

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, March 12, 2018

6:00 p.m. Non-Public Session

6:30 p.m. Public Session

Location: LMC- Newfound Regional High School

I. Call to Order by Jeff Levesque at 6:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Record Roll:

Sue Cheney, Alexandria	present
Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater	present
John Larsen, Bristol	arrived 6:35 p.m.
Jeff Levesque, Groton	present
Don Franklin, Hebron	present
Christine Davol, New Hampton	present
Sharon Klapyk, Danbury	present

IV. Jeff Levesque made a motion to enter Non-public session: 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.

Vincent Migliore requested to add 91-A (s) (l) consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present to the non-public agenda. There was no objection from the board to add this.

Non Public Minutes:

Vincent Migliore seconded the motion to enter non-public. Vote was by roll call: Alexandria, yes; Bridgewater, yes; Bristol, absent; Groton, yes; Hebron, yes; New Hampton, yes; Danbury, yes. ***Motion Passed***

The School Board discussed a reduction in force, a student discipline issue, and a letter from legal counsel.

John Larsen arrived at the non-public session at 6:40 p.m.

Vincent Paul Migliore made a motion to leave non-public session at 7:05. John Larsen seconded the motion. Vote was by roll call:
 Alexandria, yes; Bridgewater, yes; Bristol, yes; Groton, yes; Hebron, yes; New Hampton, yes; Danbury, yes. ***Motion Passed***

School Board returned from non-public at 7:17 p.m. Christine Davol left the meeting due to illness.

- V. Hill School Board joint conversation (per agreement, Article 16: The parties agree that the School Boards will meet at least one time each year at Newfound and at such other times as the parties shall agree, so that the Newfound Area School Board may have the benefit of the suggestions and recommendations of the Hill School on curriculum, financial matters, and policies of Newfound Middle School and Newfound High School. The parties agree that the annual joint meeting will be held in March or April of each year.)

Stacy Buckley introduced Michele Munson the new superintendent from the newly formed SAU #103, Hill School District, after the town separated school administration from Franklin.

Hill School Board members Shelly Henry, December Fortin, and Nancy Coffin said there were no concerns, students were happy and growing well while attending Newfound schools. Stacy Buckley said the Hill students fit right in with the student body. Michele Munson expressed appreciation to Anne Holton for her help and also to staff who demonstrate caring, concern and helpfulness toward students. Putting in the extra effort is appreciated and Hill thanked Newfound for letting Hill students attend Newfound schools.

- VI. Approval or Modification of Agenda
- Vincent Migliore added an item on Food Services to be discussed under New Business.
 - Stacy Buckley added a new item for the agenda concerning Snow Days.
- VII. Approval of Minutes
- a. February 3, 2018 (Deliberative Session)
No corrections. Placed on Consent Agenda.
 - b. February 12, 2018
No corrections. Placed on Consent Agenda.
- VIII. Public Comment
- Paul Simard, Bristol asked about the status of \$800,000 for the new high school roof approved in last year's warrant. He asked if the \$800,000 was in the budget and he was told no previously but now he thinks that is not the case. Vincent Migliore clarified by saying I think Mr. Simard is referring to the default budget.

- David Hill, Bristol expressed dismay at the length of the Non-Public session, which preceded the Public session and kept the large audience waiting for 45 minutes.
- John Rescigno, Groton asked what is the dollar amount of last year's budget. He then asked what the figure is if we subtract \$800,000 from last year's budget. The RSA that pertained to Default Budget was read. Mr. Rescigno continued to ask for explanations.
- Paul Manganiello, Bristol discussed the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance and pointed out only one dollar was proposed to be added this year. He said last year's budget did not show a Capital Improvement Plan the way it is presented now. The trust fund is already there and would go a long way toward repairing the roof.

IX. Correspondence
None

X. Announcements and Recognition
None

a. Student Liaison Report
None

b. Staff Liaison Report

- John Lellos said eighth grade step-up night is Thursday, March 15 starting at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome/overview portion in the auditorium, followed by tours, then co-curricular fair and course selection.
- High school students are currently engaged in Newfound Reads, a two book-one school initiative. The freshmen/sophomores are reading aloud in advisory the book, "Baby" by local NH author Joseph Monninger. Juniors/seniors are reading the book, "What Made Maddy Run?" by espnW columnist Kate Fagan. The shared reading experience will help reinforce school core values and provoke healthy discussions about growth and perseverance.
- High school students are preparing to take the SAT test on March 21.
- Social Studies department recognizes Mason Martin for his literary contribution to the American Legion's, "Citizen Responsibility to the Constitution."

c. Superintendent Report

- No school tomorrow, March 13. There have been eight snow days so far.
- Wednesday (or Thursday) is a voluntary 17 minute scheduled walkout in a secure fashion to show respect for the victims in the Parkland, Florida school shooting and solidarity for the students who attend that school.
- Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m., Lynn Lyons will present "Anxious Kids" at BES.
- A thank you email was received from New Hampton School because the prep school recently lost water and was serviced by Newfound so the students could use the locker rooms to shower.

- SAT test will be taken at the high school for state accountability purposes.
- ALICE training is scheduled for Thursday 3-4:40 p.m. in the library at NMMS.
- Stacy Buckley passed out an article on Poetry Out Loud contest that sophomore Evelyn Cutting won first place followed by runner-up freshman Simon Shedd.
- Superintendent Buckley handed out “NWFND Newfound Lake, NH” bumper stickers to the board thanks to the generous donation by Ray Cunningham of the Newfound Kayak Club.

d. Other
None

XI. New Business

- a. NMMS Proposal regarding 6th grade math
Stacy Buckley proposed a shift of position: reduce a special education teacher position and use the funding to hire an additional sixth grade math teacher for the 2018-2019 school year so students can receive 78 minutes of math every day. Vincent Migliore supports this proposal because special education numbers are below state average.

Sue Cheney is also in favor because the repetition of 78 minutes math daily is important.

- b. Discussion of Default Budget
Vincent Migliore will speak and then follow with a motion. The issue of the Default Budget has been questioned by a citizen and the inquiry should be articulated before the board takes action. Vincent Migliore moves to table the discussion on Default Budget until we hear from Mr. Auger and schedule a meeting where he is able to be present.

No board discussion.

John Larsen seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) *Motion Passed*

- c. Vincent Migliore is “happy to report good feedback on our food service contractor from first grade customers and sixth, seventh and eighth graders as well as at high school. In terms of quality and variety, the food is good and our littlest as well as older students report it being an improvement over last year. That said, it is my practice as well to ensure that promises made are promises kept. Accordingly, I’d like to make a formal request of our contractor to provide an affirmative written response that its commitment to address the transfer of sick days earned to our prior employees is being accounted for and provided to them as a matter of record, as was the condition of the contract, in order for the board to have agreed to do so, and for us to continue. This written record shall be provided

to the board not later than our regular May, 2018 meeting, or sooner, and be made an attachment to our minutes, having read such correspondence into the record. Vincent Paul Migliore, Representative to School Board, Bridgewater”

Discussion:

Sue Cheney said the employee can't see the balance of sick days on their pay stub, only if they use a day but not the balance.

Michael Limanni agreed that Newfound pay stubs show the accumulation of sick days so that is a change from the past.

- d. Stacy Buckley has put together a comprehensive plan in consultation with Deirdre Conway, President of the Teachers Union, so students can get out on Friday, June 22, 2018. The plan, which is in writing was passed out to the board to address the problem of snow days.

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

Don Milbrand, Bristol expressed disappointment in the education of students, responsibility to the public who pays for the students, and the default budget. He asked the board to reflect on what the public has to say. The public should vote down the operating budget.

Terry Murphy, Bridgewater looked at the default budget and spoke to two attorneys about the default budget. He thinks the public may vote down the budget.

Paul Simard, Bristol says the CIP was never brought up before the voters.

Dana Torsey, New Hampton says the board ignored the \$800,000 that should have gone into a new roof that was voted for.

Paul Manganiello, read a quote from Susan Duncan from last year's minutes. Roof will be fixed. Wasn't. Now it's part of a Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Rescigno doesn't trust what happened and thinks the children will be the ones to fail.

The School Board Chair asked the board if anyone would like to speak from the board as a public citizen.

Vincent Migliore replied he appreciates the audience tonight but must understand there is a process and that takes time. He explains the public meeting and says public comment is for speaking what is on your mind and not for dialogue. School business must be done. He thanked the public for coming.

Jeff Levesque says he understands it's easy to get emotionally involved and the board works hard to do things right. We'll have one or two more meetings on the matter

pending outcome of the election tomorrow. Every issue has two sides not everyone will agree. Thank you.

Sue Cheney said the roof will get done with this year's budget. The default budget was done in October and on the website and could have been questioned before this.

XIII. Motion on Consent Agenda

February 3, 2018 minutes (Deliberative Session)

February 12, 2018 minutes

Vincent Migliore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Sue Cheney seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

XIV. Motion on Individual Agenda Items

Sue Cheney moved to approve the proposal to shift the position of one special education teacher to an additional sixth grade math teacher so 78 minutes of math can occur daily at NMMS. Don Franklin seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

Vincent Migliore made a motion for a written confirmation from food service vendor that the transfer of sick days has taken place, not later than the May meeting. Jeff Levesque seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

Jeff Levesque approved the Snow Day proposal as presented. Vincent Migliore seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

XV. Financial

a. Approval of Manifest(s)

Sue Cheney moved to approve manifests for December 2017 and January 2018.

Jeff Levesque seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

XVI. Adjournment

Vincent Migliore made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Jeff Levesque seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (New Hampton absent) ***Motion Passed***

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

District Staff present: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent; Michael Limanni, Business Administrator; Anne Holton, Student Services; Kim Sarfde, Curriculum Coordinator; Paul Ciotti, Tech Coordinator; Jay Lewis, NMMS Principal

Public present: Nancy Coffin, Hill; Janet and John Cavanagh, Bristol; David Hill, Bristol; Harold Reilly, Alexandria; Heather Gosson, Bristol; Steve Favorite, Bristol; Don Milbrand, Bristol; Paul Simard, Bristol; Paul Manganiello, Bristol; Sam Worthen, Bristol; December Fortin, Hill; Shelly Henry, Hill; Michele Munson, Hill; Gina and John Rescigno, Groton; Terry Murphy, Bridgewater; Dana Torsey, New Hampton; Ruby Hill, Danbury

Newfound Area School District

20 North Main Street
Bristol, NH 03222

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Tel. (603) 744-5555
Fax (603) 744-6659

To: Newfound Area School Board
From: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent of Schools

Re: End of school year proposal

The last day of school is currently scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2018. With the potential of 1 or 2 additional snow days coming tomorrow and Wednesday, I have met with Deirdre Conway (NTU President) and I would like to propose the following plan:

1. For students, we will switch to hours (instead of days). Our students attend enough hours to cover the potential three days in June. The students last day of school will remain as Friday, June 22. This will still be an early release day.
2. To make up Monday (June 25, 2018), teachers will be provided a copy of the book "The New Art and Science of Teaching". This is an overview of the changes that are taking place in our evaluation system. These changes will go into effect for the start of the 18-19 school year, so it is timely to our work. It will be expected that teachers read the book prior to returning for the new school year.
3. Because we do not know about whether we will have school on Wednesday yet, this will become a 2 prong approach:
 - a. If we do not have school on Tuesday, Deirdre and I will meet and we will come up with another book for teachers to read- likely something that will tie into our opening day presentation and work to be tackled next year. Again, teachers will be expected to read the book prior to the start of the school year.
 - b. If we do not have school on Tuesday or Wednesday (because Wednesday is already an early release day), Teachers will have an all-day Professional Development Day on Wednesday (instead of just the 2 hour early release). The day will run from 9-3 (to allow teachers to safely get into school). We will continue our focus on competencies and grading.
4. Teachers will be required to attend the end of the year School Board sponsored BBQ, which will be on Friday, June 22.

For Support staff, the following will happen:

- April 13th, which is currently a teacher workshop day, will become a workshop day for paraeducators as well. I will work with administration to find relevant training for support staff.
- We will do a survey to find the interest for doing professional development days on Monday, June 25 and June 26. If we have enough interest, again, we will provide relevant PD opportunities for our support staff.

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March 7, 2018

Select Board Members,

It has come to my attention that over the past week or so, Mr. Archie Auger (Bristol Resident) has sent you a correspondence(s) regarding his interpretation of our default calculation and issues that he has regarding the districts Capital Improvement Plan as a part of the general fund budget. I am hoping to clarify the districts position on this matter so that as we enter Election Day next week, you are confident that the Administration has acted properly, appropriately, and legally in all matters that Mr. Auger has identified as concerns and remedies.

Mike Limanni and I have both had multiple exchanges with Mr. Auger to help him understand the law and the legal opinion that we have received regarding his concerns. Unfortunately, when we have provided Mr. Auger with our legal rationale for the budgeting decision, he continues to come back with a different law or rationale for his position. We have defended and are confident in our responses to him on each occasion.

Mr. Auger began the conversation over the default budget calculation arguing that putting the Board approved Capital Improvement Plan in the default budget (he now argues that it should not be in the budget at all, and should be a separate warrant article) is incorrect.

As you are likely aware, the district has spent the past two plus years developing a ten year Capital Improvement Plan for the district facilities. This is a School Board appointed committee consisting of administrators, school board members, faculty, and community members. The replacement of the NRHS high school roof has been a part of the (CIP) discussion since the inception of the committee. In fact, there were several board meetings dedicated to the discussion of the NRHS roof. The CIP committee has held several meetings and reviews at public school board meetings. The Board approved a final 10-year Capital Improvement Plan in 2017, which included the NRHS roof replacement.

At the 2017 Deliberative Session, Mr. Auger graciously made a motion to add \$800,000 to the operating budget for the purpose of the NRHS roof replacement. The public voted on this amendment at the Deliberative Session and the body at that meeting passed the amendment - essentially adding that amount to the general fund budget. In addition, on Election Day, the public once again voted to approve the budget with the additional \$800,000 for the Roof included.

The roof replacement was part of the district's 10-year capital improvement plan. Our legal opinion has noted that the amount appropriated last year should be included in this year's default budget. The amount may not be increased (in fact, the amount is actually less than the \$800,000 that was appropriated). The reason for our legal stand is: RSA 40:13, IX(b) defines "Default Budget" as, "The amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, as determined by the governing body..." As such, the starting point for the default budget is the amount of last year's appropriations. Note that to be included in the starting figure for the

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default budget, the appropriations do not have to be based on contracts or other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law. The requirement only applies to increases or decreases in the default budget. The \$800,000 for the roof was part of the operating budget approved at the 2017 annual meeting and on Election Day. Therefore, it is included in the starting number for this year's default budget. That amount remains in this year's default budget unless it is a one-time expenditure. The \$800,000 is not a one-time expenditure, because it is the first of a ten-year capital improvement plan and because the district spends money each year on plant operations and maintenance.

The public has had multiple opportunities to review and comment on the Default Budget and how it was calculated. The Central Office administration has been extremely transparent with the Default Budget and its calculation. In fact, the page identified as "Notes to Methodology for Estimation of FY 19 Default Budget" clearly identifies all of this information. In addition, information and discussion of the Default Budget in a public meeting has been done on several occasions - each one providing an opportunity for the public to weigh in with concerns or questions.

- The Default Budget Handout was included with the School Board budget presentation done by Administrators on October 23, 2017. The budget documents, including this one, were then posted on the district website. There is public comment offered twice at each board meeting.
- The Default Budget was again reviewed by the School Board at their November 13, 2017 meeting. The School Board approved the general budget, grant budget, food services budget, and the Default Budget at this meeting.
- The Default Budget Handout was then presented at the Budget Committee meeting on November 21, 2017. Again, this is a public meeting and there is opportunity for public comment. Handouts, including this one, were included in the documentation and can be found on the district website.
- The Default Budget Handout was then included in the packet for the Budget Hearing, held on Friday, January 12, 2018. This was an opportunity for any member of the public to ask questions and seek clarification. The Handouts from this hearing were also posted to the district website for the public to view. Mr. Auger was present at the Budget Hearing.
- Finally, the Default Budget Handout was also included in the packet provided at the Deliberative Session. Again, this is an opportunity for the public to ask questions, seek clarification, or make amendments (although the public cannot amend the default budget at the deliberative session, they can certainly ask questions about it). Mr. Auger was also present at the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Auger then argues that the approved Capital Improvement Plan does not meet the requirements of RSA 32:7a. Mr. Auger is incorrect in his interpretation of this RSA. This statute allows voters to approve an identified capital project and pay for it in installments for up to five years. It requires a 3/5th majority vote in an SB2 district for approval. If the voters approve it, the installments for future years are "deemed appropriated" without further vote by the district meeting. This would be similar to obtaining a bond and the requirements of such. This statute does not take away the authority of a school board to approve a capital improvement plan. What RSA 32:7a deals with is different – it is not a capital improvements plan, but an identified capital project that may be paid for in installments rather than in a single year.

Finally, Mr. Auger argues that the CIP items should be placed in a separate warrant article and "let the voters decide how much they wish to spend". I would respond that the voters and the public have had multiple opportunities to vote on and decide the appropriateness of including these items (CIP) in the general fund budget. The multiple opportunities included:

- The Facilities Committee is a board appointed committee that has representatives from the School Board, Administration, Faculty, and the Community. All meetings are public meetings

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and are posted as required by law. Minutes of all meetings can be found on the Newfound Area School District's website for easy public access.

- The School Board has had a minimum of two presentations by this committee regarding the Capital Improvement Plan and the direction that the Board wanted to go in regarding facility improvements. These meetings are posted and all minutes (and recordings) of the meeting are available on the district website.
- The School Board reviewed and approved the Capital Improvement Plan over two public meetings. These were identified agenda items and there are two opportunities for public comment on each agenda.
- The 2018-2019 budget presentations done by administration for both the School Board and the Budget Committee clearly identified items that are included in the Capital Improvement Plan. These presentations have been posted on the district website as well. Both of these presentations were done at public meetings and had public input sessions included on the agenda.
- The Capital Improvement Plan was discussed and included in the handouts at the Budget Hearing. Again, the public was invited to comment and provide the Budget Committee feedback on any portion of the presentation or handouts. Those handouts were also posted to the district website.
- The Capital Improvement Plan was also included in the handouts for the Deliberative Session. These items are also included in the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration Form MS-27 presented at the Deliberative Session. In fact, at this deliberative session, there was a motion made by the public (and seconded by the public) to decrease the budget by \$800,000. The motion failed. The public did have a say in the amount aligned with the roof/CIP and choose to vote to keep those items in the general fund budget.
- Finally, the full presentation of the School Board's certified Default Budget to the Department of Revenue Administration (MS-DSB) is included very clearly in the District's Annual Report which consistently represents the change in CIP from the prior year along with all the items discussed publically prior to the March 13th vote.

I hope that this lengthy response assures you that the Administration and School Board have approved a legally sound and appropriate Default Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. They often say that the schools make a community and that people want to move to a community with good schools. Over the past five years, the administration, faculty, staff, School Board and Budget Committee have worked collaboratively to put together long term plans to continue to make improvements to teaching and learning as well as the infrastructures of our schools.

Sincerely,

Stacy Buckley
Superintendent of Schools
SAU #4

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