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NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**School Minutes**

For

Monday, May 11, 2015

6:00 Non Public Session

6:30 p.m. Public Session

Location: LMC- Newfound Regional High School

I. Call to Order by Jeffrey Levesque at 6:11 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Record Roll:

Sue Cheney, Alexandria – Arrived at 6:12

Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater - Present

Benjamin LaRoche, Bristol - Present

Jeffrey Levesque, Groton – Arrived at 6:11

Donald Franklin, Hebron – Present

Christine Davol, New Hampton - Present

Sharon Klapyk, Danbury – Present

IV. **Motion** to move to non-public session based on RSA 91-A:3 (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 a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

Made by Vincent Paul Migliore, seconded by Donald Franklin

Roll call vote:

Alexandria - Yes

Bridgewater - Yes

Bristol - Yes

Danbury - Yes

Groton - Yes

Hebron - Yes

New Hampton - Yes

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion Passed*

Entered in nonpublic session at 6:14

Other Persons present for this non-public session: Superintendent Stacy Buckley.

Description of matters discussed and final decision made: discussed resignations and nominations.

**Motion** to leave nonpublic session and return to public session at 6:30 made by Christine Davol, seconded by Sue Cheney *Motion Passed*.

- Chair, Jeff Levesque asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of past Superintendent, George Corrette.
- V. Approval or Modification of Agenda –  
 XI h. Added – Discussion on voting to ‘abstain’ by board members  
 XI a. Student presentation regarding sign request - Moved up on the Agenda, after Announcements and Recognitions.
- VI. Approval of Minutes  
 a. April 13, 2015 – Corrections: Page 3, Item X c. Second sentence should read: all schools. - Not singular.  
 Page 3, Additional bullet should read: Fifth Grade Concert to be held April 22.
- VII. Public Comment – Tom Caldwell, Bristol; Inquired about the new school board member. The new Board member from Danbury is Sharon Klapyk.
- VIII. Correspondence: Mike Limanni noted that the current expenditure report is included in the packet. He continues to watch the bottom line.
- IX. Announcements and Recognition  
 a. Staff Liaison Report – None.  
 b. Student Liaison Report – Excused. Stacy Buckley reported on her behalf. The prom was held this past Saturday; a great time was had by all. Stacy Buckley noted they are in the process of elections for a new student representative for the School Board.  
 c. Superintendent Report – Stacy Buckley reported a lot of exciting events were happening:
  - High School Spring Concert – May 13.
  - Thursday the Middle School has planned a Murder Mystery Theater. The sound system has been installed at the Middle School.
  - Middle School Spring Concert – May 20.
  - Bristol Elementary Spring Concert – May 21.
  - May 25, Memorial Day – No School.
  - Danbury Elementary School Spring Concert – June
  - Senior Recognition Day – June 4.
  - Stacy Buckley reported that on April 22, the State Board of Education recognized the Hill Agreement. She is working with all of the schools for the transition activities.
  - Stacy Buckley is also interviewing for various positions. She reminded all to come meet the Bristol Elementary Principal candidates this Thursday and next Monday.
  - Stacy Buckley shared she is starting to plan and map out for the kindergarten program. She noted enrollment has been challenging. Danbury is at 4, Bristol enrollment currently is at 27, which is significantly lower than what it historically has been. She is looking at

alternatives and options. She does not want to hire a third teacher she does not have a position for.

- Anne Holton has been working on the preschool and adding that additional teacher. It will be an integrated program as opposed to a special education program. It will be a role model program. There will be a tuition fee to cover the costs of materials.
- Superintendent Buckley gave recognition to Tech. Director, Joshua Mulloy. She attended a very informative technology conference with Mike Limanni which Josh Mulloy assisted in coordinating. They spoke of the implementation of a one to one program. We are looking to work with the Tech Dept. to put together a multi-year plan. She noted there is a lot of planning, preparation and training that will go into this.

- X. a. Samuel McClory, gave his Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) presentation on the water quality and health of 10 Mile Brook which he has been working on with Amy Yeakel. He would like to display his findings on the health of the brook by constructing a sign on school property. He gave a proposal for a request for the signage for the project. His decision is based on something that will last forever. **Motion** by Donald Franklin, second by Sue Cheney to approve Samuel McClory's request to go forward with the sign proposal as presented to attach to a tree to use at 10 Mile Brook. Vote: 7-0-0-0 *Motion Passed.*

b. Other

XI. Old Business

- a. 2<sup>nd</sup> read policies:
- i. JEB/JEB-R: Age of Entrance and Regulations – Christine Davol noted there were long discussions on the policy but the committee determined that no change to the proposed language was needed. By agreement, it was placed on the Consent Agenda
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> read policies:
- i. BE: School Board email and communications – Donald Franklin asked for clarification on 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, regarding discussion of email; the board decided to get clarification from NHSBA legal counsel, Barret Christina. Vincent Paul Migliore requested that worded on Bullet No. 2 be changed from 'shall' to 'may'. Vincent Paul Migliore requested the policy go back to the committee for further review.
- c. Last Day of School follow up conversation – Superintendent Buckley stated that has worked out a plan should the Board wish to eliminate the last day of school which is a Monday and a ½ day. She noted that she would need a valid reason to request a waiver for the last day of school. It would result in Friday as the last day for students and Monday would be the last day for teachers. Christine Davol said she has been approached by parents. They asked her, what is the point of going to school on the last day if it is a Monday? She said since those persons did not come forward to the meeting, she is inclined to keep it as scheduled. No Action taken. The last day of school will remain on Monday June 22nd.

## XII. New Business

- a. Student presentation regarding sign request – Moved to IX d.
- b. Football Field Oversight Committee request – Pete Cofran spoke on behalf of the Football Field Oversight Committee. He asked the Board for \$550.00 to seed the field. Second request was to sell up to 50 parking spaces for \$50.00 each for home games.
- c. Resignations – Superintendent Buckley announced three Professional Staff Resignations effective June 30, 2015: Carrie Ware, High School; Chet Devarney, Skye Devarney both Newfound Memorial Middle School.
- d. Nomination – Superintendent Buckley announced the nomination of Amber Barsaleau, High School Special Education Teacher, at Masters Step 8, start date August 28, 2015.
- e. Field Trip(s) Request – Laura Hutchins and Megan Guldner presented the field trip activity: Iceland: Glaciers & Geysers, scheduled for April 2016. They explained the price is \$3,080 per student. It is open to all students. They are looking for one of the parents to take charge of the fund raising committee. It will combine Art with Science. Thirteen students have signed up, more are interested. It is an opportunity for the students to complete an ELO. There was discussion on health insurance, which is included in the cost. The Board was enthusiastic about the trip.
- f. Handbook Review and Approval – The handbooks have gone through the policy committee. The Policy Committee recommended they go to the Board for approval.
  - i. NRHS Faculty Staff Handbook
  - ii. NMMS Faculty Staff Handbook
  - iii. BES Faculty Staff Handbook
  - iv. NHCS Faculty Staff Handbook
  - v. DES Faculty Staff Handbook
  - vi. BHVS Faculty Staff Handbook
- g. Next Meeting: May 26 (Tuesday) Topic: School Board Evaluation. It was agreed to meet on May 26, 2015 at 6:30. There will be some end of the year expenditures to bring to the board.

Jeff Levesque reported he recently attended a meeting for NH School Board Association (NHSBA). One of the focuses was to keep the meetings on track within a reasonable time frame. It was discussed to replace the Consent Agenda with General Consent. The Pros and Cons were discussed. He noted the General Consent, or the Consent Agenda, shall not be used for any items involving money. At the training, they also suggested limiting Public Comment to Agenda Items only. Jeff Levesque said he does not see any need to curtail public comment. There was a discussion about an abstention vote – only a vote of yea, or nay counts towards the vote. Jeff Levesque reported that by voting ‘abstention’ you are eliminating yourself from the Board for that item. So a seven member Board becomes a six member Board, for example. Essentially, they were told from the meeting Jeff Levesque said, if you want to abstain you should vote ‘no’. Jeff Levesque did note that if a Board member did have reservations, they should vote

‘no’ and not ‘abstain’. In most situations that does apply. He suggested to ‘abstain’ if you have a conflict, but state what that conflict is. Vincent Paul Migliore explained the historic process of the Consent Agenda; the benefit for the board member’s to reflect on the issue and then hear public comment which is the process of the Consent Agenda. He is in favor of keeping this approach. Jeff Levesque stated he likes the format of our meetings as they are, Christine Davol agreed. Benjamin LaRoche stated that clarification needs to be made that the majority vote is of the votes cast, or voters present. Jeffrey Levesque summarized by saying, if we were not to change, we may find ourselves in a legal challenge. NHSBA is clear; an abstention is not a vote. Stacy Buckley commented that every board member has a right to vote how they want to vote. She said she does not want the board to leave with the thought they are forced to vote ‘no’. They do get to ‘abstain’. She said it has been, in her experience, the votes cast; yes or no, that count. Mike Limanni added that if one board member does not have the information to vote, the item may be tabled. He offered administrative support to the board.

- XIII. Public Comment (on agenda items only per policy BDDH, 5 minute limit) – Tom Caldwell (Bristol) Stated regarding the ‘abstention’ issue – He said it is not necessarily you are against it, in some cases you don’t favor, you may not have the right information. People should vote as they feel qualified or inclined to vote. In regards to limiting public comment, he suggested they do not make any changes. He said he is very much against the idea of renting out public property to an organization. He feels it is not right. It is setting the wrong precedent. It is tax payer funded property. To rent it to benefit any one organization is not right. The Friends of Football started out as something outside of tax payer funding. They weren’t going to be asking us for any money. Now tax payers are funding the program. Granted, they work hard for it. I don’t take that away from them at all, they maintain the field, that is great, but, we just voted to give more money in the budget for the football program. I don’t think we should start renting out school district property to benefit them as well. There are plenty of other ways they can raise money. I feel it is very wrong to rent public property for whatever reason.

Heather Gosson (Bristol), spoke regarding the ‘abstention’ issue. She stated, if there are too many abstentions, they should table the vote, because obviously, people do not understand. She feels they should state why they are abstaining. If they do not tell why, it looks like (the Board Member) is not invested in the vote. It is nice to know what your reason was. Maybe you do not have enough information, or you were not at the meeting.

- XIV. Jeffrey Levesque asked if there were any objections to items on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none the motion was made.

Consent Agenda items:

- X. a. Policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Motion** to approve items on the Consent Agenda made by Benjamin LaRoche, seconded by Sue Cheney Vote 7-0-0-0; *Motion Passed*.

XV. Motion on Individual Agenda Items

**Motion** to approve the Minutes as amended made by Benjamin LaRoche, seconded by Donald Franklin.

Vote: 6-0-1-0; *Motion Passed.* (Minority, Danbury –Abstained)

**Motion** to approve the Football Field Committee Oversight recommendation to the School Board to approve the amount of \$550.00 to be allocated for the expense of fertilizer and seed for Morrison Field made by Benjamin LaRoche, seconded by Vincent Paul Migliore Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion passed.*

**Motion** to recommend to the School Board that Friends of Newfound Football be permitted annually to rent up to 20 parking spots on Morrison Field for all the Home Varsity Football games for the amount of \$50.00 each commencing in the 2015-2016 school year. The proceeds from this fund raiser will go towards maintenance cost of Morrison Field made by Vincent Paul Migliore, seconded by Benjamin LaRoche.

Discussion: Vincent Paul Migliore defended the idea of renting parking spaces stating the reason, while it is public property; they are running out of ways to raise funds. Jeff Levesque stated we have a good football program and the benefits outweigh the negatives. Ben LaRoche said his concerns were similar to Tom Caldwell's, however, it allows for a good fund raising mechanism.

Vote: 6-1-0-0; *Motion passed* (Minority - New Hampton Minority).

Resignations: **Motion** made by Vincent Paul Migliore to accept the resignations, with regret, as presented by the Superintendent, seconded by Donald Franklin.

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion passed.*

Nominations: **Motion** to accept the nomination as presented by the Superintendent, Amber Barsaleau, High School Special Education Teacher, made by Sue Cheney, seconded by Christine Davol.

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion Passed.*

Field Trip request: **Motion** to approve the Iceland field trip request as modified, for the Art and Science Departments at a cost of \$3,080 per student; Motion made by Donald Franklin, seconded by Jeffrey Levesque.

Discussion: The Board noted it was a unique destination and very impressive.

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion passed.*

Handbooks – **Motion** to accept all handbooks as presented this evening, made by Christine Davol, seconded by Sue Cheney.

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion passed.*

**Motion** that the board recognize that abstentions are not a vote and the outcome of the vote will be determined by the majority of the votes cast, made by Benjamin LaRoche, seconded by Vincent Paul Migliore.

Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion Passed.*

XVI. Financial

- a. Approval of Manifest(s) **Motion** to approve January, February and March 2015 manifests made by Sue Cheney, seconded by Jeffrey Levesque.

Vote: 6-0-1-0; *Motion passed.* (Minority – Danbury)

- XVII. Other Business – Vincent Paul Migliore stated relative to Jeff Levesque’s concern for no surprises, one of the debatable matters is to have ‘Other Business’ segment on the agenda. Someone could bring something up that the Board Chair was not aware of. It is posted and the public is aware that matters could be brought up at that time. Jeffrey Levesque stated as Chair, he would not accept a motion on ‘Other Business’ for anything other than to include at the next meeting. He stated it is a good place holder to do things. Leaving ‘Other Business’ allow for notice for people to bring things up they would like to talk about at the next meeting.

Vincent Paul Migliore stated he would like to revisit the approved budget; the approved budget prior to bringing Hill into the District that now will bring us additional revenue. He would like to know what the plan is to address that. Superintendent Buckley stated they are researching some of those issues. There is a process that has to be followed she stated.

Christine Davol announced New Hampton Community is putting on a blood drive. She would like to donate and challenged those around the table that can donate to donate with her.

- XVIII. Adjournment - **Motion** to adjourn made by Benjamin LaRoche, seconded by Christine Davol at 9:20. Vote: 7-0-0-0; *Motion passed.*

**Staff Present:** Stacy Buckley, Superintendent; Mike Limanni, Business Administrator, Therese Wetherington, Curriculum Coordinator; Fred Robinson, Media; Joshua Mulloy, Media; Leah McDevitt, Clerk.

**Public Present:**

Bristol: Tom Coldwell, Heather Gosson

Staff: Pete, Cofran, Laura Hutchins, Amy Yeakel.

Student: Samuel McClory

Respectfully submitted: Leah McDevitt