

# Newfound Area School Board

Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center  
January 4, 2010

## MINUTES

School Board Present: Mary Campbell (Hebron), Suzanne Cheney (Alexandria), Leslie Dion (Bristol), Jon Johnson (Danbury, 6:43 pm), Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater)

School Board Absent: Tom Gillis (Groton)

School Board Excused: Bruce Davol (New Hampton)

Staff Present: Marie Ross (Superintendent), Daniel Rossner (Business Administrator)

Public Present: Ann Johnson (Danbury), Neal Martin (Bristol), Mrs. Martin (Bristol), Marcia Morris (Hebron)

### Exhibits:

Draft MS-27 School Budget form

Budget Figures for Contemplation for FY11 Default Budget

Draft School District Warrant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. Mary Campbell moved, Vincent Paul Migliore seconded, to go into non-public session for the purpose of discussing personnel. *Approved on a roll call vote 4-0-0-3* (Danbury, Groton, New Hampton absent). Suggestions for budget cuts that involve personnel were discussed. No action was taken.

At 7:25 pm Sue Cheney moved, Vincent Paul Migliore seconded, to come out of non-public session; *approved 5-0-0-2*. The flag was saluted by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Superintendent reported that the meeting had been posted in all District schools, in the seven towns, and on the District web site.

### Public Comments

Mr. Martin noted that the Board's recent resolution regarding special education costs was a bold statement.

### Discussion Items

- Budget Committee Reductions (\$200,000)  
At their December 17, 2009 meeting, the School Budget Committee requested that the School Board reduce their proposed budget by another \$200,000, which would amount to a total reduction of \$1 million in fund 10. They also asked the School Board to decide from where these additional reductions should be taken. Discussion ensued.

### Suggestions:

1100 112 Teacher Salaries – cut \$77,042

1100 114 Academic Interventionist Salaries – cut \$22,958

1200 570 Contingency (Special Ed) – cut \$50,000

2721 519 Contracted Transportation Services – cut \$50,000

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- **Default Budget**  
Dan explained how he arrived at his draft Default Budget. He did not include an estimated increase for the transportation contract which expires June 30<sup>th</sup>; he is currently negotiating a new agreement with the vendor. The School Board discussed whether such an increase should be included in the default and if so, for what amount. The base transportation contract increase 7.9% from last year to this year. The Board favored adding a 7.9% increase for transportation to the default budget. Discussion ensued.

It was disappointing that we do not have a full Board here to discuss and act on these important issues.

- **Warrant Articles**  
Dan explained the pre-review of the warrant articles performed by the DRA Municipal Services Division and distributed their report. Discussion ensued.

### Public Comments

Mr. Martin reported that the Communication Council had received a good response to their survey. He complimented Dan for the materials presented. He suggested that the District show its income at the budget hearing. Transparency has been increased tremendously. Any decrease to the budget will be well received by the public. This is a business. Public companies are cutting overhead. Budget needs, not wants. Scholastic results of our investment?

Mrs. Johnson noted that there are items other than personnel to look at for cuts.

### Action Items

- **Budget Committee Reductions (\$200,000).** Vincent Paul Miglior moved, Sue Cheney seconded, to reduce the proposed budget by \$200,000 as follows:
  - 1100 112 Teacher Salaries – cut \$77,042
  - 1100 114 Academic Interventionist Salaries – cut \$22,958
  - 1200 570 Contingency (Special Ed) – cut \$50,000
  - 2721 519 Contracted Transportation Services – cut \$50,000

*Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- **Default Budget.** Sue Cheney moved, Jon Johnson seconded, to set the default budget at \$22,678,348; this is derived by
  - 1) adding NATA increases to NATA employees
  - 2) budgeting health increase premiums for NATA employees at the current actual rate + GMR and budgeting non-NATA employees at the current actual rate
  - 3) including the State Retirement Tax Rate increase
  - 4) removing Alternative Wheels costs (function 1210)
  - 5) removing Drivers Ed Instruction
  - 6) removing Life Safety Code construction costs
  - 7) increasing transportation by 7.9%

*Approved 4-1-0-2.*

- **Warrant Articles**

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- Mary Campbell moved, Sue Cheney seconded, to recommend Article 2: Special Education Capital Reserve Fund as written. *Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- Mary Campbell moved, Vincent Paul Migliore seconded, to recommend Article 3: Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance as written. *Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- Mary Campbell moved, Jon Johnson seconded, to recommend Article 4: Performance Energy Management Contract as written. *Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- Mary Campbell moved, Sue Cheney seconded, to recommend Article 5: Air Quality Improvements at Newfound Memorial Middle School as written. *Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- Mary Campbell moved, Sue Cheney seconded, to recommend Article 6: FY09 General Fund Deficit as written. *Approved 5-0-0-2.*
- Mary Campbell moved, Jon Johnson seconded, to recommend Article 7: Operating Budget as \$22,739,911 and the default budget as \$22,678,348. *Approved 4-1-0-2.*

At 10:05 pm Mary Campbell moved, Jon Johnson seconded, to adjourn; *approved 5-0-0-2.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Vice Chair  
Newfound Area School Board