earlier today.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kindergarten Bus Routes, Certified Staffing.

POLICY

Jack Anderson questioned what the policy for teacher evaluations was. Dr. Cushing explained that it was every three years for tenured staff with annual goal setting between teachers and administrators. Non-tenured teachers are evaluated twice a year.

BEDH- Amendment the adopted of policy

The statement "as to content or time limitation," was removed from the paragraph following #6.

Motion made by Jack Anderson to approve to amend BEDH to remove the statement about time limitation following #6, seconded by Deirdre Link. It was unanimously voted to accept the amendment.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the adoption of DN.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the first reading of EBC.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the adoption of EHB.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the adoption of GBCD.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the first reading of GBE.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the adoption of GCG.

Upon motion by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the first reading of KHB.

OTHER

Dr. Cushing introduced the article *Why Small Schools Work for Students* given to him by Jack O'Reilly.

Helen Rist explained that the Extended Day Kindergarten Option has been modeled in New Castle for three years. Newington would be taking their lead, and it was recommended by NEASC. There would be a fee charged for students. The fee is set by the board and is usually nominal. More research will be done on this issue to gain necessary information. It would be done on a trial basis for one year. Helen will talk further with faculty and administrators in New Castle to achieve greater understanding and information to discuss possible future issues.

The subject of tuitioning students in from other towns for this extended day option was discussed and was decided that more research is needed and will be discussed at a later time.

Motion was made by Jack Anderson; seconded by Deirdre Link, to have a trial run for the Extended Day Kindergarten option for the 2007-08 school year, on a fee basis, and make a determination at a later time. The vote was unanimously.

Mrs. Maldini brought to the board's attention that there has not been anyone interested in recording minutes for the board meetings and therefore, no one has been paid. She recommends that the rate of pay be increased for the remainder of the year. There are funds available since no one has yet been paid to do this job.

Motion to increase the pay for recording secretary for regular school board meetings from \$50-\$100 was made by Helen Maldini; seconded by Deirdre Link, and voted unanimously.

DR. CUSHING'S REPORT REGARDING THE PUBLIC FORUM – June 6, 2006

Dr. Cushing presented and reviewed the report of the June 6, 2006, Public Forum conducted by the school board.

Dr. Cushing recommended that Newington needs to be aware of the Federal Law IDEA, a change in the special education laws concerning parent placement of children out of their district. He recommended that there should be a policy in Newington.

He suggested that Newington goes forward with policy development to find if there is a liability.

Newington Public School has moved forward in technology in great strides through the careful use of REAP grants.

Newington School Supporters have provided much support and are much appreciated in Newington.

Dr. Cushing recommended that Newington Public School involves the community more with the school.

Discussion on the Report:

Jack Anderson stated that the Best Buy Grant was a great learning experience and we need to look for more new and innovative grants.

It would be beneficial to look into state money available for "Follow the Child" schools.

Zero Based Budgeting was discussed -- it is the approach we have always taken when creating our budgets.

The decision was made to attach the report to these minutes and revisit it at the February meeting.

Dr. Cushing recommended, with regard to the report, that the board should develop a policy on tuitioning students in from other school districts and research the cost of tuitioning. The Report was accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. following the motion by Helen Maldini; seconded by Deirdre Link, and voted unanimously.

School District Secretary