

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**

June 14, 2021

Non-Public Session: 6 p.m.

Public Session: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Café - Newfound Regional High School

- I. Call to Order by the School Board Chair, Melissa Suckling at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Record Roll:
 

Sue Cheney, Alexandria	arrived 6:20 p.m.
Michael O'Malley, Bridgewater	present
Heidi Milbrand, Bristol	present
Melissa Suckling, Danbury	present
Britta Matthews, Groton	present
Thomas Edwards, Hebron	present
Fran Wendelboe, New Hampton	present
- IV. Melissa Suckling recommended the board enter Nonpublic Session: 91-A:3(a): The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employer 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. Roll call vote: Alexandria excused absent, all others yes.  
Board returned at 6:30 p.m.
- V. Approval or Modification of Agenda  
Add Jason Torsey Facilities Request to fund two projects out of Maintenance Trust Fund under New Business.  
Add Student School Assignments under Teacher Nominations.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
  - a. May 24, 2021 Minutes  
No corrections
- VII. Public Comment  
John Sellers, Bristol spoke in favor of removing the mask requirement in schools. John also lent his support to a board member.  
Nick Haas, Alexandria has a daughter entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Nick is against masks for kids because he says they are harmful, remove individuality, impact special education students and affect social and emotional health.

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- VIII. Correspondence
- a. Newfound Teachers Union Letter to the School Board  
Board member responded with a statement. Board members discussed the letter.
- IX. Announcements and Recognition
- a. Superintendent Report  
Pierre congratulated our 2021 Newfound Graduates and the parents who supported them as they prepare to enter college, military and work. At the close of this school year, Pierre extends thanks to families, students, maintenance staff, school nurses, school administration, paraprofessionals, office staff and to the school board. Pierre noted Angel Eckstrom and the volunteers of Central NH Public Health Network were instrumental in running the student and the staff Vaccine Clinics.
  - b. Student Liaison Report  
Elsa McConologue highlighted several end of the year events like Senior Award Night, Baccalaureate, Graduation in the soccer field, undergraduate awards are ongoing, faculty, staff celebrated retirees at the Bridgewater Inn, and the yearbook dedication went to Roger Shelton. Last day is June 16 or June 17 for recovery. Elsa noted students have earned a summer vacation.
  - c. other  
Melissa Suckling regrets she will not be able to attend the BB-Q on June 17 but she says thank you to everyone in the district for all his or her hard work.
- X. Old Business
- a. Relaxing the Mask Mandate  
Board members debated the mask requirement with only a few days left in school. Pierre noted summer school will meet in small groups to maintain social distancing and may not require masks. Mike O'Malley supports the Superintendent's plan that the board voted to execute while others want to see the masks optional.  
Fran Wendelboe made a motion to relax the mask mandate for the rest of the school year and summer school. Heidi Milbrand seconded. Discussion followed.  
Fran Wendelboe made a second motion to amend the previous motion in order to amend the current Reopening Plan to make masks optional for the rest of the year and summer school. Heidi Milbrand seconded. Vote: 2-5-0-0 (Alexandria, Bridgewater, Groton, Hebron and Danbury voted No) **Motion Failed**
- XI. New Business
- a. Facilities Request  
Jason Torsey, Director presented a case with Facilities Committee approval for making plumbing repairs to the BES boiler room at an estimated cost of \$27,000 - \$30,000 to prevent another heating emergency. Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the request for up to \$30,000 to make repairs to the boiler room at Bristol Elementary School. Melissa Suckling seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**  
Jason Torsey had a second request for up to \$50,000 to upgrade and install air conditioning in the IT server rooms in five schools and SAU. Jason recommends that we replace and install new mini splits to keep IT working at a cost of \$7,500 per each school and SAU at an estimated cost of \$47,000. The money is to come from the Maintenance Trust Fund to keep server rooms cool. Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the request for up to \$50,000 to replace and install mini splits for five schools and SAU server rooms and the money is from the Maintenance Trust Fund. Mike O'Malley seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**

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- b. Information Regarding Breakfast and Lunch Prices  
Robin Reinhold noted correspondence with the DOE Nutrition Office and provided backup for the March Area Eligible Meal Counts.
- c. Special Education Procedure Manual  
Melissa Suckling made a motion to approve the Special Education Procedure Manual in the packet. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**
- d. Policies for First Reading
- i. JLCJ Concussions, Head Injuries, and Management Guidelines
  - ii. IICA-F NASD Field Trip Approval Form
  - iii. IGDJ Interscholastic Athletics
  - iv. IKF High School Graduation Requirements
  - v. IGD Co-Curricular Programs
  - vi. IKFC Awarding of Diplomas
- Sue Cheney made a motion to Approve Policies for First Reading: JLCJ, IICA-F, IGDJ, IKF, IGD, IKFC. Fran Wendelboe seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**
- e. Handbooks for Approval
- i. 2021-2022 BES Staff Handbook
  - ii. 2021-2022 BHVS Faculty Handbook
  - iii. 2021-2022 DES Faculty Handbook
  - iv. 2021-2022 NHCS Teacher Staff Handbook
  - v. 2021-2022 Elementary Parent and Student Handbook
  - vi. 2021-2022 NMMS Faculty Handbook
  - vii. 2021-2022 NMMS Student Handbook
  - viii. 2021-2022 NRHS Student Handbook
  - ix. 2021-2022 NRHS Faculty Handbook
- Melissa Suckling moved to accept the 2021-2022 Staff, Faculty, Parent and Student Handbooks for Approval. Heidi Milbrand seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**
- f. Policies for Second Reading
- i. BGAA Policy Development, Adoption and Review
  - ii. BHE School Board Use of Email and Other Electronic Communications
  - iii. BIE School Board Member Indemnification
  - iv. EB Workplace Safety Program and Joint Loss Management Committee
  - v. EBB School Safety
  - vi. GBCE Training and information relative to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
  - vii. GBEF School District Internet Access for Staff
  - viii. GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check
  - ix. GBEFA Employee Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Technologies
  - x. JCA Change of Class Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship
  - xi. JIC Student Conduct
  - xii. JI Students Rights and Responsibilities
- Melissa Suckling made a motion to accept the Policies for Second Reading: BGAA, BHE, BIE, EB, EBB, GBCE, GBEF, GBCD, GBEFA, JCA, JIC, JI. Sue Cheney seconded. Vote; 7-0-0-0 **Motion Passed**
- g. Policy to Rescind
- i. BF Board Policy Development
  - ii. BFA Policy Development System
  - iii. BFD Policy Dissemination
  - iv. BFG/BFGA Policy Review and Evaluation/Manual Accuracy Check
  - v. JEC Manifest Educational Hardship

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- vi. ACA Notice of Nondiscrimination
  - vii. AC-R Nondiscrimination Title IX Grievance
  - viii. IKC-a Awarding of Diplomas Addendum
- Sue Cheney moved to rescind Policies: BF, BFA, BFD, BFG/BFGA, JEC, ACA, AC-R, IKC-a. Britta Matthews seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
- h. Job Description - Director of School Counseling  
Chelsey Abare is resigning so we need to update the Job Description. Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the updated Job Description for the Director of School Counseling. Britta Matthews seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - i. 2021-2022 School Opening Plan 2021-2022  
We need to seek public input. No action tonight. In August, we will have updates. One change noted is that we will not have a remote learning option next year.
  - j. Resignation(s)  
Theresa Evans, BES School Nurse effective 6/17/21  
Chelsey Abare NRHS Guidance effective 6/30/21  
Melissa Suckling made a motion to accept Resignations. Mike O'Malley seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - k. Teacher Nominations  
Sarah Farver-Staub NMMS Music Teacher effective 8/20/21  
Sarah Cormiea BVHS Teacher effective 8/20/21  
Ashley Adams, NHCS Teacher effective 8/20/21  
Stephanie Aurenz NRHS Music Teacher effective 8/20/21  
Mike O'Malley made a motion to accept Teacher Nominations. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - l. Approval for Superintendent to accept Resignations until the next board meeting  
Heidi Milbrand made a motion to allow the Superintendent to accept Resignations until the next scheduled board meeting. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - m. Approval for Superintendent to hire until the next scheduled board meeting  
Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the Superintendent to hire until the next scheduled board meeting. Mike O'Malley seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - n. Approval for Superintendent to make decisions on change of school staff assignments requests until the next scheduled board meeting  
Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the Superintendent to make decisions on change of school staff assignments requests until the next scheduled board meeting. Britta Matthews seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
  - o. Approval for Superintendent to make decisions on change of school student assignments requests until the next scheduled board meeting  
Mike O'Malley made a motion to approve the Superintendent to make decisions on change of school student assignments requests until the next scheduled board meeting. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote: 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
- XII. Board Members Comments  
Heidi Milbrand requested paper reduction. Fran Wendelboe encouraged us to bid on chairs at NHCS. Sue Cheney can't make the BB-Q but expressed appreciation for staff and teachers.
  - XIII. Public Comment (on agenda items only per policy BDDH, 5-minute limit)  
None
  - XIV. Financial
    - a. Approval of Manifest(s)

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Sue Cheney moved to accept May 2021 manifest. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0

***Motion Passed***

XV. Adjournment

Melissa Suckling adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

District staff present: Pierre Couture, Superintendent; Robin Reinhold, Business Administrator; Anne Landry, Student Services; Jeannette Shedd, Curriculum Coordinator; Jason Torsey, SAU; Erin Edwards, Videographer

Public present: Nicholas Haas, Alexandria; Don Milbrand, Bristol; John Sellers, Bristol

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**Newfound Teachers' Union**  
**Local #6557**  
**AFT-NH, AFT**

To: Newfound Area School Board  
From: NTU, Local #6557  
Date: June 6, 2021  
Re: School Board Member Behavior

The union had a membership meeting Thursday, June 3, 2021 to conduct union business. During the "Other" portion of the meeting a member brought up the alleged altercation between school board member Heidi Milbrand and a member of the public, as it was "all over social media".

The teachers were completely awestruck by the behavior of a school board member. Some teachers had not heard about it yet, and were literally speechless.

The teachers, as a group, voted to let the Newfound Area School Board know of their complete dismay and disappointment in Heidi Milbrand, if this allegation is true.

The teachers are extremely concerned that she is a member of the school board, where we believe her first concern should be the welfare of children. Even though the family and child involved may not be local citizens, her behavior is disturbing, at best.

We believe this to be an embarrassment to the Newfound Area.

On behalf of the Newfound Teachers' Union, I submit this letter.

Sincerely,



Deirdre B. Conway  
President NTU #6557