

To the Newington School District  
Newington, New Hampshire

The Newington School Board met on June 26, 2006, at the Newington Public School.

PRESENT: Jack Anderson, Deirdre Link, Helen Maldini (Chairperson), Newington School Board; Mary Lyons, Director of Pupil Services; Helen Rist, Principal; Jim Katkin (stopped in for a few questions).

Meeting opened at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes from June 20, 2006, school board workshop were reviewed. Several amendments were made to these minutes. Motion made by Jack Anderson and seconded by Deirdre Link to accept the minutes, as amended, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Anderson presented the narrative response proclamation to the community that the board asked him to prepare. Amendments were made to this narrative. Mr. Anderson moved; seconded by Deirdre Link, to accept the proclamation as amended. The vote was unanimous. (The proclamation is attached to these minutes.)

This proclamation will be bulk mailed to each household in Newington by the SAU 50 Office.

In reviewing the manifest, a question was raised by Jack Anderson about the use of a company for work at the school, of which the owner is a town selectman. Mr. Anderson questions if this is a conflict of interest. Mr. Anderson requested that, in the future, the SAU Office, when soliciting prices and bids for work at the school, look for companies other than those with ties to the town's government.

Mr. Katkin presented a change in the cost to install a new doorway between the new library space and the arts and tech room. The change in price was due to a construction detail left out of the first price given. The new price would be \$5,000. The previous price was \$3,000. Mr. Anderson feels that this is too much to spend on this item. The consensus was, although a metal frame and new door are part of the cost, \$5,000 is far too much to spend. Ricci Construction will not install this new doorway.

Mrs. Rist is investigating the possibility of parent volunteers painting the room, perhaps there is someone who can do this project, too, at cost or at least closer to the original price.

Mr. Anderson moved to accept the manifest dated 6/13/06 - 6/23/06, in the amount of \$122,927.77; seconded by Helen Maldini. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Maldini would like the total cost for the Public Forum to be determined.

The board adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

*These minutes were accepted by the School Board at its meeting on July 11, 2006.*

Dear Newington Resident:

The school board has asked me to communicate their decisions resulting from the workshops following the June 6, 2006, Public Forum concerning the future of the Newington Public School. After several hours of study, deliberation, and review of written correspondence, the board voted, unanimously, **“to refrain from going forward with any study focused on closing the Newington Public School.”** The board has also issued the following Proclamation and Resolutions.

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; a certain, but small number of citizens of Newington approached the school board concerning the cost of education at the Newington Public School (NPS); and requested the school board conduct a study to consider tuitioning NPS students to other districts and close the school for the purpose of reducing costs, and

WHEREAS; the school board held a public forum on June 6 at 6:30 p.m. and invited all members of the town to participate in giving their views on the cost and the value of education received at NPS and further requested written correspondence from all who did not wish to state their opinion openly at that time; and

WHEREAS; the community members of Newington who voiced their opinions at the public forum and in written correspondence thereafter, overwhelmingly were against closing the NPS, and clearly communicated their appreciation of NPS small school environment and the great value towards the Newington children’s education; and

WHEREAS; several community members requested the Newington School Board study the value of tuitioning children into the NPS from outside the community for the purpose of lowering overall school costs to Newington residents; and

WHEREAS; the Newington School Board believes there is incredible value in the education presented in the small school environment at NPS and they have seen great accomplishments and improvements in the past at the NPS and fully believe in its enriching and valuable future; therefore:

#### RESOLUTIONS

The Newington School Board directs SAU 50 to study the possibilities, value and liability, monetary and other, of tuitioning students from outside communities into NPS and to report to the board no later than January 1, 2007, on its findings.

The Newington School Board resolves to continue to thoroughly scrutinize expenditures on goods and services paid by the Newington taxpayer.

The Newington School Board requests SAU 50 study new and innovative ways to apply for grants and corporate donations for the Newington school children and to report to the board no later than January 1, 2007, on its findings.

In closing, the school board appreciates the comprehensive feedback that they have received with regard to this issue. The SAU 50 Office will work diligently to follow through on the board’s resolutions.

Sincerely,

*George A. Cushing*

George A. Cushing, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools