

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, April 11, 2006, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Helen Maldini, Chairperson
Deirdre Link
Jack Anderson, absent
Administrators: George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Helen Rist, Building Administrator
Visitors: Laura Coleman, Dorene Stern, Sally Staude,
Theresa Tomlinson, Patricia Bennett,
Wayne C. Wood, Mike Mazeau

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Maldini opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Chairperson Maldini recognized Mike Mazeau, and the other visitors.

Mike Mazeau presented to the school board his findings on the Newington Public School and tuitioning the elementary students to either the Greenland School District, or the Portsmouth School District. He said all figures used were from the 2004 / 2005 school year, and he cited as his sources the New Hampshire Department of Education, SAU 50, and the Newington Town Report. (Mr. Mazeau's presentation outline is attached to these minutes)

Public Comments:

Sally Staude, 31 kids in private school (24% / 25%), when did this trend start? Laura Coleman, study is a good idea to alleviate questions that have come up; Wayne Wood, Mr. Mazeau has great points, especially the voucher and/or compensating tuitioned/private students; Laura Coleman, Mike has great points; Helen Maldini, the Board will review all of the information; Deirdre Link, there will be a loss of input as a community when tuitioning students; Mike Mazeau, questions on accreditation and the school library; Dorene Sterns, how can we make this an exceptional school and have teacher accountability?; Dr. Cushing, the school is already meeting benchmarks with the National Assessment Education Program (NEAP), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), and Curriculum Mapping; Helen Rist, thank you for your concerns. Newington is a unique, small school with a family environment.

Recognition of visitors ended at 7:32 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes: Upon motion duly made by Helen Maldini and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 16, 2006 with changes as outlined by Mr. Anderson's board memorandum.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Cushing presented special education report prepared by Mary Lyons. He also discussed the following:

1. Criteria/Qualities for the Principalship.
2. No Child Left Behind from NEA.
3. "Breaking Ranks" – 10 high school teams from around the state.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Building Administrator Helen Rist reported on the following:

- ✓ March, Professional Day, update
- ✓ Portsmouth Middle School, change in move up day. It was agreed to invite Mr. Stokel to the May meeting with the Student Government
- ✓ June 14 graduation day
- ✓ Ecology school theme next year
- ✓ Report cards
- ✓ Curriculum fair
- ✓ Spirit week
- ✓ Upcoming events
- ✓ Cheryl Berman transfer of travel money. It was approved to transfer the hotel money to travel money.

REPORTS:

Communications. Jack Anderson sent information on a memo to the Board. It was agreed to authorize Mr. Anderson to research and keep the Board informed on the traffic signs and public concern.

Facilities. Helen Maldini discussed the parking issue in the circle. Mrs. Maldini will contact Coz for a recommendation of sewer covers, etc. Mrs. Maldini will request the Chief of Police to monitor the parking

Policies. Deirdre Link will look into the policy of communication by a Board Member to residents and the protocol.

FINANCIALS:

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Helen Maldini it was unanimously voted to approve the manifest of March 17, 2006 through April 11, 2006, in the amount of \$66,227.08.

CALENDARS:

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Helen Maldini the motion to approve the 2006/2007 and the 2007/2008 school calendars with the half days for Professional Development.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

To discuss student issues, under RSA 91-A3[c], Mrs. Link moved to enter nonpublic session and Chairperson Maldini seconded the motion. On a unanimous roll call vote, the board moved into nonpublic session at 9:25 p.m. The board came out of nonpublic session at 9:40 p.m.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made and roll call of officers, it was agreed to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Helen Maldini
School Board ~~Secretary~~ Chairperson

OUTLINE OF SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION 4/11/06

BY MIKE MAZEAU

Expense – All figures from 2004-2005

- 185 School Districts in NH that operate elementary schools
- Newington is second most expensive, Waterville Valley 1st
- 2004-2005 per pupil cost of \$20,604. state average \$9404
- 8 other small elementary schools in NH population range 21-64 students, average expense is \$13,468.
- New Castle had 56 students, \$11,844. per pupil cost. New Castle teachers make more money on average, but have fewer staff.
- Newington School has room for 100 students according to SAU 50, but building only houses 45-50 students.

Enrollment

- Enrollment projections based on 5 year weighted average are not as accurate when applied to small school systems.
- In last 5 years, school census method was more accurate 3 times, one year was a tie, and one year projection was more accurate by one student.
- This year there were 131 school age children in Newington 100 go to public school, 31 private schools which is 24% of students.
- Pre-school population has dropped from 42 in 1999 to 17 this year.
- Next year the school population will be 42 according to Principal Rist. The budget is \$1,059,000. Per pupil cost for 2006-2007 will be \$25,214.
- In the last 2 years our school budget has risen an average of 7%. Project that out 2 years and the elementary school will cost \$1.2 million. Census figures point to 34 kids in two years. Even if we get to 40 kids the per student cost will be \$30,000.

Demographics

Children under 10 in Rockingham County has dropped by 3000 since the year 2000. Peter Francese, demographer from Exeter says the number of school children in NH has almost no chance of growing in the next 10 years and may decline. Worcester, MA is closing 4 elementary schools because enrollment has dropped by 2300.

The Study

- School Board should be proactive on declining enrollment problem as were their predecessors in 1981.
- A formal study on closing Newington School and making Greenland an AREA school is governed by RSA 195.
- I believe we should start with an informal study with the formation of a citizens

committee. Design a questionnaire and poll the Town on their feelings of quality of education, expense and school closure.

- Greenland is an excellent choice to partner with. They spent \$9149. per student last year and scored higher on NECAP than our sixth graders. Our third, fourth and fifth grade classes didn't have enough students to tabulate results
- 15 small towns in NH do not operate elementary schools, they tuition to larger towns.

Issues to study

1. Any interest by Greenland to do this? If not, let's talk to Portsmouth.
2. Cost of tuition
3. Cost of bussing
4. Upkeep and re-use of school building
5. Impact on statewide property tax
6. Voucher Program. Town of Randolph pays parents of private school children the same money it costs to send kids to neighboring public schools.