

School Board Meeting
December 12, 2006

PRESENT; Helen Maldini (Chairperson), Jack Anderson, Deirdre Link, School Board Members; Dr. Cushing, Superintendent of Schools; Helen Rist, Principal.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Downey, Michelle Anderson, Sandy Taylor, Keith and Sarah Frizzell, Sharon Brown, Dave Mueller, Students: Rachel Merchant, Kelsey Frizzell, Evan Anderson, Alex Taylor, Residents.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

JUNIOR SCHOOL BOARD

Helen Rist introduced the members of the Junior School Board from grades 5 and 6.

- Evan Anderson, Student Council President - grade 6 - thanked the school board for the improvements to the school over the years - library space is especially nice.
- Kelsey Frizzell - Bathrooms and Kitchen are a huge improvement;
- Rachel – All school fieldtrips have been great- thanks for supporting them for the school. We really need an after school program that offers fun enrichment programs. Please help us to get this started.
- Alex Taylor - We still need a basketball coach. It would be helpful if the 3/4 and 5/6 classrooms had doors that could be closed. During testing it is hard for classes to be quiet for the other class.

All students said that they are very satisfied with their school.

Mr. Anderson thanked them and asked them to think next time about things that they feel need work other than building renovations and maintenance work that we might discuss.

Dr. Cushing met with the PHS Student government who has invited all grade 5 - 12 student councils to PHS for conference on leadership. Newington had more of a voice through their student council than most schools and they would have a lot to share. Dr. Cushing said they will be learning leadership skills that they can use now and in the future.

Mrs. Maldini - budget for next year is being made now; good time to bring up the doors so they can be put in the budget.

Mr. Frizzell spoke of the school van and asked if a decision has been made on this item. Mrs. Maldini said that it has been discussed but the cost was not one we wanted to incur at this point. It may come up again in the future.

Visitors were present to discuss the After School Enrichment Program; Mrs. Maldini moved this item so that visitors could address this agenda item.

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Helen Rist presented that \$1,000 is available for funding this program.

A parent mentioned that J.C. Penney supports after school programs? Money has gone to YMCA, 4-H programs - check it out.

Helen Maldini made a motion to approve the After School Enrichment program that would run on a low or negligible cost as presented in November by Principal Rist. It will run for six months, after three months give an update on finances and attendance; Seconded by Deirdre Link.

Mr. Downey -- good idea to start on a temporary basis; see how it goes. Make a decision after seeing how it goes. People trying hard to get this going. Motion carried.

The board thanked Mrs. Rist and parents for the hard work.

ADULT PROGRAM

Mr. Anderson- proposed Helen Rist look into getting an adult program going. Further discussion will continue at another meeting

MINUTES of Nov. 14, 2006

Minutes were reviewed and changes recommended.

- PMS building- Options around the securing the doors were discussed. Also side door that was broken was agreed to be fixed. Newington School Board is not comfortable with the ease of access into the front of the building. Discussion about securing the doors and installing a buzzer.
- Other changes discussed.

Deirdre Link moved to accept minutes as amended; seconded by Helen Maldini and voted unanimously.

Nonpublic minutes reviewed - motion to accept and seal by Deirdre Link, seconded by Helen Maldini.

COMMUNICATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Cushing recapped the information gathered from the Christa McAuliffe Conference. More information to come
- Special education report reviewed

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Update given on Cost Study that will be completely reviewed at the January board meeting.
- New Report Cards - samples given to all board members - positive comments were received
- Coming events - Holiday concert, Singing at Sunbridge Nursing Home, Holiday Luncheon for the whole Newington Community

COMMUNICATION

Town report due Jan. 8th

Newsletters from the board twice a year and the town report

REPORTS

Facilities-none

NEASC - none

Technology

Jack Anderson and Helen Rist met about technology and budget. Looking at new technologies re: video conferencing, pod casting.

PHS/PMS - Deirdre Link guidance at PHS - good things happening - breakfast or coffee with the guidance counselor for parents.

PHS - start letter to seniors in spring - questions about their future plans, ask question like, How was PHS? Did you lack anything while attending PHS?

FINANCIAL

Manifest - 11-9-06 to 12-6-06 in the amount \$ 78,095.68. Accepted on a motion by Deirdre Link; seconded by Jack Anderson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Payment of School District Treasure-

POLICY

Dr. Cushing reviewed proposed policy for Public Participation at Board Meetings - BEDH

JA recommends #2 take out the 7 days.

#5 ask attorney for wording about comments

#6 put a brief synopsis will be made of the remarks

Helen Maldini made a motion to accept on a first, second, and adopted as amended reading- Deirdre Link seconded - approved

BUDGET REVIEW

Meeting set for budget review workshop – January 9, 2007.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion made and seconded to go into nonpublic session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

The board came out of nonpublic session at 9:19 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. on a motion by Helen Maldini; seconded by Deirdre Link, and vote unanimously.

These minutes were accepted by the school board at its January 9, 2007, meeting.