

Newport School Board
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Minutes of January 12, 2023

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

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

School Board Members Absent: none

School Administration and staff present: Donna Magoon, Interim Superintendent; Diane Mulholland, Business Administrator; Kerry Finnegan, Student Support Services; Brynn Kane, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lisa Ferrigno Co-President NTA, Ed Oberhofer Co-President NTA, Kelley Merritt

Public Present: Allison Browning, Jeff Kessler, Virginia Irwin, Paul Brown. Ben Nelson, County Commissioner Chair; Matt Lagos, Administrator of the Sullivan County Health Care Facility; Derek Ferland, County Manager; Becky Dupont, Sullivan County Health Care Assistant Director of Nursing; Jim Merriam, Chief Executive Officer Norwich Solar Technologies; (via zoom): Margaret Drye

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

Call to Order

Public Hearing

Chairman Darling called the Public Hearing for 2023-2024 Budget of the Newport School District to order at 5:02 p.m. followed by a roll call of School Board members and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Public Hearing for 2023-2024 Budget

The Newport School Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5pm at the SRVRTC Lou Thompson Room for the purpose of presenting the fiscal year 2023-2024 per RSA32:5, 1.

Chairman Darling read aloud the Public Notice of the 2023-2024 Budget Hearing. She acknowledged Interim Superintendent Magoon and asked her to start off the hearing with an explanation of the budget. Interim Superintendent Magoon acknowledged Ms. Diane Mulholland, Business Administrator to review the three documents for the public hearing. Ms. Mulholland addressed the Board and public and stated that all documents were in draft form. What she was proposing was for the School Board to decide whether they want to move forward with them. One was the proposed Budget Newport Local School document (2023 MS-26); the other was the Default Budget of the School District (2023 MS-DSB) document. Interim Superintendent Magoon stated that also included in the hearing packet was the Newport School District General Ledger document and the Budget Revenue page.

Chairman Darling stated that before opening to the Warrant Articles, the Board would open for Public Comment. Individuals asked to be able to speak as the Board went through the proposed budget.

Chairman Darling read aloud Warrant Article 1. Election of Officers

To choose a moderator, clerk and treasurer for the ensuing one year and to choose one member of the School Board for the ensuing three years and one member for the ensuing year.

Chairman Darling read aloud Warrant Article 2 Operating Budget

Chairman Darling recognized Ms. Ferrigno. Ms. Ferrigno reminded the School Board that the Union helps to get the operating budget passed. She wanted to make sure she understood the budget (2023-2024). She asked questions, stating that numbers had been changed around from previous years; she wanted to make sure she understood what was being presented.

➤ 2211. Line 111. It is in several different places in the budget. The position of:

111-director/coordinator/executive assistant salary in one place changed from \$53,971.00 to \$108,732.00. Ms. Ferrigno read off two other 111 line items with large monetary changes. She asked if they (111) were moved

from other line items. She was told that some were moved from other lines. The 2211 111 is a position from Interim Superintendent Magoons' line item that has been moved to another department.

- The 2210 line is for new printed materials districtwide.
- Ms. Ferrigno stated that the 2400 111 director/coordinator/executive assistant line went from \$0.00 to \$50,000.00. Ms. Ferrigno asked for an explanation.

Chairman Darling asked Ms. Ferrigno to give the page numbers so that everyone could follow along. Ms. Ferrigno listed additional 111 line items that were confusing and asked for an explanation.

- The 130 line. Salaries—Overtime. Ms. Ferrigno asked if the District was paying staff overtime. She was told the line item was for summer school salaries.

On a Point of Order, Mrs. Irwin asked that the pages be stated so that people could follow along.

- 2510. Line 390: Contracted Services. Decreased from \$75,000.00 to \$0.00. Ms. Ferrigno questioned the line item. She was told that contracted services (software) had been moved to Mr. Chad Howes' budget.
- 2620. Line 431: Repairs and maintenance Bldg.-General. The amount went from \$41,769.00 to \$290,000. She asked for an explanation.

Ms. Mulholland stated that the repairs and maintenance went from separate school line items to a district line item. Other line items were also consolidated to districtwide line items.

- Ms. Ferrigno stated that there was an increase in the building and operation budget: a total of \$552,187. Chairman Darling asked Ms. Mulholland to explain the rationale as to why they organized the budget differently. Ms. Mulholland said it was one pool of money; the district would use it where repairs were needed (not restricted to one building). To clarify, Ms. Ferrigno said that the school was not increasing the maintenance budget \$552,187.

- Ms. Ferrigno began to ask Ms. Mulholland about a line item. Ms. Mulholland said that the money is in a grant. When asked to clarify for the people in attendance, she stated the grant money paid for instructional paraprofessionals through Title I.
- Ms. Ferrigno asked if it was the same for summer school (grant money for program). She was told yes.
- 2222. Line 112. Salaries-teacher is \$0.00.

The district does not have a librarian for Richards; it is not being budgeted in the proposed budget.

- 2222. Line 330. Is \$0.00. She was told the computer instruction line item is now under Chad Howes' budget.
- 1100. Line 112 (Preschool) teacher salaries. From \$0.00 to \$109,135.00. Ms. Ferrigno stated the line item was going out of the special education budget. She asked if a case manager was being added to the preschool. Interim Superintendent Magoon stated that the preschool program was not a special education program. Currently the school is taking money out of the special ed. budget; schools are not supposed to use money earmarked special ed. for a regular education program. The district was correcting it by putting it in the general ed. budget. Ms. Ferrigno thanked the Board.

Mr. Kessler addressed the School Board and stated:

- 1) The School Board was about to approve the Warrant Article on the budget.

His understanding of an SB2 community was that the Board has to state what the Default Budget is when they address the Warrant Article in the Budget.

- 2) He asked if there will be a (public) hearing; if the Board will be presenting the budget so that the people can understand how the proposed budget is set up.

He said the proposed school expenses are up approximately \$2,000,000; revenues are up, too. He asked if there would be a presentation by the Board or administration.

Interim Superintendent Magoon addressed Mr. Kessler and stated the School Board had done three presentations to the public. Mr. Kessler asked when; then asked if they were not going to present the budget at the public hearing. Chairman Darling stated they had presented it publicly and were looking for feedback of those

presentations at the hearing (January 12, 2023). Mr. Kessler said that it was his understanding that (the presentation) was what the public hearing was for. He thanked the Board.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Chair and stated that the Public Hearing is when a presentation of the budget is given by the Board. He did not know if what had been done is suitable for the statute. The Board has to go through the budget line items from beginning to end in order to fulfill the statute. Chairman Darling said if that was what the Board needed to do, they would do it.

Mrs. Irwin addressed the Board and stated that the Board had to go through the budget line by line and they had to explain each item that has changed and why it's been moved. She said the budget was very difficult to follow the way the Board/Administration has done it (this year). Mrs. Irwin had a question about the preschool comment. She asked when the preschool became a non-special education preschool; it had never been a public (regular) preschool. Mrs. Irwin was told the administrative staff had started in July 2022; the preschool is not a special ed. program and is not on the approved special education list. Staff will go back and see if there is a record of it being a special ed. program. To their knowledge it had never been a special ed. program; it was a regular education program that had special education students in it. Mrs. Irwin asked if they were inviting any child in town to enter the preschool; an unlimited number. She was told it is always limited by numbers due to the number of teachers (student/teacher ratio); but it is not a special education program. The population is 50/50 regular and special education.

Mrs. Irwin informed the staff that the preschool was always under special education for the children that the District had to provide services for (3years up). It was a partner program where regular students were allowed to come but it was not preschool for everyone (in Town). She asked where the shift of thinking came from. Staff stated they did not know when it happened but that currently it is not labeled as a special education program. Mrs. Irwin asked that they investigate it, because what they were saying was not correct. Chairman Darling thanked Mrs. Irwin. She then said that in order to meet the statute of a Public Hearing, they needed to go through the budget line by line. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. said if the Administration is not prepared to go through line by line at the (January 12, 2023) hearing the Board will have to continue the Public Hearing to another night. To meet the statute, the Board does not have to go through every line item; they have to go through sufficiently to make sure that the public understands what the changes are (he gave examples). Interim Superintendent Magoon asked for a recess to talk to her team to discuss the two possibilities.

Mr. Kessler addressed the Board and stated concerns:

1. They did not have any presentation materials. In past years the Board has shown PowerPoint presentations where it has expressed the changes (in the budget) and the reasons.
2. The current budget is difficult to follow; it is difficult to understand what the school wants to accomplish.

Interim Superintendent Magoon gave a suggestion as to how to present the budget (show previous presentations). Chairman Darling agreed with the idea. Ms. Mulholland looked up the deadline for a public hearing of the budget (Tuesday, January 17, 2023). After a brief discussion among the Board members and staff, they decided upon a date and time certain: Tuesday, January 17, 2023. A quorum of the Board will be present and the administrative staff will present a PowerPoint presentation at the public hearing.

Chairman Darling asked to set the date and time for the School Deliberative Session. The window for the Deliberative was February 4th through February 11th. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. questioned the need of a PowerPoint presentation at the Budget Public Hearing. He believed the Public Hearing could continue.

Mr. John Lunn, NCTV addressed the Chair and said that for people not in the room he could put documents (Ledger, Warrant Articles and supporting documents) online; he could also put them on TV. Chairman Darling said she believed they needed to adjourn from the public hearing. A presentation will be good for those at home. Chairman Darling made a motion ***to recess the Public Hearing to Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5 pm in the Lou Thompson Room.*** It was seconded by Mr. Spaulding, Sr. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

The School Board then concurred to hold the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 9 am in the high school gym. Chairman Darling recessed the Public Hearing at 5:31 pm.

Newport School Board Regular meeting

Chairman Darling called the meeting of the Newport School Board (NSB) to order at 5:32 p.m.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Under Action/Informational: MOVE: Solar Proposal to first agenda item, ADD: Bullying to *second* agenda item, FFA Event to third agenda item, Correct Filing Period to fourth agenda item (Magoon). Chairman Darling called for a roll call vote *to accept the adjustments to the Agenda. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Public Comment to include input for School District Budget (the School Board now allows six minutes for public comment)

Mr. Lunn addressed the Board and stated that since they were going into budget season, he wanted the Board to know that over the past five years he has met and worked with some really great students (through NCTV). He stated that Newport produces a lot of great students. There are problems, but students can go through the school system and do well; it is something we need to note. He agreed there are improvements needed in some areas but many things are going right.

Mrs. Irwin addressed the Board and stated she wanted to talk about Warrant Article One, Election of Officers. She said the moderator and clerk are elected on a one year basis. She explained there is an alternative in the RSA to by petition, change the term of the clerk and the moderator. The school district cannot do it; it has to be by petition. Mrs. Irwin told the Board of the groundwork she had done for the potential change. The rationale for the change is that the individual is elected, serves for one year and can't participate in the election process the next year (because their name is on the ballot) when it comes to counting and certifying the vote. Mrs. Irwin stated it was a continuous problem when people are elected on an annual basis and then they are unable to participate in the duties they are assigned.

Mrs. Irwin stated her research into the RSAs for the town and school elections. She proposed that Newport have a petition to change the school terms to two years; it would be consistent with the term for the town moderator and the town clerk. She explained that the NH statute states the town elections are held on even years; the school currently is an annual election. A potential Warrant Article might read: "... to change the term of office for the school clerk and school moderator to a two year term effective the election of 2024." The Board agreed with Mrs. Irwin's request. Mrs. Irwin stated she will draw up a petition (school can show to their attorney), and emphasized it couldn't be from the district, it had to come from the public.

Chairman Darling thanked Mrs. Irwin for bringing it to their attention. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and Mrs. Irwin discussed RSA 671:3 III. Ms. Mulholland explained the process and timeline for the petition article to be added to the ballot. She stated it was past the deadline for the 2023 ballot; it could be put on the 2024 ballot.

Mrs. Irwin thanked the Board.

Approval of School Board Minutes: Public: December 22, 2022; Non-Public: none

December 22, 2022

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion *to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2022 School Board meeting*. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. Chairman Darling called for a vote. *The motion passed 3-0-2 (Beard and Wilkinson abstained).*

Student Representative Report—Stephen Emery addressed the Board and public and informed them of both student and public events.

Students/Parents:

- ❖ New student group was formed: The Technical Student Association (similar to other CTE associations). It is for engineering students as well as students interested in furthering their leadership skills.
- ❖ The wrestling team is currently holding a fundraiser through January 30th. They are selling kits to make pizzas. If people want to purchase one; contact Mr. Miller at the high school.
- ❖ There is new Tiger apparel in the school store: sweat pants, hooded sweat shirts and headbands.
- There is a virtual meeting for senior parents on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6 pm.

Information/Action Items

Solar Proposal (for full presentation go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

Mr. Jim Merriam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Norwich Solar Technologies gave a PowerPoint presentation and solar Net Metering Agreement (NMA) proposal for the Newport School District. He addressed the Board and asked if they had any questions.

Mr. Merriam said gave Norwich Solar's history of working in the Town. Their company built the solar array behind the WWTF and on Turkey Hill. He said they were building another array in Newport and they would like to have the school as one of the off takers (users). The Board members asked questions, among them: tax breaks for Norwich and the procedure to become a part of the program. Mr. Merriam stated that answers to many other questions they had were in the NMA contract. After additional information, Mr. Merriam listed some of their clients.

Chairman Darling addressed Mr. Merriam and stated that Norwich Solar had previously visited the School Board and asked that they purchase the land. She asked if he had information on that. Mr. Merriam stated he did not, and gave the information that he had from their files (the old agreement was the same as the Town's current contract).

Mr. Wilkinson asked if the Board's responsibility was to guarantee Norwich Solar a customer. He was told yes. Mr. Merriam did not know the process in NH; whether after reviewing the NMA the Chair or Superintendent would sign a NMA or not.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. spoke about the original plan with the town. The town voted on it, it hasn't changed. Norwich Solar's stance and presentation has. It bothered him because of the vote of the townspeople. The decision was important to the community. Originally, the Richards School roof was going to house the array; Norwich had decided against that route (the school was to be liable for the roof if it was damaged). Norwich then continued with their solar agreement without the school. He asked why the school was dropped from the original program. Mr. Merriam explained the town program, the sites with arrays and the amount of electricity produced (only enough for the town). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated Mr. Merriam did not answer why the school had been dropped from the original Newport contract. It (the original) is better than the one presented through the NMA. The Board members were given the Norwich Solar information just before the School Board meeting. He could not vote on it. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion ***that we decide as a Board to investigate all solar possibilities and that all presentations be furnished to the Board in writing before a meeting presentation so we can be well versed at what is coming at us.*** It was seconded by Mr. Morris. Chairman Darling asked for discussion. Mr. Beard said there wasn't enough information for him to make a decision tonight (Jan. 12, 2023). He said they needed to research it; they are the representatives of the people of the town. He was curious about the town contract. He knew they were getting very cheap electricity. They had to buy one property (Turkey Hill site). He needed a lot more information on it. Chairman Darling asked if seeing the Net Metering Agreement was one item he needed to see. It was one thing the school would need to ask Mr. Merriam for.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. said that the Board would serve the citizens the best by researching what deals there were. Chairman Darling said that Norwich Solar would be a part of the group researched. She asked if his proposal was sufficient, or did the Board want to see the actual agreement. She was told to see the actual agreement.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if the solar array was being built whether the school took the money (as a customer) or not; he was told it was going to be built on the land referred to. He agreed the Board wanted to see the terminology; legal counsel needed to look at it, but the School Board could not dictate who built on the land (Norwich Solar owned the land).

In discussion, the Board members reviewed questions on the agreement. Mr. Beard said that he would not vote on the proposal until someone could answer all his questions.

When asked, Mr. Merriam said:

- ❖ The school would use ½ of the proposed array
- ❖ The company would like the school to use the array. They will be looking for others to use it; if they get a lot of customers, the School might not be able to use it (the paper given the Board stated a February 15, 2023 deadline).

There was further discussion on the agreement and research by the Board members. Mr. Morris broke it down to doing due diligence, research through phone calls, doing everything within the February 15th deadline. Mr. Merriam offered to give names and information on his competitors. The Board could make their phone calls (due diligence).

Chairman Darling asked Mr. Merriam to contact the Interim Superintendent and give her the PowerPoint presentation for the Board. She was told they already had it.

Chairman Darling also asked for a copy of the Net Metering Agreement. Mr. Merriam will send a sample to her. Chairman Darling stated there was a motion on the floor to pursue alternative possibilities. She asked for a vote.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Darling made a motion ***to direct the Superintendent to research other options to do our due diligence.*** It was seconded by Mr. Beard. Interim Superintendent Magoon asked how many options the Board would like. She was told five. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Chairman Darling thanked Mr. Merriam for his presentation and answering their questions.

Sullivan County Commissioner, Administrator of the SCHCF; Assistant Director of Nursing; County Manager

Ben Nelson, County Commissioner; addressed the Board and stated that through the county and a USDA grant they have been able to sponsor some adult education classes at the Newport CTE. Three years ago employers informed the Commissioners they were having difficulties finding employees. They therefore sponsored a welding class in Newport and two CTE classes in Claremont. The LNA program in the CTE prepares students for potential employment at local health care facilities. He then informed the Board members that the County has a grant for lead eradication. If they were aware of a household that contains lead paint, contact information on the grant is on the county website: www.sullivancountynh.gov. The grant will provide services to remove it for free. Derek Ferland, County Manager; addressed the Board and discussed the flyer given to members in their packets.

- He stated that employees in the health care field were stretched thin before Covid and it is now worse. They are experiencing workforce challenges similar to every hospital in the area. They have developed a program to acquire the needed staff. They are in the process of, “growing their own workforce” to provide a job that means something-not just a paycheck.

In their current program, an individual who applies and is hired as a Unit Aide (must be 14 years or older) is paid \$16.00/hour. When an individual becomes 16, they have the opportunity to take their LNA (Licensed Nurse Assistant) program and will be paid (\$16/hr.). Ms. Becky Dupont, Assistant Director of Nursing teaches the class. Upon state licensing, full time LNAs earn \$15.17/hr. Premium per diem LNAs are paid \$23/hr. (at the county facility). LNA staff can continue their education and get tuition assistance through the county. Ms. Becky Dupont works closely with Mr. Perry (CTE Director) and teachers at River Valley College in Claremont. They are very excited about the program and asked for the School Board’s support.

- The County has funded \$40,000 to financially support four adult classes. The county delegation has said that 100% local funding will not be available in the future. Two years ago they applied for a \$25,000 USDA grant with a \$15,000 match from the county. That \$40,000 will pay for a LNA course and a TBD course in the spring 2023. Mr. Ferland said they were bringing to the School Board the question of the future of the adult programs. The county will not fund it 100%; it might contribute some money, but funding needs to come from the local level for the adult programs. The local boards needed to assess the importance of adult classes for the area workforce (support the local employers).
- He concluded, stating the county had a grant writer to assist the local areas (municipalities and schools). He stated that Interim Superintendent Magoon has used the county’s services extensively.

Mr. Ferland informed the Board that the county is in a net metering agreement for hydro (5 year contract). It was good for them; he stated the Board had asked very good questions of Mr. Merriam.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. gave a statement on net metering agreements.

Bullying Agenda Item (Informational)

Interim Superintendent Magoon stated there were 226 responses to the bullying survey that had been sent out. The Bullying Forum was held on January 9, 2023. It was well attended (by students, staff and families). The school board members (Beard, Spaulding) and the administrative team listened to the parents and community’s concerns; they developed goals going forward. Mr. Beard thanked the families that showed up. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. gave a positive report on the forum, stating the students were quiet and the parents were respectful. There was

Newport School Board Meeting of January 12, 2023

good information. Interim Superintendent Magoon stated they will compile information from the survey and forum; information will be presented at a School Board meeting. There will be a second forum in February for family input. Information on the bullying policy and procedures are now on the website.

FFA event

Interim Superintendent Magoon read aloud an email from Mr. Eric Perry, Interim Director of the CTE. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) are seeking approval to attend the annual NH FFA Leadership Camp in Alton, NH January 13-13, 2023. It will include an overnight stay at Brookwoods Conference Center. There will be 16-18 students attending with three faculty advisors.

Mr. Morris made a motion ***to approve the FFA trip (as presented to the School Board)***. It was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Morris asked how much it would cost the school. He was told the FFA fundraises; it will not cost the school anything (from the budget). There was a brief discussion about why the request was delinquent. Lisa Ferrigno asked the Board if there will be a “Nature’s Classroom” overnight trip for 5th graders in 2023. She was told yes, it will be brought to the Board at a future meeting (the trip will be paid by a grant). ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Filing Period

The filing dates had been stated as: January 18-January 27.

The correct filing dates for candidates are:

January 25 through February 3rd. The SAU office will be open Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. Friday, February 3, 2023 the SAU office will be open 8 am to 5 pm.

On a Point of Order, Mrs. Irwin stated the Chair needed to state the open positions for filing.

Chairman Darling agreed. She listed the positions and terms for each:

School District Clerk (1 year term)

School District Moderator (1 year term)

School Board member (3 year term)

School Board member (1 year term)

New Hire

Chairman Darling made a motion ***to approve the hire of (middle school) Family and Consumer Science teacher Christopher LeClair, BA Step 1 at \$36,467.00 pro rated to \$ 8,894.61.*** It was seconded by Mr. Morris. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.*** Mr. LeClair will take over a virtual class, so there will be a teacher physically in the room. Chairman Darling welcomed Christopher LeClair to Newport.

Resignation-none

Committee Report Outs: CTE

Mr. Morris said there was a CTE Renovation Advisory Committee. The school has to raise money to cover the \$1 million shortfall created by the economic circumstances. The amount that 80% of the Town approved will not be enough to cover the construction/building costs. Some opportunities for public donations are naming opportunities, buying a brick (student fundraiser), or donating money outright to the school. There are also opportunities for community organizations to donate money for the building or program equipment.

Mr. Morris asked whether the district has heard more about additional funding for the CTE renovation by the state. They were told that they would know the decision by May 2023.

Mrs. Irwin asked if they had the dates that the Capital Budget Committee meets. An allocation such as the request for the CTE comes from them. Interim Superintendent Magoon stated that she, Mr. Perry and Mr. Emond will be going to speak at the Capital Budget Committee public hearing. The Commissioner said that the Committee did not have the date scheduled (as of January 12, 2023). Mrs. Irwin asked if they knew that a Newport representative was on the Capital Budget Committee; Interim Superintendent Magoon said yes; she has spoken to him. There was a discussion about the use of tax credits; the school had been denied use of them. Mrs. Irwin suggested that someone have another chat with Concord. Mr. Morris listed items they would have to cut if

they did not receive the additional funds. When asked who the competition was; Interim Superintendent Magoon said Winnisquam School District. The Commissioner said it was not a 'competition'.

Policies: none

Communication

Administration:

Interim Superintendent Magoon said Dancing with the (Newport) Stars will be on January 27-28. Several students and staff will be participating in the performance.

Board:

Mr. Beard

Stated the Board had to meet, strategize how to inform and pass the 2023 School budget. The paraprofessional's contract is in it. They have to pass it for them. He informed the Board of communications he'd had with parents.

Mr. Wilkinson said it was with regret that he was resigning as a member of the School Board, effective after the Deliberative Session. He cited conflicts between his work, family life and the responsibilities of the position of School Board member. He apologized to the people who supported and voted for him. Mr. Wilkinson said that the School Board had done a lot of positive things this year. He didn't know if there was time to add his term to the ballot. Chairman Darling thanked Mr. Wilkinson for his hard work and time on the Board.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. informed the Board that he was seriously considering resigning from the School Board. The Board now functioned very well; it was going in a good direction. He hasn't made a definite decision. He had planned to step down after March. Now there will be a major turnover (two or three new board members). He stated his plan was to run for an open Selectman's position. He agreed with Mr. Beard and stated that he did not want to see the budget fail. The School Board had to move forward with a plan. They had a good budget and they needed to get it passed at voting in March 2023. He said that the School could go on the radio any Tuesday; they could do flyers. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. said they needed to approve the (support staff) contract. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. made a motion ***that the School Board come up with a plan to pass the budget.*** Mr. Morris verbally reviewed slides the Board had seen about the budget. After the public hearing they could regroup and decide what to do. Chairman Darling asked Mr. Spaulding, Sr. if his motion was symbolic (to come up with a plan). He stated there was no second. Mr. Beard said it didn't need a motion, it just needed to happen. The Board had to have answers for the Deliberative Session and sell the budget.

Mr. Morris repeated his message: parents/guardians be responsible for your students. Make sure you are doing your job.

When acknowledged; Mr. Lunn stated they could also use NCTV; there are a lot of viewers for interviews, presentations and other information.

Chairman Darling apologized for the budget hearing; it will be corrected. She hoped the Math Night was going well at Richards (she was told it was postponed due to weather). She thanked Mr. Wilkinson again for his work and support. Chairman Darling made a motion ***to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.*** It was seconded by Mr. Morris. ***The motion passed 3-0-0.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson, Recording Secretary

Approved on: February XX, 2023

The next regular meeting of the Newport School Board is scheduled on February 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lou Thompson Room.