

Notice: These minutes are in D R A F T format, and shall remain as such as the legal record in compliance with RSA 91:A in their written archival form. They are likely to contain errors and may be in need of correction which can only be done in public in a properly-posted, subsequent meeting of the School Board. Accordingly, you are referred to the minutes of a subsequent (i.e. future -- but not necessarily the next sequential) meeting of the Board to identify what may have been changed as an approved and properly modified record in compliance with law.

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Minutes
 Monday, September 26, 2016
 Location: LMC- Newfound Regional High School

- I. Call to Order at 6:31 p.m. by Jeff Levesque
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Record Roll:

Sue Cheney, Alexandria	arrived at 6:45 p.m.
Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater	arrived at 6:45 p.m.
Jason Robert, Bristol	present
Jeff Levesque, Groton	present
Don Franklin, Hebron	present
Christine Davol, New Hampton	present
Sharon Klapyk, Danbury	present
- IV. Approval or Modification of Agenda
 Jeff Levesque suggested a modification to delete consent agenda items since minutes are the only item requiring a vote.
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 12, 2016
 Correction- p.4 "Jason" Robert is the new Bristol representative, not "John" Robert. Jeff Levesque moved to accept the minutes. Sharon Klapyk seconded.
 Vote 5-0-0-2 **Motion Passed** (Bridgewater and Alexandria arrived later)
 - b. September 17, 2016
- VI. Public Comment
 None
- VII. Correspondence
 None
- VIII. Announcements and Recognition
 - a. Staff Liaison Report
 None
 - b. Student Liaison Report
 Nicholas Crosby reported that high school guidance has offered seniors help with common applications and financial aid. Homecoming events are this week. The Open

House was successful with various clubs and organizations displaying information, demonstrating Socratic seminars and student panels. Two foreign exchange students were there and the overall climate was positive. Pete Cofran reported that the Unified Soccer team won their game tonight.

c. Superintendent Report

- Stacy Buckley reported the middle school open house held a barbeque for 250 people and the high school hosted about 150 people. Parents and guardians appreciated the opportunity to meet with teachers.
- Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony coincides with Homecoming October 1. From 2-3 p.m. is a reception in the cafeteria and from 3-4 p.m. is the induction ceremony.
- Saturday night football under the lights October 1 for Homecoming.

d. Other

IX. District Presentations (15 minutes each, with follow up Q and A)

a. 18-21-year-old program overview

Stacy Buckley explained that the four upcoming presentations offer a glimpse of highlights the school board has approved over the past year.

First, Anne Holton said that historically the 18-21-year olds were contracted outside the district for services and sometimes the connection with those students was lost. Stephanie Burge has continued to develop Newfound Connections for students transitioning and introduced her staff: Kyrie Guyotte, Kristina Jordan and Rhonda Downing. Stephanie passed out a letter of appreciation from a mother of a transitioning student. Kyrie, Kristina and Rhonda introduced a slideshow overview of career exploration opportunities, the Bear Trap project, cooking and life skills, greenhouse, setting long and short term goals, and showed a short video of “Jayme at work.” The objective of the 18-21-year old program is teaching the student to become independent.

b. Integrated preschool updates

Historically only special education students were enrolled in the preschool program. The district moved to an integrated model last year. The integrated model benefits both typically developing and special education students. Samantha Morrill and Debra Guillotte explained that Eureka Math actually starts at the preschool level so they are preparing children for later pre-K and Kindergarten. Sue Petersen, Kindergarten teacher spoke about the benefits of the preschool program. Language has improved in a language rich environment where typical students model verbal skills to special education students. Socializing is also helpful in making learning fun. B-HVS currently has twelve 3-year olds in the morning and sixteen pre-K students in the afternoon.

c. Senior Project updates (Amy Yeakel)

Amy Yeakel, Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator, presented on the changes she has implemented for the high school senior project which must be completed for one credit as a graduation requirement. The senior project is a topic chosen by the

student over the course of one year or more, and is well researched, cited, and presented to a team of scorers. Amy Yeakel has extended the length of the research product to six pages and switched from paper copy submission to electronic submission in google classroom. This introduced rigor and an online interface component. Student, Maddie DeCormier said her project on sign language was instigated by challenges facing her family members, so she wanted to make her project meaningful by focusing on improving communication.

Board discussion was positive and thankful that the senior project is student driven.

d. Overview of District initiative (Mindset) (Dana Andrews)

Dana Andrews gave an excellent overview of the district wide initiative, Growth Mindset, that ties in with the opening day presentation on August 29. Attendees at the presentation received a book “Growth Mindset.” Dana said the staff used the book for summer reading originally. The philosophy is that failure is not an end in itself, but rather failure provides feedback and can be used to get better. Dana explained what is meant by the “power of YET.” Common dialog is used among teachers and staff like, “you haven’t achieved success YET.” Dana said, “embrace the hard part, and the learning reinforces the objective.”

X. Public Comment (on agenda items only per policy BDDH, 5-minute limit)

None

XI. Adjournment

Vincent Migliore moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Christine Davol seconded.

Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier

District Staff Present:

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent

Michael Limanni, Business Administrator

Anne Holton, Student Services

Therese Wetherington, Curriculum Coordinator

Dana Andrews, Principal B-HVS

Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

Fred Robinson, Videographer

Stephanie Burge, NRHS

Amy Yeakel, ELO Coordinator

Kyrie Guyotte, NRHS

Kristina Jordan, NRHS

Rhonda Downing, NRHS

Debra Guillotte, B-HVS

Samantha Morrill, B-HVS

Nicholas Crosby, Student Liaison

Maddisyn DeCormier, Senior NRHS

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to let you know my personal experience with the 21 year old program. Our son is Autistic and developmentally delayed along with a rare diagnosis of Tuberous Sclerosis. He faces many daily challenges and as a parent these are always your biggest fears. Most parents are excited and happy for their children to be graduating at 18 and going out on their own and building their lives. As the parent of a handicap child I can honestly say that is not how we feel...we fear the social acceptance, we fear the little things like going to the store and being able to pay for simple things by themselves, we fear what will they do for work, we fear how will I ever transition them to the real world. You see the school environment is something they eventually grow comfortable in and find acceptance amongst their peers. But the REAL WORLD is a scary place even for us so called "NORMAL" people. When we found that the school district offered this transition program it eased our fears a little bit. Before my son graduated we all sat down as a team and outlined what we would like to see for our sonwhat were HIS dreams, what were HIS goals, what were OUR dreams, what were OUR goals and objectives we wanted to see for our son. Having had the same team from his school years made this much more realistic as they knew what he was capable of and were able to set realistic, attainable goals for him. He has a had a long love with fire engines and ambulances...well let's get with the local fire department and see if they will take him on a volunteer work program, every Wednesday which quickly became his favorite day of the week he went and swept and cleaned the trucks, learned basic safety skills and built friendships he will carry on into his adulthood. Another goal was we wanted our son to be able to do simple and small cash transactions...well they designed a school store where he learned to count small change and customer service skills. Friday quickly became his second favorite day.....Another huge concern we had as parents was his daily living skills. We tend to take little things like using a microwave or cooking the simplest of meals for granted. He was able to learn how to make simple foods in cooking and also how to make cookies to turn around and sell in the school store. On Tuesday he learned compassion and patience by going to the nursing home in town. He swept and mopped there and once again made friends that he still talks about today. On Monday's they would go to the local grocery store with their list that they made up for the school store and purchase the needed products. Again our son was able to use real money and learn how to pay for his products. The girls at the store still tell me they miss my son. This year was especially exciting for him as the greenhouse was finally up and ready for use. My son learned to plant seeds and plants and how to take care of them. This was another favorite of his and he looked forward to his weekly work in it. In Feb my son transitioned from this wonderful program into the Lakes Region Adult Daily Program. This was an especially scary time for me and his father. The fear of the unknown is always the worst, but this awesome team of people stemming from the special education director, Mrs. DiFabio , his one on one aid Mrs. Downing , to Mrs. Guyotte, to Mrs. Barnett and to all the other awesome people who helped for so many years with him and made this transition seamless. They allowed my son to still come and be a part of the school store on Fridays, they allowed him to come water and take care of the plants at the greenhouse, they invited him to open house at night

to help, and most importantly they voiced their professional opinions and experience to Lakes Region on how to keep helping my son become the best he can be. The extra 3 years of services he received from this program are key in him being the kind and sweet soul he is today. I will forever be grateful and will always have a special place in my heart for every one of these people who opened their minds and heart to my son and helped him become the awesome person that he is today.

Thank you all again, A loving mom!