

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 Friday, April 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Helen Maldini, Chairperson
 Deirdre Link
 Jack Anderson

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Superintendent of Schools, George Cushing called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

REORGANIZATION: Dr. Cushing asked for nominations for Chairperson and Deirdre Link nominated Mrs. Maldini and that was seconded by Mr. Anderson. By unanimous vote Mrs. Maldini was elected as Chairperson. Mrs. Maldini then asked for nominations for Vice Chair and Mr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Link and that was seconded by Mrs. Maldini. By unanimous vote Mrs. Link was elected to Vice Chair. Mrs. Maldini asked for nominations for Secretary and Mrs. Link nominated Mr. Anderson and that was seconded by Mrs. Maldini. Mr. Anderson was then unanimously elected to Secretary.

Mrs. Maldini then reviewed the School Board's standing committees and the following assignments were agreed upon:

Area Committee – Deirdre Link
Budget Committee – Helen Maldini (Deirdre Link)
Newington Family Scholarship – Jack Anderson
Communications – Jack Anderson
Negotiations – Helen Maldini
NHSBA – Jack Anderson
Policy – Deirdre Link
PMS Committee/Portsmouth School Board – Helen Maldini
School Supporters – Helen Rist
Technology – Jack Anderson
Secondary School Advisory – Helen Maldini
Wage and Benefits – School Board
Wage and Benefits (SAU 50) – Helen Maldini

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Maldini, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the non-public School Board minutes of March 13, 2007 were unanimously approved with changes made as submitted by Mr. Anderson.

On a motion by Mrs. Link, and seconded by Mrs. Maldini, the School Board minutes of March 24, 2007 were unanimously approved as corrected (addition of attendees).

Communications: Front page article of the *Portsmouth Herald* and page 6 article from *Foster's Democrat* of April 11, 2007 were discussed. Both articles were regarding Ann Mayer's presentation of the letter to the Portsmouth School Board. The letter was written and approved by all SAU 50 chairs and summarized growing concerns of budget cuts that ultimately have a negative effect on the schools and our students. Both articles were well-written and it is clear Ann did a terrific job with her presentation. The only negative feedback to-date has been from Portsmouth residents but even that is somewhat reduced with further conversation and explanation that the message addresses academic needs of all PHS students, not just those of SAU 50.

Other: Mrs. Maldini wanted to thank the School Board, Helen Rist, Jim Katkin, and George Cushing for all of their time, efforts, and preparation for Newington's Annual Town Meeting on March 24. The school-related piece of this meeting was only 11 minutes long and there was not one comment of conflict from anyone in attendance. Mrs. Maldini took this as a clear sign that the School Board is doing what the majority of the community wants.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Cushing reported on the following:

- ✓ **SPED report** prepared by Director of Pupil Services Mary Lyons.
- ✓ **Wednesday, April 11, was Student Government Day.** John Haslam was Superintendent for the day. He and Dr. Cushing visited all of our district schools, met with Mr. Collins at PHS and discussed the letter from *Portsmouth Herald* Ann Mayer had presented to the Portsmouth School Board. Mr. Collins was aware, and supportive, of the letter Mrs. Mayer had submitted.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 88** The Evergreen Clause has gone through the House and now is in the Senate. Teachers will now be able to negotiate safety issues in their contract (ie – exposure to hazardous materials, etc.)
- ✓ **Union** – Just 3 employees are needed to form a union
- ✓ **Health Insurance Committee** – the committee has been meeting and it has been decided that there will be no changes made to health insurance this year as there would not be significant savings. Next year may be different when Rye RESPA comes on board. Further, although everyone liked some of the alternative plans, once a change is made you are locked into this new plan for several years. After talking to other districts

that did this it was learned that costs went up significantly after the first year. Jim Katkin also recommended staying with our current plan.

✓ **Commissioner's Meeting**

- Health policies will be out soon
- High school start time – there is much discussion about this and we will be getting data from the state supporting changing start time for high schools to 9:00. The benefits of the later start time are not new; the conflicts always arise when trying to coordinate sports and other activities around the new hours. To schedule practices prior to the 9:00 start time of the school day clearly defeats the purpose of making such a change.
- Constitutional amendment – the state has the obligation to fund the cost of an adequate education; this guarantees we will get at least 5% more than the previous year (which was 0%).

Positives of this are:

- Provides solution without the courts
- Stabilizes contributions
- Doesn't require additional funding

Negatives of this are:

- Do you want to give legislature final say to how funds are distributed?

Unknown/problem:

- When you define adequacy – the new amount could actually be less than what a lot of districts are receiving now.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Rist reported on the following:

- ✓ Principal Rist sought input from board members regarding content of her monthly reports. She wants to be sure information is of interest/value to all. Mr. Anderson commented, and all agreed, that these reports are exactly what the board likes to see.
- ✓ Artist in Residence program was an enormous hit! Jeff Irwin of Trash Can Lid Productions was terrific with the students and their performance at Friday's production was awesome. In fact, if funding and schedule permits, we may ask Jeff to help us with the music portion of our graduation play, Robin Hood.
- ✓ Trimesters seem to be working well. Provides longer periods of time to gather information on students.
- ✓ The Talent Show – completely organized and produced by the Student Council was a huge hit. Performances included: students jumping rope, juggling (2 balls!), playing a piano, and some very entertaining magic acts.
- ✓ We received more grants from Wal-mart: \$300 for Student Council and \$700 for Enrichment activities. At this point Mrs. Maldini asked if the board could receive a financial update from the Newington School Supporters.
- ✓ 'Owl Lady' – as part of our Enrichment program the Owl Lady will come to the school for ½ day on May 18th. She will bring 6-10 live owls for the whole school to see. The cost is between \$500 and \$700.

- ✓ The school presented Becky Marks with an anthology of student stories.
- ✓ Jump Rope for Heart raised over \$400
- ✓ Our own Rachel Merchant was superb in a lead role of "The Magic Wishing Well" performed at Town Hall.
- ✓ Danielle Ledger shadowed Principal Rist as part of Student Government Day
- ✓ Grades 3-6 will attend a performance on bullying at Rye Elementary School, Monday, April 16, 2007
- ✓ May 7 & 8 – Seacoast Healthy Grins Program will be here to teach and complete dental screenings on all students.

Mrs. Maldini asked if a thank you note was sent to Dr. Thompson who performed an eye exam on all Newington Public School students. Mrs. Rist was going to confirm that the note was sent to Dr. Thompson.

- Graduation date is set for June 12, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Newington Town Hall.
- Mrs. Rist found an assistant for the After School Enrichment Program

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS:

Mary Lyons, Director of Pupil Services, will fund the purchase of 15 iPods through the IDEA grant.

NEASC - Kim Lodge will head up a mission committee to address an identified need.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Helen Rist discussed a mistake that was made with an employee's contract. A revised contract will be issued that reflects an increase of two percent for the band instructor.

A motion by Mrs. Maldini to correct the error on the Band Instructor's contract and reflect a change from 3% to 5%. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Link and unanimously approved.

Helen Rist had a request from a Greenland parent to tuition a Kindergarten student to Newington Public School next year. Dr. Cushing asked Mrs. Rist to investigate area Kindergarten tuitions. The Board is curious about the student's academic needs. Mrs. Maldini is concerned the Board has not had enough time to research this option. Currently there is no policy in place to deal with this sort of request. Mr. Anderson feels that without a clear policy we should not act on this request. There was no consensus to go forward with this request. The Board would like to accommodate this request but at this time we are not ready with our policy as it pertains to the new IDEA laws.

Mr. Anderson presented a process for the Board to move forward with a plan for tuitioning out of District Students into Newington (see attached). Board agrees to plan.

Mr. Anderson asked Helen Rist to ask the NSS to look into funding a low climbing cargo net wall for our school. Can they get quotes for installation, training, and maintenance?

FACILITY: The Board discussed possible projects to be completed with this year's fund balance. Mrs. Maldini will check with Jim Katkin as to the amount of funds available. A list of possible projects was made and prioritized.

MANIFEST:

Upon motion duly made by Helen Maldini and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest of March 13, 2007 through April 13, 2007 in the amount of \$75,257.34.

POLICY:

- Upon motion duly made by Helen Maldini and seconded by Deirdre Link it was unanimously voted to approve JFAB for adoption.
- Upon motion duly made by Helen Maldini and seconded by Jack Anderson it was unanimously voted to approve GBE for adoption.

NON PUBLIC:

No actions.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made and roll call of officers it was agreed to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Secretary