

Newport School Board
Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2022
Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

School Board Members in Attendance: Jenna Darling, Chair; Steve Morris, Vice Chair; Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Tim Beard, Bill Wilkinson

School Board Members Absent: none

School Administration and staff present: Donna Magoon, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Diane Mulholland, Business Administrator, Kerry Finnegan, David Bailey, Middle High School Principal, Jessica Packard, Dean of Students (Middle School); Shannon Martin, High School Principal; Lisa Ferrigno, Mr. Oberhofer

Public Present: none

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 5:02 p.m. followed by a roll call of School Board members and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: REMOVE: Transportation (move to October 13, 2022); MOVE the order to: A. High School Sports, B. Student Rep., D Budget Timeline (Magoon). Chairman Darling made a motion *to make the adjustments to the agenda as requested*. It was seconded by Mr. Beard. *The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.*

Public Comment (the School Board now allows six minutes for public comment):

Lisa Ferrigno recognized the hard work of the dedicated Newport staff. She congratulated Hanover high school and Enfield Village School for their “blue ribbon” distinction and again told the Board members that Richards was one in the past. She listed all the changes and cuts to the school since it was a “blue ribbon” school. When asked, she said she would forward her information to the Interim Superintendent. The information will be distributed to the School Board members.

Mr. Lunn informed the Board and viewing public that NCTV has physically moved and was up and running. He explained that people would have to log into the NCTV with a new IP address. Directions will be posted on the school website.

Approval of School Board Minutes: Public: August 15, 2022; August 25, 2022

August 15, 2022

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion *to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022 School Board minutes as presented*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. *The motion passed 3-0-2 (Morris and Wilkinson abstained).*

September 8, 2022

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beard; *to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022 School Board meeting*. In discussion, Mr. Spaulding, Sr. discussed page two, Committee Assignments. Mr. Beard is the sole member. He believed Mr. Beard should not be there alone. He volunteered to be a member of the committee. Chairman Darling said she would add him under agenda item Committee.

The motion passed 4-0-1 (Wilkinson abstained). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated he believed all Board members should sit in on all financial reviews by the business administrator.

Non Public September 8, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Spaulding, Sr., seconded by Mr. Morris; *the Board approved the minutes of the September 8, 2022 School Board minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Wilkinson abstained).*

Information/Action Items

A. High School Sports and Academics (Informational)

Ms. Shannon Martin, Newport High School Principal; addressed the Board and explained the policy on high sports and academics as cited in the 2022-2023 Handbook. The Board members and Ms. Martin held a brief discussion on the standards of the policy. They thanked her for clarifying how Newport implements the policy.

B. Student Representative to School Board

The Board was told that there is a student representative who will be joining the Board. Steven Emery, a senior, will be joining the Board starting on October 13, 2022.

C. School Handbook-Newport Middle High School (Action Needed)

Interim Superintendent Magoon stated the School Board members had been sent copies of the parent/student handbook (Middle High School version) along with a page with the changes proposed. Mr. David Bailey, Middle School principal; and Ms. Jessica Packard, Dean of Students; were in attendance to answer any questions on the handbook's proposed changes. After a brief discussion on potential additions, Chairman Darling complimented the administrators on the 2022-2023 handbook. They appreciated the page listing the changes in the new edition. Chairman Darling requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Parent/Student Handbook. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated he would need to abstain from the vote and explained why. Mr. Wilkinson made the motion *to accept the 2022-2023 Newport Middle High School Student Handbook*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Spaulding abstained)*. Chairman Darling thanked the administrators for attending the meeting.

D. Committees (Action needed) (for full discussion go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Chairman Darling addressed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and asked if he would like to be on the Finance Committee. Mr. Morris explained how it has been used in the past. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. expressed his objection to the way it was set up: all members should be in attendance, not two. The finances are the responsibility of the School Board, therefore discussions on finances needed to be done as a whole Board. Chairman Darling explained the history of the Finance Committee. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. explained his reasons for the entire Board to meet together. Mr. Morris and other members explained their thoughts on committees, report outs and financial reports. The Finance Committee as an ad hoc committee was explained to Mr. Beard. There was a discussion on #1100 (budget line item) by the Board members and an explanation by Business Administrator Mulholland on the way she will be writing and presenting the proposed budget for next year.

Interim Superintendent Magoon stated there were two different types of committees. One was a (monthly) finance committee; the other was a Budget Meeting (annual budget). Finance is monthly, what do we have in budget, how much has the school spent (anyone can ask questions). A Budget Meeting is when the School Board goes over the annual budget line item by line item. Interim Superintendent Magoon stated she has previously had Budget meetings go a full Saturday. She explained the process and the administrators who will be involved (administration and building head presentations). The Board members gave their input. Chairman Darling stated that she would make up a Board member rotation for the Finance Committee. If there were questions, the Board could ask Ms. Mulholland.

E. Report on Grants (Informational)

Using a handout, Interim Superintendent Magoon gave an updated report to the School Board members on the grants the school has used and will be using. They included Title I, Title II, Title IV, Perkins, ESSER, ESSER II and the 14 Local Grants awarded to the Newport Schools.

F. Budget Timeline (Informational)

The School Board members reviewed the tentative Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2024. Ms. Mulholland and the Board members discussed the number of hearings needed by them to prepare for the school budget season. Additional dates will be added as necessary. Interim Superintendent Magoon explained the new budget process;

they will be broken down by program manager. The Board members gave their input. Ms. Mulholland answered all their questions.

Committee Report Outs:

Chairman Darling stated that the school district will be going into negotiations soon with the support staff.

Mr. Morris reported that a lot is happening with the CTE project. The cost of (construction) everything has increased 25-28%. The school is looking at a reduction of 25% of what the school thought they would get six months ago. The group would be coming to brief the Board and community at the October 13, 2022 Board meeting. Lavalley-Brensinger Architects will be in attendance at the meeting. The Board stated whoever gave the presentation needed to provide maximum detail and information that is understandable to the average citizen viewing. There was a discussion on the amount of money the CTE was short. Chairman Darling asked that the topic be postponed to the October 13, 2022 School Board meeting.

New Hires

Chairman Darling made a motion *to approve the hire of guidance personnel Caitlin Cozadd, BA, Step 1 at \$36,467*. It was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Resignation-none

Policies:

A. First Reads

1. BBBF Student Member of the School Board (red type indicates new policy): Chairman Darling made a motion *to accept first read of policy BBBF*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. In discussion, on page one, Election and Term of Student School Board Members #3 and Responsibilities of Student Government #3 were questioned; rewording was requested. The Board was told they would be given the explanation information. Chairman Darling called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Spaulding abstained).*

B. First Read Revised

1. BCB Board Member Conflict: Chairman Darling made a motion *to accept the first read revised of BCB*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. In discussion the new parts of the policy were explained to the Board members by Interim Superintendent Magoon. Chairman Darling called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Spaulding abstained).*

Communication:

Administration:

Interim Superintendent Magoon reviewed the ESSER III survey. She thanked the teachers and staff for their hard work.

Board:

Mr. Beard informed the Board and viewing public that Bartlett Blueberry Farm donated \$3,835 for the light program (donations are from their "sin" jar). Mr. Wilkinson thanked the Facility Staff team that built the snack shack; it looks good. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. concurred with Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Morris had nothing to share at this time. Chairman Darling thanked all Newport teachers, staff and families.

Chairman Darling made a motion *to go into non-public meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.* It was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. *The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.* The public meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,