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NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2014

Newfound Regional High School, 150 Newfound Road, Bristol, NH 03222

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Record Roll:

Sue Cheney, Alexandria - Present; (Arrived - 6:06)
 Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater - Present
 Ben LaRoche, Bristol - Present
 Ruby Hill, Danbury - Present
 Jeff Levesque, Groton - Present; (Arrived - 6:18)
 Don Franklin, Hebron - Present
 Christine Davol, New Hampton – Present

A Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 6:03 was made by Vincent Paul Migliore, Seconded by Donald Franklin. A role call vote was taken:

Alexandria – Absent at this time
 Bristol – Yes
 Bridgewater – Yes
 Danbury – Yes
 Groton – Absent at this time
 Hebron – Yes
 New Hampton – Yes
 Vote 5-0-2-0 (Minority - Alexandria and Groton Absent at this time) Motion *Passed* to go into Non-public at 6:03.

- IV. Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3, II(a): The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has the right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request should be granted.

Non-Public Items of Discussion:

- Increased the annual stipend for the District Treasurer
- Authorized a one year, ten hours a week - grant funded position of a Senior Project Coordinator; also three hours a week position for transition time for the incoming coordinator, grant funded position also.

Motion to leave Non-Public session and return to public session by Christine Davol, Seconded by Jeffrey Levesque.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Motion Passed.

Other Persons present for this Non-Public Session – Superintendent Buckley
Return from non-public at 6:34 PM

- V. Explanation of Agenda Format - Ruby Hill suggested that if people were still speaking at 10:30 pm, the meeting should reconvene on September 22, 2014, with only this topic on that agenda.
- VI. Approval or Modification of Agenda – No changes to the Agenda.
- VII. Progress toward School Board Goals
1. Successfully negotiate and support a collective bargaining agreement with the Newfound Area Teachers Association (NATA). A meeting is set for next week.
 2. Evaluate the use and purpose of district assets in order to develop a long-range plan that meets the needs of our population. Facilities committee had met. Minutes are included in Board Packet.
 3. Improve communication between the Board and its Stakeholders.
- VIII. Approval of Minutes
- i. August 11, 2014 – Corrections
Item IX. ii – Last sentence – Change to read: will not be filling the positions for guidance and second grade teachers at the Danbury and Bridgewater Hebron Village Schools.
Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Sue Cheney, Seconded by Christine Davol. Vote 7-0-0-0. Motion *Passed*.
- IX. Old Business
- i. 2nd read policies
 1. IHGB: Home Education Instruction – No changes for both policies from last meeting per Jeff Levesque. Moved to Consent Agenda
 2. IICC-F: Volunteer form and Confidentiality form – Moved to Consent Agenda
- X. New Business
- i. 1st read policies
 1. BDDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings – Jeff Levesque explained the changes which align to how the Board is currently handling public participation.
 2. GE: Exit Interviews – Jeff explained the additional changes made to the policy. This will allow some flexibility in the process.
 3. KBA: Public’s Right to Know – Adjustments made to cover costs. All Policies for first read Moved to Consent Agenda.
 - ii. Request from the Football Field Oversight Committee – Pete Cofran introduced the motion. The **Motion** that the Football Field Oversight committee

recommends to the School Board is to authorize the Newfound Area School District (NASD) to close the TD Bank Football field account and to transfer any balance into the NRHS Football activity account, in accordance with the agreement between the NASD and the Friends of Newfound Football, and for future funds to be deposited into this account. The Motion was made by Vincent Paul Migliore, Seconded by Benjamin La Roche The second motion: The Football Field Oversight Committee recommends to the School Board that the monies be allocated for the expense of paint for Morrison Field in the amount of \$540.00 was made by Jeffrey Levesque, Seconded by Sue Cheney. Both motions were placed on the Consent Agenda.

- iii. New Hampshire School Board Association's Request for Resolutions – Deadline for submission is October 24, 2014. No comments.
 - iv. Deliberative Session Date to be determined. The date was set for January 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., with a snow date of February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Moved by Vincent Paul Migliore, Seconded by Ruby Hill. Placed on the Consent Agenda.
 - v. Request for new grant funded position. (1 year, Title I positions.) Three schools qualify for Title I funds; Bristol, Bridgewater and Danbury, with New Hampton on a one year waiver. Looking to hire a 5 and 5.5 hour per day position at Bridgewater Hebron Village School and a 3 hour a day position at New Hampton. Placed on Consent Agenda.
 - vi. School Board signature on DOE 25. Mike Limanni asked this to be postponed. It should be completed by the end of the week.
 - vii. Review of letter from Newfound Area Teacher's Association – The actions had been cancelled; however, the letter was asked to be read. Ruby Hill read a letter from the Newfound Area Teacher's Association regarding 'work to rule' situation. Instead of implementing the Teacher's Association decided to launch a public relations strategy to get a message out through a more positive action.
 - viii. Update on Hill RFP. Our proposal was submitted. Hill will be meeting with their attorney to make the next step and future decisions.
- XI. Public Comment (on agenda items only per policy BDHD, 5 minute limit) (with the exception of item XVII which will be discussed separately) – Susan Colby, Bristol asked, when we submitted our proposal to Hill, she is wondering what the students pay currently to Franklin what that cost would be if they were one of our eight towns? Do we know what that number is? Ruby Hill replied that there will be more information to follow on this topic.
- XII. Motion to pass items on Consent Agenda made by Benjamin LaRoche, Seconded by Donald Fanklin. Vote: 7-0-0. *Motion Passed.*

- XIII. Motion on Individual Agenda Items. No Motion.
- XIV. Financial
 a. Approval of Manifest(s) None to approve
- XV. Announcements and Recognitions – Superintendent Stacy Buckley announced it was a great start to the school year. The buildings looked great. The core plus at the middle school is off to a great start. She recognized Skye Devarney as the 2014 Patricia Berring Teacher of the Year. She also distributed student enrollment information to the Board. Board welcomed Junior, Allison Smith, as the student representative.

Meeting will recess and be called to order in the auditorium

- XVI. Public Comment on Reconfiguration/Closure Motion

Time Limit: Two minutes per Speaker

- XVII. Reconfiguration/School Closure Motion Discussion –
Jeffrey Levesque, Groton; opened the discussion by saying; we have a million dollar problem. Closing the Middle School he said, he is not convinced it is the right solution, but he wants to start the conversation. He wants people to start talking about ‘What can we do?’

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater; stated he would like to invite anyone that would like to meet with him to speak with him on information on the topic. He said he is frustrated with not being able to focus on assisting our students with searching for college funding. He is frustrated because he does not have the time do it. We have been stuck in the weeds with all of the financial problems we have had to deal with. There are about a dozen issues that we have had to deal with that takes us away from the ability to address these issues; which is really what a school board should focus on. This becomes an opportunity for us to address it.

Sue Cheney, Alexandria; said she has given this a lot of thought, has had input from various people, some are ‘for’ and some are ‘against’. We have a lot of buildings for the student population that we have. We are down about 300 students over the past 10 years. This is supposed to be continuing trend. Maybe this could work. The Middle School needs a lot of repairs. Could we move the sixth graders to the elementary, which would allow for a recess, then move the seventh and eighth graders to the High School without adding a new wing? We also have teachers worried if they will still be here; well, someone has to teach those children no matter where they go.

Benjamin LaRoche, Bristol; said it is his goal the Newfound Area School District to continue to educate the student population at or above established standards. We are not ignoring the required educational components to succeed in the twenty first

century such as science, technology, engineering and math education. It is also my goal to provide this education in a setting that is conducive to learning and provides the highest degree of safety to our students and staff. As a Board, we continue to exercise financial responsibility on behalf of the tax payers and seek ways to meet these goals while providing the best goals for the money. In the face of a declining student population, a large amount of buildings that are requiring a large amount of upkeep and an absurdly high amount of usage space available, in some of these buildings. It is time to develop a plan that decreases the infrastructure in the district. In doing so, we can start to decrease the financial burden, meet our educational objectives, support the remaining infrastructure, retain an attractive workforce that will support this and be better prepared for the trends of a continued decrease in the district. He said he is not in favor of moving to a K-8 elementary model. He is not against new buildings, renovations or additions. They can be accomplished in a financially responsible manner.

Christine Davol, New Hampton; Stated adamantly against closing the middle school and moving the seventh and eighth graders to the high school. She continued to say she is tired of the time and energy this district spends on school studies. She is tired of putting a band aid on a gushing wound; tired of looking at declining numbers and basing all of our decisions on those. What she wants is a plan that makes sense. If in fact we do decided to close the middle school; how are we going to make the improvements needed? The elementary schools are busting at the seams. What improvements will we need to turn the high school into a junior high? I do not want my seventh or eighth grade daughter walking the halls, eating lunch, and interacting with the 16, 17 and 18 year old men of our high school. Middle school is time for self-preservation, and it is hard enough to live through fears at their own age, let alone older and more mature. So if you say to me that we can, and there is a plan that we will build on to the high school where the middle school students will have their own space; then I will listen. If you say to me we need to have another study to see what needs to be done, my vote is no.

Donald Franklin, Hebron; Stated that as part of the Bridgewater Hebron Village School withdrawal study, there has been no conclusion drawn on that. This proposal could effect that decision. But it comes down to what is best for our students. The proposal for the K-6 seems to make sense and would provide a little more control back to the individual towns. But that brings up the issue of how we deal with the middle school. That is where this assessment, input and review from the public can really have an effect on where we go in the future. He said he is open to a good responsible approach that will educate our students to the best of their abilities.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; Stated we have a compound motion under consideration. She recommend we separate the motion into two; independent from each other. One part is about academics. She liked the idea of a K-8, but it is not the best model for us. She supports the board in a K-6 district. Second piece is cost of education. The study has to come before the conclusion. Technically, we can put grade seven through twelve in the high school. When you try to keep them separate you sacrifice the

curriculum to make it work. The single gymnasium and fields pose another problem. I believe if we move to a seven to twelve it will cost about ten million dollars. This would be for an addition to the high school so it could service the students at the high school adequately and appropriately. Only an architecture study would confirm this, but a bond of this size would not help tax payers. I cannot support the second part of this motion.

Ruby opened the discussion to public comment.

Chet Devarney, Bristol; Commented that the reason teachers are leaving, it is not necessarily the money. Over the last several years, we have all made sacrifices to save jobs. But every year we keep hearing, a new school is going to close. People are scared to death to lose their jobs. I am not getting how you are going to save positions. It is going to have to happen. It is something to think about.

Archie Auger, Bristol; Spoke of his experience as a middle school assistant principal. He said he strongly recommends we keep our current education system as it stands. He said one school board member spoke to this and he heard too little from other board members,

Steve Favorite, Bristol; Stated that in construction, in several buildings he has worked in over the years, he has seen buildings that have had tornado and structural damage. He has looked at the middle school and asked what we can do with the existing structure. He said he has looked at the back of the building and we could add on 16 rooms. It would keep the students in town, get rid of the busses, give the teachers more parking. Yes it would cost more money. We have been putting this off. Time is of the essence.

Diane Dexter, Hebron; Said she does not believe the seventh and eighth grades should be put in the high school. If Hill comes to our district, how would that effect space in the buildings?

Mike Gromko, Alexandria; Said he would agree, we could expand the middle school. He does not believe the seventh and eighth grade would work in the high school. He had a situation with a high schooler coming down the middle school, going to visiting sports team bus harassing another team. We ought to start thinking about the children, not about the budget. We have ample room at the middle school for a new wing. Why can't we just have one good structure?

Stephanie Bednas, Bridgewater; Commented that she has 20 years of teaching experience and has two children attending school in the district and commends the board for bringing the idea forward. She said it is bringing productive tension to help move in a positive direction. If we don't change we are going to lose more and more of the good things that are happening here. We don't need six buildings. You teachers deserve a much fairer pay scale. We don't have the money to do that

because we have a high tax rate and all of our money is going to those old buildings. Let's come up with a good plan that is good for everybody.

Alison Smith, Hebron; Said she felt her transition from elementary school to middle school was tough. If the sixth grade students were kept at the elementary level, they would miss out on the transition period. The high school is not a place for seventh and eighth grade students.

Julie Hayward, Bristol; Said she has three children in Bristol Elementary School. She is a product of a seven through twelve grade school configuration and considers herself normal. It is the way it is done. She said we need to move on with a plan. We have all these facilities. Kids are going to start leaving, teachers will not have jobs.

Shane Tucker, Bristol; Said, thank God, his kids have gone through this district, very successfully. Right now he is very irritated. We talk about the decline of students. What about in 10 years if the population grows, and one of the existing structures needs to have an expansion. I plan on being here. You will ask for money to expand. I am not going to support it. I'll be the first to hold the sign that says 'I told you so'.

Janet Cote, Bristol; I am listening and am trying to figure out if there is a timeline or concrete information coming from this discussion tonight. I believe this is a reality check for this district. We need leadership and community support for what is the future of this district. It is time to look at the best structure with the children in mind.

Julaine Gelderman, Bristol; We have had a lot of studies done last one created by Superintendent Stacy Buckley in November 2013. The study showed, in order to do a K-6 we would need one or two classrooms at BES, we would need one classroom at NHCS, and DES needed one classroom. Our own study said the seventh and eighth grade would need a science lab and six to seven classrooms. I feel we have already done the study that says this is not a viable configuration. You can't just close down the middle school. What are you going to do with it? It is a 'white elephant'. We are not even sure who owns it. I just read that NH has a 1% increase in its enrollment? Where are they going?

Barbara Greenwood, Bristol; A graduate of the elementary school said it took them 25 years and a court case to get the middle school approved. She is not looking forward to another twenty five years to solve the problem. She asked what the problem is. People her age; don't have the opportunity to find out what is going on. She was asked over the summer by a parent, what her thoughts were on the subject. She said she did not know anything about it. You have to identify the problems before a lot of us can see what the options are. She would love for someone to do some articles so that we would have some idea. I'm sure we have enough intelligence here to figure it out.

Rebecca Taylor, Bristol; Her eldest graduated last year, she had wanted to leave the district. Her junior has a 504 plan that is not followed. She also has a sixth grader. Her issue is with her daughter, while on the bus the kids are drinking alcohol. Middle school is a key issue for these kids. New Hampton is old; it has a hard time as a facility for the kids that are there currently. We talked in the past of closing Danbury, but that was shot down. That would have displaced 70 students. Now you are looking to displace 300 kids at the middle school. You are effecting the education of a lot more students.

Shantel Fournier, New Hampton; Said she does not want this. Kids need the middle school. They need this time to adjust. Whatever money you need, put it the middle school, let them grow the way they need to.

Jan Van Dusan, Danbury; Said she understands the board has a big responsibility. She is new to the district and is new to the fact that there are 7 towns coming together, which brings issues she is not even aware of. I do agree with the comments made about your financial responsibilities to the tax payers. Paramount to that is your responsibility to the students. Not enough has been said about that particular issue. I'd like some more information about how things are going to be administrated at the high school. You are talking about lots of different challenges. Finally there a few things that draw people to a town that adds to your tax base to make you more attractive; jobs resources and an excellent education.

Jennifer McKay, Bristol; Commented that she loves the principal at Bristol Elementary School. However, she is horrified at the school district. She is really looking to send her children someplace else. Having two children and no money they had no other options. She is looking at home school; she wants them to have an amazing learning environment. She looks at the school and sees broken bike racks, the playground equipment is deplorable. It is confusing to her. Where is her money going? It is not an education for her children.

Pete Cofran, Athletic Director, Newfound Regional High School; focus is directed at athletic teams, if we bring up teams from the middle school it will make it very interesting. Outside fields are in poor condition. It is not acceptable, but it seems to be way things are done at these times. Where would we find time for the middle school students? Storage would also be an issue. It would help if we were still able to use Kelley Park.

Jon Sellers, Bristol; Voice by proxy for wife Donna; we are trying to do some things to save the district thousands of dollars in transportation by altering the start and stop times for busses. His wife was a bus driver from White Mountain, with years of experience. They have submitted their ideas to the board on ways the district could save money

Susan Colby, Bristol; Commented on Jeffrey Levesque point. She has looked around and seen the concerned faces. There are parents that would like nothing more than to

be here, but could not. There are parents that are sick of having to have to come and fight for their children. This is a lot of negative information for parents new to the district. I do know we need to change. I think we should welcome Hill. We should improve our district so we are not losing them to homeschool and private school.

Terry Murphy, Bridgewater; Said there are some realities we need to address. That one percent; the school age population in New Hampshire is going way down. He checked today with the Department of Education; there are no increases, it continues to decline. He looked at the Department of Census data, the decline is significant mainly because that is the way demographics work. You pay some of the highest prices in the state to educate your students. The output measures; the middle school is in the lower 26%. It has never gone over 40%. Other parts of the state do far better. We need to focus on kids doing better in school. They do really well in the elementary schools – in the 80th or 90th percentile. Then they drop when they get to the middle school. You need to make some fundamental changes.

Bob Brooks, Hebron; Asked if the board is considering this motion, and at the same time are they considering adding the Hill students for more revenue, then to me that is sending a mixed message. If you need to improve the middle school, then just do it while it is financially reasonable; if only so the new Hill students will have a place to go and the district doesn't lose out on getting them.

Jen Simons, Bristol; She said we really need to invest in our school district. We need to make it more attractive to new parents. Your job is to make this an attractive school district for everybody and to keep the education for our children.

Jeff Levesque, Groton; asked for a show of hands for support of the K-6 program. Approximately a dozen hands were raised. He said we are doing something very important by discussing the issue at this time. We need to pick one plan and do it.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; said it is hard to support a K-6 because it is mixed with a closure. We have to talk about spending money. People are opposed to K-8. People came out and voted against this. In Plymouth they have just completed a renovation similar to what we could do at the middle school. I would rather spend 10 million dollars to fix our schools than to add on to this one.

An audience member asked if she had looked into going green or solar to offset the costs. Ruby Hill replied she looked only at building aid which is frozen until 2015.

Jeff Levesque, Groton; posed other alternatives for the middle school. He asked for a vote to close up the elementary school, have one physical plant for two groups of students. Approximately 23 people responded to this option in favor of the idea.

Suzanne Pfister, Bristol; said she has heard a lot about financial, which is a very tough subject but it is the Danbury school. Stacy Buckley said there are 70 students currently enrolled at that school. Suzanne Pfister continued saying we have spoken

about it costing over a million a year, to keep it going. It does not make sense to me. Why not put that money (by closing the school) and in three years' time we could have the money to replace the windows at the middle school. I just don't understand.

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater; said it is a tough challenge for those of us on the board. I don't know how to rectify it other than I am grateful to Jeff Levesque for beginning to discuss what these problems are. We have yet to articulate what those issues are. When it comes down to compensating our support staff fairly, and compensating our professional staff fairly, how are we going get that money? It is 80 to 85% of our budget. We are faced with it on an ongoing basis. He asked how many people have watched the video Communities and Consequences. It is on the school website. It talks about the reason we are losing population. We are investing in infrastructure, that trend has not reversed. Rather than pay our profession staff and support in a fair manner, that is the challenge, we on the board are faced with. Something has to be done. We have pick this up and come up with the best resolution. We have had a lot of issues that we have had to deal with as a board. We have had a 10% budget cut, a tax cap, we lost a superintendent, then we had a legislative issue with an error on the tax cap, Danbury withdrawal issues, Danbury K-6 Petition, Project Promise fiasco that took a quarter of a million dollars out of our budget that we had to pay back to the state, the teachers' contract was defeated, Bridgewater-Hebron wants to do a study which turned into a Bridgewater-Hebron withdrawal. We need to share this information with you so you understand in more depth.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; stated she came up with a cost of ten million, by looking at other schools. She said she would like to have an architectural study done. As part of the middle school project she said she would like to see a special education section as well as room for the SAU Offices.

Jeffrey Levesque added as our enrollment goes down our adequacy aid goes down.

Archie Auger, Bristol; Noted he had served as chair on the Budget Committee for three years. He does not support closure of the middle school. He said things cycle. We do need space for students. Accepting payment from incoming students (Hill) would certainly help smooth things out. He wants the board to think what is best educationally for the kids. He would like to know what is so wrong with the physical plant at the middle school. He has not heard any solid plan of what needs to take place and how much it is going to cost. Until you get that, I am not willing to support anything except keeping the educational structure you currently have.

Terry Murphy, Bridgewater; Asked for a poll of the board as to the educational quality of the middle school. Everything that they are talking about is facilities and money. But you are not talking about what you are going to do to change the educational output. We are not doing well with what you are doing now. Don't blame it on the building. Don't blame it on the teachers. What are you going to do? You are elected to make a decision. You have all the data. That is what you are

supposed to be the leaders for. Everyone says you can teach in a closet. Turn around and do something. Nothing has happened in years. The school education output is poor. We are glossing it over.

Christine Davol, New Hampton; replied, we now have a curriculum coordinator; that is a huge addition to the district. The high school and middle school have worked diligently to improve a schedule to have intervention times. I would love to see this next coming year in regards to what improvements we have made.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; stated that Superintendent Stacy Buckley has only been with the district one year. The first year she has had to restructure the Special Education Department. This year she has had to focus on middle and high school schedule. I don't think that she has been given time to show that this can work. We can't tell you the results until we have implemented the changes.

Terry Murphy, Bridgewater; said he is not saying the current administration is not fantastic. They are. The problem is we have had promises for twenty years and this middle school has had problems that length of time. It has not gone away. The frustrating fact is you can't even make a change in one grade in one school.

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater; pointed out the board had received a letter from Newfound Area Teachers Association stating their moral was at an all-time low. He asked the public, with that in mind, if they were the school board; how would you deal with the issues? He noted it is primarily financially based. Ruby Hill disagreed. Vincent Paul Migliore continued by stating that a substantial amount of money will be required to get the teachers' contract to pass.

Repeal of the tax cap was discussed.

Kathleen Connor, Hebron; stated there is a huge assumption that the discomfort in morale is related solely to money. Her perspective is it is not just about the money. Assumptions are being made. There are a huge amount of people in this district that have thoughts and ideas. She wouldn't want to venture and make assumptions. She wants a vision. There is no model that says this is going to work.

Justine Kimball, Bristol; Said the point of the middle school closing was to save money. She said if we get grade six back to the elementary school and seventh and eighth grade to the high school, everything is going to quadruple. We should look at alternatives. Right now the economy stinks is the reason the contracts did not pass. We are all struggling. Let's get Hill in and see what we can do

Ruby Hill, Danbury; suggested to the board to commission an architectural study on the buildings.

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater; said the discussion is not yet done. People have not been exposed to enough information to fundamentally understand the problem.

Commissioning another study is not the right choice. He is opposed to spending money on it. He said we should continue the discussion on the topic at the September 22nd, Planning and Dialog meeting.

Wendy Cantwell, New Hampton; Said she loves the middle school. The building was fine two years ago when we wanted to send the fifth graders there. Now it is not. She asked where the capital improvement is. They are not ready to be in the same building as an 18 year old quarter-back. Students need that transition.

Archie Auger, Bristol; said he would like the board to do a white sheet on the facts; a four page report with bullet items you think we ought to know, and publish it in the paper.

Stephanie Bednas, Bridgewater; said that in her opinion, Hill is a drop in the bucket in a sinking ship. What she has seen in other districts that she does not see here is a long term plan. The other thing is we are missing strong leadership. She asked who is running the show. She asked if it is the Superintendent. We need that person who is making the decisions.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; said she would like to see Hill come in. We have done long range plans before, but they have price tags attached. We need the public support to get it passed.

Sue Cheney' Alexandria; stated we are not spending enough money on maintenance in the budget. It is too low.

Stacy Buckley stated she has been with the district over a year. She has been here for the Danbury and Bridgewater Hebron Village School Studies. That is what she has spent her time doing. For those that know me, I make those tough decisions; with the best interest of the students. She stated she has come from a district that was ranked the best in the state with under \$10,000.00 cost per student. It can be done. We have to work together to do this. I encourage the board to work as a board; not as seven individuals – to come together to make a decision so that we can continue to focus on education. We have made significant changes. Every time we go off task it takes away from education. It takes away all the time and dedication we need to improve education in this district. You now have feedback. Take that information and make a decision on what we do. No matter what that decision is, we will work through it. Let's be positive, for our students, but with the tax payer in mind.

Kevin Glidden, Bristol; He has looked at the budget, in particular the maintenance object code. The middle school is \$1,110.00. He said what we are seeing with the infrastructure here; we talk about broken schools, we don't have enough money. We have a school board that is afraid of tax payers. I think we have done a poor job over the last thirty years educating voters at the polls on tax day to support the school budget that we all know we need. It has been said, by many people on the school board, 80 to 85% of the budget is people, and the benefits associated with those

people – teachers. So, on the flip side of that, 15 to 20% of that is for other items. So fixing a school is less than 10% of the budget. We just don't have enough money. I challenge the school board and the budget committee both, to put out the data people are asking for, and bring a plan. Make these people understand the impact to support the budget. If we close the middle school what becomes of that. It is the next mica building. It is going to cost fifteen million to tear it down. Or it is low income housing with more students. It is a never-ending problem. It is a budget problem.

Elizabeth Vogler, Bristol; Stated she has 30 years teaching experience in the district. She suggested we not reinvent the wheel and get the best model for our kids.

No Motion taken at this time.

Sue Cheney, Alexandria; said she did not come prepared tonight to make a decision. She said we do need to have time to process what has been discussed this evening. She agreed with the planning and dialogue meeting. She agreed we need to make a decision shortly after that meeting, with no more studies.

Ruby Hill, Danbury; stated the board members can only have conversations regarding these issues in public. She agreed with continuing with the discussion at the Planning and dialogue meeting of September 22, 2014 meeting with a fact sheet.

Carol Huber, Bristol; Said we have a problem. The board knows it. Tax payers cannot afford to pay their taxes. We have a lot of elderly in town. She said she is retired, but working full time because she cannot afford not to. She thinks a lot of people come from a six and six education. She is not opposed to that. If some people think there are no drugs in the middle school they should think again. Have we talked to other school districts?

XVIII. Action, if Necessary, on Reconfiguration/School Closure Motion – No Motion.

XIX. Other Business – None.

XX. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn made by Benjamin LaRoche, Seconded by Christine Davol at 9:18 PM. Vote: 7-0-0-0.

Motion Passed.

Staff Present: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent; Mike Limanni, Business Administrator, Ann Holton, Student Services Administrator, Therese Wetherington, Curriculum Coordinator; Anne Holloran, Principal New Hampton/ Danbury Elementary Schools; Dana Andrews, Principal Bridgewater Hebron Village School, Mollay Jallah, Principal Bristol Elementary School; Paul Hoiiris, Vice Principal Newfound Regional High School; Eric Chase, Principal Newfound Memorial Middle School, Trisha Lewis, Vice Principal, Newfound Memorial Middle School; Mimi Freeman Staff Liaison; Fred Robinson, Media; Leah McDevitt, Clerk.

Public Present:

Alexandria: Pam Plankey, Ann Holloran, Autumn Doan, Kerry Cillery, Mrs. Michael Hislop Sr., Michael Hislop Jr., Karen Coughlin, Mel Shokal, Rita Browne, Lisa Heath, Peter Heath, Melissa Gromko, Jay Peringer, Harold T. Reilly Sr.

Bridgewater: Kris Henry, Susan Karkheck, Ramona Joyce, John Joyce, Terrance Murphy, Stephanie Bednas, Christina Reynolds, Nancy Dineen, Tara Pierce, Kathy Bird, Jennifer Schofield.

Bristol: Alice Mickewicz, Carol Huber, Barbara Greenwood, Elizabeth Vogler, Karen Lukeman, Paul Simard, Mary Simard, Tom Caldwell, Margaret Hagle, Max Camara, Mary Camara, Chet Devarney, Elizabeth Vogler, Jenn, Simon, Jim Simon, Melanie Downes, Erin Camire, Ben Learned, Scott Sanschagrin, Seanna Sanschagrin, John Sellers, Bristol, Donna Sellers, Janet Cote, Robin Camire, Archie L. Augier, Kristin Paterson, Christen Dolloff, Kevin Glidden, Tammy Glidden, Ann Learned, Joannie Robie, Heather Gosson, Michelle, Costigan, Shane Tucker, Jullaine Geldermann, Jennifer MacKay, Julie Hayward, Susan Colby, R. Taylor, J. Taylor, Vanessa Robert, Alisha Langill, Joe Lukeman, Mary Macaffrie, Garlyn Manganiello, Paul Manganiello, Suzanne Pfister, Susan Peterson.

Danbury: Chris Springer, A. Seymour, Sharon Klapyk, Jane Van Dusan.

Groton: Leeann Levesque, Christine Goodwin.

Hebron: Kathleen Connor, Paul Connor, Bob Brooks.

New Hampton: Jesse Whalen, Kevin Drake, Cheryl Drake, Kristine Braman, Jefferson Braman, Andy Beshhada, Chantelle Fournier, Matt Seaver, Melissa Jenness.

Plymouth: Darlene Smith.

Rumney: Bonnie Beadle.

Non-residents: Barbara Weatherbee, Bonnie Beadle.

Videographer(s): Ray and Karen Courchaine

Respectfully submitted by,
Leah McDevitt