

To be voted by the Newington School Board at its next scheduled meeting.

**NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The monthly meeting of the School Board of the Newington School District was held at the Newington Public School on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Helen Maldini, Chairperson
Deirdre Link
Jack Anderson
Administrators: Dr. George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Helen Rist, Principal of Newington Public School

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Maldini opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Communications:

- a. Letter from Newington Selectmen congratulating Helen Rist on her selection as New Hampshire Elementary Principal of Excellence.
- b. Letter from Cheryl Berman regarding her attendance and presentation at Northeast Conference for Foreign Language Teachers (New York City) and her continued work with her FLES project "The FLES Linguafolio". Cheryl requested a \$150.00 stipend toward expenses while presenting/attending the conference in New York. On a motion by Deirdre Link, seconded by Helen Maldini, the board unanimously agreed to a \$150.00 stipend toward Cheryl Berman's expenses at Northeast Conference for Foreign Language Teachers.
- c. Celebration Graduation – Portsmouth High School asked for a contribution to support their chemical-free night for graduation seniors. On a motion by Deirdre Link, seconded by Jack Anderson, the Board unanimously agreed to a \$250.00 donation for Celebration Graduation.
- d. Local Government Center request for \$86.60 donation for legal fund that will be established to litigate against additional retirement costs being passed on to towns. On a motion by Jack Anderson, seconded by Deirdre Link, it was decided to table this request until more information can be provided.

Minutes: Upon motion duly made by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was voted to accept the minutes of the special session held on January 8, 2008.

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Jack Anderson it was voted to accept the minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on January 8, 2008.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Cushing attended the Portsmouth School Budget meeting with Ann Mayer. Principal Jeff Collins did a great job presenting the budget and explaining needs for teachers.

Someone suggested cutting vocational classes to save money; Mr. Collins made it clear that vocational class offerings are the hook that keeps these students in school.

Dr. Cushing spoke at the budget meeting and indicated that we see tuition rates going up but services offered are not going up; he also reiterated that 40% of SAU #52's revenue is from SAU #50.

Deirdre Link mentioned that there is word among PHS students and staff that the media class is going to be cut next year. Jack Anderson asked that Dr. Cushing look into this and determine the validity of the media class being cut.

Calendars:

- April vacation in Portsmouth will be the last week of the month in both 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 as we had hoped.
- The school year will start before Labor Day both years as hoped
- In 2008-2009 Newington, Rye, and Greenland will go to school the Monday and Tuesday of Christmas week, New Castle will take those two days as vacation

Rachel's Challenge – April 3, 2008 at Portsmouth Middle School. There will be an evening presentation open to parents and families. The cost for hosting the program is \$5,000.00 which will be split between SAU #50 and SAU #52. Newington and New Castle will each contribute \$312.50, Greenland will be \$625.00, and Rye will contribute \$1,250.00.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Rist provided an overview of her written report and highlighted the following:

- A. Newington Wolves Basketball team
- B. Author Mike Sullivan spoke to students and read an excerpt from his book, NSS bought a copy of his book for each student
- C. Tony Rahn (retired PE teacher from Portsmouth) will come on board as physical education teacher for the rest of the year
- D. NSS new scholarship
- E. Upcoming events:
 - a. March 11th – second term ends; spring conferences to follow
 - b. March 19th – Curriculum Fair

Principal Rist had a meeting with Jim Katkin on February 13th to assess where we are financially with the after school enrichment program. There are 7 children participating in this program; just 5 were needed to break even. Mrs. Rist may look into field trips, such as swimming at the Y, if money allows.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS:

1. **Communications**
 - a. Newsletter – Jack Anderson is considering featuring a person from the SAU office. It was agreed Jim Katkin would be a great employee to feature; the last newsletter featured foreign language teacher, Cheryl Berman.
2. **Facility** – Helen Maldini wants to meet with Jim Katkin and Helen Rist about projects that can be completed during April vacation.
3. **Calendar** – It was agreed to support the Portsmouth Calendar by maintaining the NH vacation week; instructional days for 22nd and 23rd; and 91st day off.
4. **Technology** – Jack Anderson and Helen Rist met with Steve Kozokowski to discuss technology plan and needs.
 - a. NPS needs to update technology plan
 - b. Video conferencing – discussed band-width necessary
 - c. Open Source conferencing
 - d. Thin clients
 - e. Helen Rist is looking into speakers/sound system
5. **REAP** (\$31,000 balance) - consider Tablets for teachers, portable and can be written on while projecting on screen
6. **Moodle** – teachers want access to data on server; Moodle will allow for this. Helen Rist will get more information
7. May need extra funds for teacher training for video conferencing, etc.
8. **Secondary School Advisory** – Ann Mayer and Dr. Lister will set up a meeting on February 12th
9. **Middle School** – trying to hire an architect, more news in paper about location

FINANCIALS:

Upon motion duly made by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest of January 8, 2008 through February 12, 2008 in the amount of \$108,623.22.

POLICIES:

- School Sponsored Fundraising – accepted as 1st reading
- JIFCA – Bullying – accepted as 1st reading with edits
- EBC – Crisis Management/Response Plan – accepted as 1st reading with note that Principal Rist wants to tweak the school's crisis management flip chart

- EB – Safety Management Plan – accepted as 1st reading with note that Principals of SAU #50 already are held to self-inspection check list to be done 4 times per year
- IMAH – Health Education – Daily Physical Activity – accepted as 1st reading
- KF – Use of School Facilities – tabled for future discussion. Principal Rist will compare this policy to existing policy to determine if what we have on the books works best for Newington.
- GBCDA – Background Investigation for Volunteers and Temporary or Contracted Service Providers – not accepted as 1st/2nd reading; Principal Rist will follow-up by checking Dover’s policy; specific issue of discussion was requirement of finger printing and expense of that check.
- GBEBB - Employee-Student Relations – On a motion by Helen Maldini, seconded by Jack Anderson, it was unanimously voted to adopt policy GBEBB. It was noted that all coach’s should receive a copy of this policy.
- EEA – Student Transportation Services – On a motion by Jack Anderson, seconded by Deirdre Link, it was unanimously voted to adopt policy EEA with changes.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made and roll call of officers it was agreed to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Secretary