

Amended and Approved
Newport School Board
Meeting

June 9, 2022; 5 PM

Lou Thompson Room (LTR), Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
243 North Main Street, Newport New Hampshire 03773

School Board Members in Attendance: (LTR) Jenna Darling, Chair; Steve Morris, Vice Chair; William Wilkinson, Bert Spaulding, Sr. and Rhonda Callum-King

School Board Members Absent: none

Administration and Staff Present: (LTR) Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent of Schools; Ed Emond, Business Administrator; Patrice Glancey, Director of Education/Interim Richards Principal; Shannon Martin, High School Principal; Tom Ronning, Middle School Principal; Robert Clark, Richards school, Vice Principal; Jennifer Opalinski, Director, Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center; Eric Perry, Health Sciences Teacher, Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center; Deb Stevens, Horticulture, Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center; Amanda Hodge, Cosmetology, Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center; Lisa Ferrigno, Melissa Mitchler, Kelley Merritt, Alexander Stuart, Cheryl Collins, Dillon, Kasel, Linda Nettleton, Katie Haynes, Kelley Merritt, Emily Safford, Susan Sanborn, Elizabeth Masure, Paula Johnson (additional staff arrived after the meeting had begun).

Public Present: Lucy Wells, Virginia Irwin, Charen Urban, Kathy Hubert, Tim Beard, Craig Masure, John Lunn, Diane Rochford, Shannon Howe *via zoom*: (a number of staff and public attended by zoom but did not participate in discussions)

Videographer: Newport Community Television (NCTV) (for full meeting go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Call to Order

Chairman Darling called the meeting of the Newport School Board (NSB) to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by a roll call of School Board members present and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Chairman Darling proposed the following: ADD: RSA 91-A3 II (i) (Darling) Two new hires, introduce the new Interim Business Administrator (Minnihan). Chairman Darling called for a roll call vote on the proposed adjustments to the agenda. On a motion by Ms. Callum-King, seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr.; the Board ***voted to accept the adjustments to the agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote 5-0-0.***

Mr. Wilkinson moved ***to separate administration communication from Board communication; to bring the Administrative Communication to after Public Comment.*** It was seconded by Ms. Callum-King. Chairman Darling called for a roll call vote. She apologized and asked for discussion. Ms. Callum-King had no comment. Chairman Darling again called for a roll call vote. ***The motion passed 4-1-0 (Spaulding voted no).***

Mr. Wilkinson moved ***to remove Information/Action item: Board Chair Removal from the agenda.*** It was seconded by Callum-King. Ms. Callum-King said she thought the item was obnoxious and ridiculous. However, she thought the Board should go and vote on it. She asked to leave it there. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. read aloud from a prepared statement referencing School Board Policies to explain his reason for keeping the agenda item (**Board Chair Removal**). Mr. Wilkinson stated that if there was a policy in place to remove the Board Chair, the School Board should follow the policy. If there was not a policy to remove to the Board Chairman, one should be written. Mr. Morris said he did not believe the item (**Board Chair Removal**) does not need a Board removal vote. Board members need to know there is a policy in place for decorum at a meeting. If it is not followed a point of order needed to be called. He thought that the incident referred to (in May) was a reaction to words that were construed as an insult to an individual. People were rightly offended and addressed it. The proper thing would have been to call a point of order to allow Mr. Spaulding, Sr. to complete his statement. It does not need the

removal of the Board Chair. Chairman Darling stated that motion was to remove the agenda item Board Chair Removal. She called for a roll call vote. The motion failed 1-3-1 (Wilkinson yea; Callum-King, Morris and Spaulding no; Darling abstained). The agenda item remained on the agenda.

Ms. Callum-King made a motion to *move: Board Chair Removal to the first item in Information/Action*. It was seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. repeated the responsibility of the School Board Chairman. Chairman Darling called for a roll call vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Darling abstained)*.

Chairman Darling stated there would be a roll call vote. There were nine people that had signed up for Public Comment, which ran over the Board's allotted time for Public Comment. The revised Policy BEDH had been tabled at the May 26, 2022 School Board meeting. The Board was still using the old Policy. Chairman Darling moved *that the Board allow everyone who has signed up to speak*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. In discussion, Chairman Darling stated she would read Mr. Oberhofer's statement. *The motion passed by a roll call vote 5-0-0*.

Public Comment (for full Public Comment, go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Ed Oberhofer Chairman Darling read aloud a letter from Mr. Oberhofer. He informed the Board and Public that he had been elected the new Co-President of Newport Teacher's Association (NTA) and looked forward to working with administration, staff and teachers.

Lucy Wells introduced herself and stated that it was difficult to hear the meeting. She asked if the fan could be turned off during the Board broadcast. Ms. Wells stated the school system had a policy on Bullying. She asked if the policy was for students, or if it pertained to adults as well. If it pertained to adults, did it include members on the school board? She would like the Bullying Policy to be read aloud at a school Board meeting.

Charen Urban said she came to the meeting to thank Mr. Minnihhan and Ms. Glancey for their time with Newport, their positive leadership and accepting roles where they had targets on their backs (for blame). She made the statement, "Remember when you point a finger of blame, three fingers point back to you". She said (from experience in Peer Outreach) "emotions were emotions. The behavior they generate is right or wrong".

Paula Johnson said 1) graduation was awesome. She thanked Ms. Martin for the wonderful job. She thanked Ms. Opalinski, Ms. Glancey and Superintendent Minnihhan for the fabulous job they have done in Newport. They have been awesome to work for. She was sad Superintendent Minnihhan was leaving but she did not blame him. Addressing Mr. Spaulding, Sr., Ms. Johnson read aloud a prepared statement concerning Mr. Spaulding, Sr. behavior. She then told him what his bullying has done in removing Ms. Glancey. She informed him of the five positions Ms. Glancey has provided while in Newport:

1. Principal Elementary School
2. Grant writer: she wrote 16 of the 19 federal grants currently open. New applications for grants were coming in-the school system had no one to write them which equated to millions of dollars.
3. Curriculum Director
4. Title IX Coordinator
5. Overseer of Special Ed Department (position open)

Ms. Johnson concluded by saying she wished he would use all his energy to help the school, not harm it.

Lisa Ferrigno Co-President NTA addressed the Board and thanked Ms. Martin for bringing the seniors to Richards School. She said it was important for the children to see the ending (graduates). She stated there was an impact on the graduates as well. Reading a prepared statement, she gave a synopsis of Ms. Glancey's career throughout her stay in Newport. Concluding, she thanked Ms. Glancey for all she has done.

Melissa Mitchler read aloud a prepared statement in which she congratulated the class of 2022 and asked five questions of the Board members relationship to the school administration and staff. She spoke to each of the five Board members on their behavior; staff members on their hard work and the public. She asked the parents to participate in the schools, go to deliberative session meetings and vote for individuals to ensure that the Board members are strong and won't just complain about the problems. She thanked them for allowing her to serve this great town and students.

Tim Beard thanked Chairman Darling for a great job at graduation. He said that they needed to move forward, the kids deserved better; right now it is a circus. The school can't keep getting more and more resignations. Any business will fail if it happens to them. The goal of the Board has to be retention of the staff, work as a team for the community and kids. He told of the Tim and Steve show; the first part is about positive things happening in Newport. Mr. Beard said that he was told by someone he respected to be part of the solution, not the problem.

He has tried to do that ever since. The Board needs to work together. Addressing Ms. Glancey he said he was sorry to see her go, the school had a plan (she developed); now there is no plan. He stated soon the school will not be able to fill the (vacant) positions. He asked if then the Board members will start teaching, filling the positions.

John Lunn stated he had been involved in the Town for 29 years. He said his statement was not about the first amendment or court cases. It is about behavior. He used examples from history which emphasized, “The Tragic Flaw” character trait where someone can’t see the problem they have created to their own destruction.

Addressing Mr. Spaulding, Sr.; Mr. Lunn said that his tragic flaw has cost the Town of Newport’s school district. He asked that Mr. Spaulding, Sr. find a better approach to the way he does things.

Virginia Irwin said she was tired of going to meetings and hearing nothing that has anything to do with the school system. She said during the meeting there hasn’t been anything said about how the school will move forward, look for staff, and address the “211”. We just talk about bad behavior. Mrs. Irwin asked what kind of example was set when we were constantly in disarray or law suits. She wanted to talk about the metrics of education. She stated that the school digger website has a disclaimer: a one-time assessment is not a valid way to rate a district. She said the five people needed to work as a Board. Because of bad behavior, some members feel attacked, belittled, defensive and it doesn’t go anywhere. The results are: we are losing good people. Mrs. Irwin thanked Superintendent Minnihan for his courage and putting up with all he had, to Ms. Glancey for her yeoman’s work and to Ms. Opalinski whose team pulled it off-getting the Bond passed for the CTE. This is the quality and dedication that Newport is losing. She congratulated Mr. Beard and Mr. Morris for their Tim and Steve Show. Addressing Mr. Spaulding, Sr. Mrs. Irwin asked him to please stop his bad behavior, try to get along and to accept things as they are.

Administration Communication:

Mr. Tom Ronning, Middle School Principal; told the Board of the end of the year activities in the middle school. He thanked the parent’s, staff and teachers for their support.

Ms. Shannon Martin, High School Principal; addressed the Board and spoke on:

June 6th Class Night, June 8th graduation, visitation by graduates to Richards School. She informed the Board that she has been in Newport 5 years and will now be the senior building administrator in the district.

Mr. Ed Emond, Business Administrator; informed the Board he believed they have lost a workhorse in the school district. Ms. Glancey will be missed. Things have to change bigtime. He told the Board he would continue to stay around as he had promised, but it is getting hard (to stay). In 24 years working in school districts he has never seen going into a summer and have this many open positions (repeatedly). When it is too volatile to work, it is a problem because of the bullying that happens in this district. It is important that things change and change quickly.

Ms. Patrice Glancey Interim Principal Richards Elementary; addressed the public and thanked them for showing up at the meeting. Leaving was not an easy decision. She said that when people use their position to belittle and harass administrators, staff, the students and the families of this community, you are not working for what is best for the kids. You are the opposite of what is best for the kids. It (the behavior) does not align with her values as a person and what she can do as a leader. That is why the Board has her resignation.

She then informed the Board of happenings at Richards: a Memorial Day Celebration, Spirit Week, and cookout. Richards finished testing and they were over the 95% mark. She wanted to thank Belinda Stout and Rachel Hastings for their years of service.

Superintendent Minnihan spoke about graduation, the new bleachers and going to the accountability task force next week. The State of New Hampshire had applied for a waiver. The task force will review it. There are people who are interested in bringing an outdoor classroom to Newport. He gave details about the outdoor classroom proposed to the Board. He said the idea came out of a Focus Group. Concluding, he relayed that a student said to Ms. Glancey that her mother told her the school was 211/211 so they are moving out of the town.

Information/Action Items

Board Chair Removal Chairman Darling addressed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and asked if he would like to speak on the agenda item. He said no; it was to change behavior, not to get rid of the Chair. Chairman Darling addressed the Board and asked for a motion on the question. There was none. The agenda item was closed.

Approve 2022-2023 Calendar Changes

Ms. Callum-King made a motion *to accept the calendar changes as presented by Superintendent Minnihan*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. *The motion passed 4-0-0 (Spaulding did not vote)*.

Approval of School Board Minutes: Public: May 26, 2022

Ms. Callum-King made a motion *to approve the Public minutes of May 26, 2022*. It was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed Superintendent Minnihan and asked about the legality of the May 2 and May 3 public/nonpublic minutes as noted on page two of the (May 26th) minutes. He had not heard. Superintendent Minnihan responded that he had spoken to Mr. Upton, Esq. Even though the NPS stated the wrong letter it was fine; the intent was there. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Darling abstained; Spaulding did not vote).

CTE Comprehensive Needs Assessment Presentation (for both presentations, go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Mrs. Opalinski thanked the Board for the time she has been in Newport; she has had a wonderful team to work with. She informed the Board of the annual federal grant presentation which defined for the Department of Education where the funding that is granted will be spent by the CTE in the school district. She then gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board and viewing public on the CTE and CTE Renovation Needs Assessment. There were no questions from the Board.

Formalization of CTE Building Committee

Mrs. Opalinski addressed the Board and informed them of the CTE Building Committee and stated that the architects are looking for public input. When asked, Mrs. Opalinski said the meeting will be held in the Lou Thompson Room; possibly the Health Science Room (2nd floor). She stated that Mrs. Irwin has applied for the Construction Manager position. The Renovation Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings continue to be held. She then listed the successes of the students at the CTE.

Chairman Darling stated the Board needed to formalize the CTE Building Committee. Mr. Emond stated that the CTE Building Committee will be making on the spot decisions to help the project move forward. The Building Committee will be hiring a Construction Manager to start on Monday, June 13, 2022 (three contractors will be interviewed), awarding subcontractors, managing the budget and ensuring the project stays within the budget, utilizing the contingency funds available. He listed the proposed Committee based on discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Board: Mr. Eric Perry, Interim Director of CTE; Mr. Rodney Page as Clerk of the Works, Mr. Ed Emond, Mr. Steve Morris as Board member representative, and a fifth member Mrs. Jennifer Opalinski as current CTE director. She will be replaced in July.

Chairman Darling asked for a motion to approve the five individuals to form the CTE Building Committee. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion *to approve Mr. Eric Perry, Mr. Rodney Page, Mr. Ed Emond, Mr. Steve Morris and Mrs. Jennifer Opalinski to form the CTE Building Committee*. Chairman Darling seconded the motion. In discussion, Ms. Callum-King asked why the Board had to approve individuals to the Board and not just the proposed committee as a whole. The way the motion reads, the individuals would have to be brought before the Board each time there was a new member. Ms. Callum-King stated the Board should approve the Committee and the Committee members could choose new members as needed. When asked, Mr. Emond stated it was a \$15 million project; the people will be making decisions on how to spend the money. He believed it was a higher level committee (than most) and the members should be approved as the initial committee and others as they join in the future. There was a lengthy discussion on the role and process to approve future committee members. *The motion passed 5-0-0*.

Interim Superintendent Introduction

Chairman Darling introduced the interim superintendent, Donna Magoon. Ms. Magoon briefly addressed the Board and public.

Ms. Diane Mulholland was introduced to the Board and public. She will be Business Administrator as of July 1, 2022.

New Hires

Megan Oxland-Elementary teacher- Grade 3 (replaces Mr. Smallwood)

Chairman Darling moved *to approve the hire of Ms. Megan Oxland to the position of elementary school teacher, with nine years' experience, Step 10, BA with a salary of \$47,627.* It was seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Christian Slater high school art teacher (new position)

Chairman Darling moved *to approve the hire of Mr. Christian Slater to the position of high school art teacher, first year teacher, Step 1, BA with a salary of \$36,467.* It was seconded by Ms. Callum-King. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Resignations

Patrice Glancey, Melissa Mitchler, Carey Citak-NMHS

Chairman Darling made a motion *to accept the resignations of Ms. Patrice Glancey, Ms. Melissa Mitchler and Carey Citak.* It was seconded by Ms. Callum-King. *The motion passed 3-1-0 (Wilkinson voted no; Spaulding did not vote).* Mr. Wilkinson stated his reason to not accept the resignations.

Policies: (for full presentation and discussion go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Second Reads:

Policy BEDH-Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings

Chairman Darling explained the revision to the proposed Policy by the Policy committee. On a motion by Ms. Callum-King, seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr.; *the Board passed Policy BEDH as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Board Communication:

Ms. Callum-King formally resigned from the School Board. She told the Board and public that with the exception of Ms. Glancey, she had helped to hire all the staff and administrators who are resigning. Ms. Callum-King continued with her explanation which included Mr. Spaulding, Sr.'s behavior. She offered help to Chairman Darling in the future if it was needed.

Ms. Callum-King left the School Board meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Wilkinson told the Board and public of the qualities of the resigning staff. He spoke to the community as a whole and said two things necessary are consistency in leadership and proper funding. He explained what he believed the community had to do to help the school district move forward.

Administration, staff and public left the meeting as Mr. Spaulding, Sr. began to speak at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. said that he (his behavior) will not change. He gave his opinion on the position.

Mr. Morris addressed Ms. Glancey and said she said Board members were not on her team. She implied more than one. He wanted her to know he was on her team; he just had specific questions. (Ms. Glancey had meant one.) He thanked Ms. Martin as a parent and School Board member for the graduation ceremony (Mr. Wilkinson agreed). He said that when the community sees all the things the teachers, parents and students do, it's amazing. Mr. Morris said the Board had a lot of work ahead of them. In the future, hopefully it is the Board and administration working together every two weeks, not pointing fingers.

Mr. Wilkinson said he wanted to give a shout out to Mr. Alexander Stuart (music teacher), who brought his daughter out past her comfort zone; she has excelled due to his tutelage. Ms. Martin added to Mr. Wilkinson's kudos and explained how Mr. Stuart saved live music for the graduation celebration. Mr. Lunn addressed the Board and informed them he had interviewed Mr. Stuart. It can be viewed on NCTV.

Chairman Darling

Congratulated the Class of 2022, and the teachers and staff at graduation. She stated that Ms. Rhonda Callum-King has resigned and there is an empty position on the Board. A new person will be appointed by the Board.

Monday, June 13, 2022 there will be questions available at the SAU for interested individuals of the public. The Board will review the answers to the questions before the next Board meeting and appoint an individual to the seat until the next election.

Chairman Darling stated there needs to be an Elementary Ad Hoc Committee developed. She volunteered to start it as the Board representative. She invited teachers and community members to join the committee. She stated the Board needed to know the metrics that Mrs. Irwin was talking about. She also stated additional calendar changes: one meeting in June and two in August.

Superintendent Minnihan reminded her of the hiring permission the Board had given him. If the Board wanted to formally transfer the permission to Ms. Donna Magoon, he requested it be done at the meeting. Mr. Wilkinson made a motion *to give Superintendent Donna Magoon permission to offer employment and hire applicants for positions in the Newport School District as outlined in the June 10, 2021 School Board minutes*. It was seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Chairman Darling stated it will be the last meeting for Ms. Glancey, Dr. Minnihan and Mr. Emond. She announced there will be a celebration for them; time and date to be decided. She thanked them for all their wonderful work.

Non-public meeting RSA 91-A:3 II (i)

On a motion by Chairman Darling, seconded by Mr. Morris; *the Board voted by roll call to enter into non-public meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (i) at 7:15 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson, Recording Secretary

Approved on: July 14, 2022