

*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 Town Hall on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 8:30 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:**

Chairperson Maldini opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Minutes:**           Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link and seconded by Jack Anderson it was agreed to accept the minutes of May 8, 2007 with noted spelling correction.

                          Upon motion duly made by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link it was agreed to accept and seal the non-public minutes of May 8, 2007.

**Communications:**

- Dr. Cushing made mention of arrangements for the services for Jim Katkin's mother, Mary Jo Katkin. Mrs. Maldini suggested, and all agreed, the Newington School Board make a \$50 donation to the American Diabetes Association; donations to ADA were requested in lieu of flowers.
- Dr. Cushing stated that Dr. Lister wanted the Newington Board to clarify the AREA agreement for Portsmouth; the area of dispute is how we are charged for SPED students. Currently there is a per pupil cost which includes SPED services and then there are additional charges for SPED services which results in double-billing by Portsmouth.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Cushing reported on the following:

- ✓ Constitutional Amendment did not pass which opens up the door for donor towns
- ✓ Senate Bill 88 – Collective Bargaining Agreement issues have been delayed

- ✓ Changing compulsory age from 16 → 18 has passed; this will take effect in July 2009. Portsmouth will not have to get kids (that fall under this umbrella) to attend PHS but they will be responsible for making sure they attend a high school program.
- ✓ Graduation at PHS was very good and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Jeff Collins was great and the acoustical guitar was enjoyable.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Principal Rist reported on the following:

- ✓ As seen on the financial reports NPS is ending the year in the black and will start the new year with \$1,300. Mrs. Rist wants to make sure Mr. Katkin knows this money is not tax money; but is from parents.
- ✓ Next year NPS is looking at having at least 7 kids per day in the After School Enrichment Program. (This year we had to have 5 students enrolled in order to break even.)
- ✓ Mrs. Maldini asked how many kindergartners were enrolled at NPS for the fall – Mrs. Rist responded that there are currently 4 incoming kindergartners and all of these students are new to NPS; students are either the oldest child or the family is new to Newington.
- ✓ After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) surveys provided glowing results and much positive feedback for Mrs. Calcagni's program. Mrs. Rist was impressed with the friendships and bonds that created across grades and how that carried over into the classroom.
- ✓ There was an additional survey regarding the cost of running the ASEP. Mrs. Rist is going to make it her mission this summer to explore grants and funding options. Dr. Cushing also suggested Mrs. Rist speak with local businesses for donations to support this program.

Jack Anderson suggested sanitizing (removal of names) and printing the parent comments from the ASEP surveys as an attachment to the school board minutes. Dr. Cushing suggested it may be easier to use excerpts from the parent surveys. Mrs. Maldini suggested reference be made to the feedback in the newsletter and that the reader be referred to the school board minutes and the surveys be attached to the board minutes. Mr. Anderson feels it is critical that the feedback be available to all.

- ✓ Mrs. Rist proposed using excess transportation funds to pay Mary Jo Haskell for additional work she did with the students. Instead of transporting the students to the public library; Mrs. Haskell spent extra time at the school with the students. Mrs. Haskell would submit for payment not to exceed 30 hours of time. On a motion made by Mrs. Link, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the proposed payment to Mrs. Haskell was accepted.
- ✓ Mrs. Rist discussed a request by Sue Girardin to attend a professional development conference beyond the one conference that she is already budgeted for. Sue teaches technology at NPS 1-1/2 days each week. Mrs. Girardin would like to attend the November Learning Conference (topics to include: blogging, podcasting, web-based tools to host a website, etc). This conference is July 24 and 25 and has a fee of \$325. This

conference fee would be an over-expenditure for Mrs. Girardin's PD budget line. Dr. Cushing approved Mrs. Girardin attending both the Alan November Learning Conference in July and the Christa McAuliffe conference in November. On a motion made by Mr. Anderson, and seconded by Mrs. Link, it was approved that Sue Girardin be allowed to attend both conferences knowing that the combined cost would exceed her professional development line for 2007-2008.

- ✓ Mrs. Rist proposed an 8:10 a.m. start time for the school day in the 2007-2008 school year. This time change adds 15 minutes at the beginning of the day for students. On a motion made by Mrs. Link, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, it was accepted that the 2007-2008 school day start at 8:10 a.m. Jim Katkin will need to contact the bus company to confirm this change.
- ✓ Mrs. Rist had a list of summer projects including: monitoring construction work, applying for Grants for ASEP, working with Kim Lodge on Follow the Child initiative, organizing NEASC committees, completing course for Administrators at SPDC in Technology, reviewing new report cards with staff and making any necessary adjustments, planning curriculum for K-2 Science and Social Studies

Mrs. Rist asked if there would be a nominal fee for the extended day Kindergarten option (EDO) this year. Mrs. Maldini stated that the boards position is that a fee would only be required if we needed to hire an aide. Mrs. Rist confirmed that that has been her understanding as well.

Mr. Anderson stated that information has to be clear for the community and asked if we want to put anything in the minutes now and include the information in the newsletter.

Mrs. Maldini proposed, "We're approving an extended day option which at this time is provided at no cost to parents or tax payers. The fee & need will be re-evaluated as enrollment changes. If there is a need for additional staff the cost would be incurred by those participating in the EDO."

Mr. Anderson asked if we, as a board, are planning on supporting full-day kindergarten and putting it on the ballot.

Mrs. Maldini stated that her position on that matter is dependent on enrollment.

Dr. Cushing said we're testing the waters with that now with the EDO program and we can revisit it in January.

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS:**

1. **Communications.** Jack Anderson and Dr. Cushing are working on changes to the Newington Family School fund. Looking at changes to the application; currently we as for FAFSA which is a very detailed financial form. Dr. Cushing has a copy of the financial application Portsmouth uses. This form is streamlined and much simpler. The SAU office will sanitize applications so people can make non-biased decisions on applicants.
2. **Technology.** Jack said there is going to be a technology boot camp on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Grants.** Jack is waiting to hear from Tina Miles regarding grant expenditures. Dr. Cushing will follow-up to get that information.
4. **Facilities.** Building improvements/maintenance issues:
  - a. Lighting fixtures – at a cost of \$18,000 there will be a change of light fixtures in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade rooms. The new lights will provide additional 6-8" of light from ceiling down at the brick walls. We will end up with less fixtures and more/better

lighting. Mrs. Maldini is meeting with PSNH to see what rebates we may be eligible for. We will look at the cost of changing the gym lights.

- b. Door – the door to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade wing will be replaced at a cost of \$3,342. Mrs. Maldini is waiting for a call to schedule this.
  - c. Ceiling – at a cost of \$3,100 there will be a flat ceiling installed in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade rooms
  - d. Painting – the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class rooms will be painted now that the students are done. The teachers are to empty the classrooms as preparation for this.
  - e. Brick sealant – Mrs. Maldini does not have an estimate yet. The proposed sealant will not harm the existing aluminum window frames. Jack H. will need to pressure wash the building before the sealant is applied. Mr. Katkin is considering purchasing a powerful pressure washer for the SAU and Mrs. Maldini is okay Newington contributing to this. The issue is with bubbling of paint by the bathrooms and office again. We need to have someone fill blocks, prime, and paint. Mrs. Maldini thinks we should consult a masonry specialist.
  - f. Book cases – book cases were ordered for Kim Lodge
  - g. Mrs. Maldini and Mrs. Rist created a facility punch list to submit to Jim Katkin for his input. Mrs. Maldini will email the list to Mr. Katkin.
  - h. Lunch table for teachers – Mrs. Rist has not yet found a suitable/likeable table. Dr. Cushing will send a contact he has for used office furniture.
5. **PMS/PHS.** Mrs. Maldini was unable to attend award ceremony at PMS due to a schedule conflict; Dr. Cushing attended the PHS award ceremony.
- a. Secondary School Meeting – Mrs. Maldini attended this meeting and PHS is still working on the honors process. PHS is considering dropping freshman honors program which Mrs. Maldini does not support. PHS is also considering dropping the appeals process which Mrs. Maldini does support. She asked for more communication between Portsmouth Middle School and Portsmouth High School with regards to the honors program.
  - b. Mrs. Maldini spoke with Dr. Lister about the 4 additional half-days scheduled for next year as this brings a total of 8 half-days for 2007-2008. SAU 50 is not supporting this. Two full days is better than 4 half-days. It was asked that Dr. Lister talk/negotiate with Dr. Cushing prior to make this sort of decision.
  - c. Guidance – Mrs. Maldini asked Mr. Collins who the contact person was at PHS for parents when addressing a guidance query or complaint about guidance. Jeffrey said he will now receive any and all feedback related to guidance. There was much discussion regarding the guidance staff at PHS and as a result Mr. Anderson put forth the following queries for PHS:
    1. what is the professional staff evaluation process
    2. what is the performance improvement plan for staff
    3. what did PHS document/process for NEASC regarding these areas?; particularly guidance

**MANIFEST:**

Mr. Anderson would like to see bus transportation separated out from field trip transportation in the monthly manifest. Mrs. Rist can provide this information from the larger report she receives from the business office.

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Jack Anderson, it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest of May 9, 2007 through June 5, 2007 in the amount of \$402,524.36.

Upon motion duly made by Deirdre Link, and seconded by Jack Anderson, it was unanimously voted to accept the manifest of June 6, 2007 through June 11, 2007 in the amount of \$24,902.77.

**OTHER:**

School board recognition of students: Dr. Cushing asked if we, as a school board want to recognize students for outstanding accomplishments. We could create a school board certificate of recognition. The questions become: How do you draw the line? How do you make sure you don't overlook anyone? It is clear we would need a committed PHS contact to do this effectively. Mr. Anderson suggested we would need a protocol for recognition. Dr. Cushing suggested we move this topic to communication and look further into it.

Mr. Anderson initiated a conversation regarding policy of a parent posting photos of students from sporting events held at public fields on the internet. After much discussion it was agreed Mr. Anderson would research any existing policies or guidelines further. Mr. Anderson suggested we may need to review our policy on internet use.

**NON-PUBLIC:**

Upon roll call it was agreed to move into non public at 10:50 a.m.

**OUT OF NON-PUBLIC:**

On a motion made by Mr. Anderson, and seconded by Mrs. Link, the School Board came out of non-public session at 10:55 a.m.

Upon motion duly made by Jack Anderson, and seconded by Deirdre Link, it was unanimously voted to grant Suanne Canney Peters a one year leave of absence for the 2007-2008 school year.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, and upon a motion by Mrs. Link; seconded by Mr. Anderson the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Secretary