

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, March 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Helen Maldini, Chairperson
Deirdre Link

Administrators: Dr. George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Helen Rist, Principal of Newington Public School

ABSENT: Jack Anderson

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Maldini opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes: Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Helen Maldini it was voted to accept the minutes of February 12, 2008 with clarification on page three regarding REAP balance.

Communications:

- a. Dr. Cushing gave each board member a letter from the NHSBA announcing a scholarship available to children of active school board members.
- b. Letter from Suanne Canney Peters requesting a second 1-year leave of absence.

NON PUBLIC:

Upon roll call it was agreed to move into non public at 6:40 p.m. to discuss personnel

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, the School Board came out of non-public session at 6:45 p.m.

Communications *continued:*

Upon a motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, it was unanimously voted to grant Suanne Canney Peters her second 1-year leave of absence for the 2008-2009 school year.

2008-2009 and 2009-2010 calendars

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school calendars were accepted.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Cushing attended a Secondary School Advisory meeting on March 4. It was a good meeting and included discussion of budget process. All SAU 50 chairs were invited and Ian Grant spoke to SAU 50’s contribution to Portsmouth’s school budget. Mitch Shuldman asked Dr. Lister for greater level of detail on the budget. Mr. Collins confirmed that there will be a new Math position, new Business position, and the high school did not lose the media class as had been rumored.

NECAP report:

- Math results were extremely low across the state; Portsmouth did very well
- Writing test scores were low and in need of attention/improvement. Going forward Mr. Collins can tell us what he is doing for students who get a ‘2 – partial proficiency’ as we work to improve these scores.

NON PUBLIC:

Upon roll call it was agreed to move into non public at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, the School Board came out of non-public session at 7:10 p.m.

Principal Rist will present Newington student’s performance next month.

Nominations:

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, Tony Rahn’s nomination was accepted for NPS gym teacher for the rest of 2007-2008.

Dr. Cushing received a call from former RJH student, Rachel Joseph. She lived in Mexico for two years and is involved with Education First (an international exchange student program). Rachel is talking with Cheryl Berman and EF is looking for host families for 14-18 year old students from Russia, France, Taiwan, and Switzerland. The students would be attending Portsmouth Christian Academy during the day. Dr. Cushing suggest Rachel do an evening presentation at the NPS to generate interest.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

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

- A. *Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* is the book selected for Newington Reads. The book is about a boy who lives in a rural area and is ‘bored’. His father challenges him to find the 7 wonders of Sassafras Spring in 7 days. Each NPS class is going to be challenged to find 7 wonders of Newington and there will be a culminating activity.
- B. Report cards are working well

- C. Jeanine Gallant is going to provide CPR training to NPS staff on March 20th
- D. Rachel's Challenge is Thursday, April 3rd
- E. Moodle Server – SPCD is offering an intro class for \$95
Sue Girardin is willing to attend this class on her day off but she does not have professional development money to pay for class.

On a motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Helen Maldini, it was approved to use \$95 from Professional Development funds to pay for Sue Girardin's to attend the intro class at SPCD.

- F. NPS will be investing in 5 high-quality walkie-talkies for medical emergencies only. These walkie-talkies will be stationed strategically: in school nurse's office, school secretary's office, principal's office and 2 classes. The need for these walkie-talkies was apparent after cell phones cut out during several medical emergencies. The walkie-talkies run \$339/each.
- G. Mr. Katkin has mention installing a 911 call/pull box at NPS. He also mentioned the need to purchase a defibrillator for NPS. Principal Rist will speak with Larry Wall (NFD) to coordinate efforts and get information specific to the defibrillator.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS:

1. **Facility** – Helen Maldini wants to meet with Jim Katkin and Helen Rist about projects that can be completed during April vacation. Helen Rist will follow up with Jim.
2. **Technology** – Helen Rist is going to approach school supporters about support for lap top turnover replacement costs (for both the teacher's lap tops and those on the cart).
3. **Moodle** – Helen Rist is getting pricing and other information on Moodle and other technology topics discussed last month.
4. **Middle School** – Helen Maldini reports that the Portsmouth School Board is revising its letter to city council; there are concerns about placement of students during any renovation. We await further information.

FINANCIALS:

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Helen Maldini it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest of February 13, 2008 through March 4, 2008 in the amount of \$67,156.27.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made and roll call of officers it was agreed to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Secretary