

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 January 4, 2021

Public Session: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Café - Newfound Regional High School

- I. Call to Order by the School Board Chair Jeff Levesque at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Record Roll:

Sue Cheney, Alexandria	present
Michael O'Malley, Bridgewater	present
Heidi Milbrand, Bristol	present
Melissa Suckling, Danbury	present
Jeff Levesque, Groton	present
Jason Robert, Hebron	present
Fran Wendelboe, New Hampton	present
- IV. Approval or Modification of Agenda
- V. Public Hearing:

Jeff Levesque announced The Newfound Area School District will conduct a public hearing to see if we will accept and expend funds from the New Hampshire Department of Education Supplemental Public School Response Fund (SPSRF) (#1) \$222,600 and (#2) \$839,176.64 Monday January 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm at Newfound Regional High School 150 Newfound Road, Bristol, NH. Pierre Couture spoke to the history of the funds. #1 is the CARES Act money afforded a share to each student. #2 is the grant applied for out of the GOFERR Fund that had a stipulation with it that certain equipment needed to be installed by December 30, 2020. It was installed by December 29, 2020 so we got the grant. There was no public comment so the hearing closed at 6:32 p.m.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 21, 2020 Minutes

No corrections
- VII. Public Comment

None
- VIII. Correspondence

The Fire Department performed an inspection of all the schools and noted several issues that need to be addressed, like outlets, clutter etc.

Notice is hereby made that public comment shall be made without expectation of a response by any School Board member to matters raised by such commentary. The Board respects the right of the public to communicate its stance of matters of interest, but meetings are scheduled in advance to conduct business put forth on its publicly posted agenda only.

IX. Announcements and Recognition

a. Student Liaison Report

Elsa McConologue just returned from vacation and is positive and happy that the schools are open.

b. Superintendent Report

Next week, January 12 the ventilation project will require Eversource to cut power for four hours for some people around the middle school. The target date for opening the middle school is January 19 for staff only and will be remote for students. January 20 students will attend as well.

The Superintendent noted we are in line for more Covid funds from Washington, D. C. and we may be able to put the money toward the ventilation project.

Twenty-nine percent of our students now receive free or reduced lunch.

The next school board meeting Tuesday, January 19 is not a business meeting but a tour of the renovated Newfound Memorial Middle School. The public is also welcome to attend the tour starting at 6:30 p.m.

The budget committee will conduct a public hearing on the proposed school district budget for 2021-2022 on Friday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school gym. The makeup date is Saturday, January 9, 10 a.m. at the high school.

c. Other

X. Old Business

a. Ventilation Update

The project is progressing smoothly and the middle school will be open to the public for a tour on January 19.

b. Warrant Articles

Board reviewed the proposed school district warrant articles. Article 1 is to choose district officials. Article 2 is the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance. Article 3 is the Operating Budget. Article 4 is By Petition to modify the tax cap. Article 5 is Contingency Fund. Articles 4 and 5 should be switched in the proposed order in which they now appear so the petitioned article comes last.

c. Deliberative Session

Pierre has been corresponding with the moderator concerning the safety procedures we will focus on so that people feel safe at the meeting on Saturday, January 30 at 10 a.m. at NRHS. The maintenance staff and Paul Ciotti will use the gym and auditorium to provide a 250 person capacity if needed and people will be counted as they enter. Five promethean boards are available for families at home who cannot attend for safety reasons. There will be an assistant moderator present at the Deliberative Session.

d. Meetings on Petitioned Warrant Article

We are required to hold a public hearing in each of the seven district towns on the Petitioned Warrant Article: "Shall we modify the tax cap adopted under the provisions of RSA 32:5-b at the 2012 Annual Meeting to change the 2% tax cap to 3%? If this Article is adopted the governing body (or budget committee) shall not recommend a budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 3%. (Passage requires a 3/5 majority ballot vote)"

Public hearing schedule so far:

Bristol-Monday, February 15 NRHS 6:30 p.m.

Alexandria- Thursday, February 11 Alexandria Municipal Building 6 p.m.

Danbury- Wednesday, February 10 Danbury Town Hall 6:30 p.m.

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Hebron- Wednesday, February 17 Hebron Town Hall 6:30 p.m.
Bridgewater, Groton and New Hampton to be determined.

Jeff Levesque suggested the school board representative from the respective town should attend the public hearing in that town.

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

None

XII. Motion on Consent Agenda

None

XIII. Motion on Individual Agenda Items

Jeff Levesque made a motion to accept the December 21, 2020 minutes. Jason Robert seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Jason Robert made a motion to accept and expend funds from the NH Department of Education Supplemental Public School Response Fund (#1) \$222,600 and (#2) \$839,176.64 as listed. Jeff Levesque seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

XIV. Financial

a. Approval of Manifest(s)

Sue Cheney made a motion to approve manifest for November 2020. Jason Robert seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

The board discussed the possibility of online approval of financial manifests in the future but in the meantime, Jeff encourages the board members to visit the SAU to approve manifests in a timely manner.

XV. Adjournment

Melissa Suckling made a motion to adjourn at 7 p.m. Mike O'Malley seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

District staff: Pierre Couture, Superintendent; Robin Reinhold, Business Administrator; Anne Landry, Student Services Director; Jeannette Shedd, Curriculum Coordinator; Erin and Broderick Edwards, Videographers

Public: Brett Branscombe, Concord, NH; Ken Braley, Alexandria, NH

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