

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center

Monday, **March 8, 2010** at **6:30 pm**

FINAL MINUTES

School Board Present: Mary Campbell (Vice Chair, Hebron), Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater), Sue Cheney (Alexandria, arrived 6:43 p.m.), Leslie Dion (Chair, Bristol), Jon Johnson (Danbury)

School Board Absent: Tom Gillis (Groton), Bruce Davol (New Hampton)

Staff Present: Marie Ross (Superintendent), Paul Hoiriis (Clerk and NMMS Teacher), Eileen Magee (NMMS Present), Annmarie Holloran, Dan Rossner (Business Administrator), Christina Touhey (NMMS)

Video Operators: Bruce Wheeler (NRHS Teacher), David Drury (NRHS Student)

Public Present: Emmett Morrill (NMMS Student), Wesley Morrill (Bridgewater), David Gibson (NMMS), Addie Holton (Alexandria), Anne Holton (Alexandria), April Nguyen (Alexandria), Lucy Soule (Bristol), Scott Libby (Bristol), Kathy Libby (Bristol), Kathy Meegan (Bristol), Kevin Miller (Bridgewater), Tracey Miller (Bridgewater), Owen Miller (Bridgewater), Ann Learned (Bristol), Matt Learned (Bristol), Kevin Gallagher (Bridgewater), Julie Gallagher (Bridgewater), Tate Miller (Bridgewater), Ben Learned (Bristol), Julaine Geldermann (Bristol), Deb Ruseski (Alexandria), Rob McAfee (Alexandria), Ann Johnson (Danbury), Jake Holton (Alexandria), Megan Geldermann (Bristol), Mark McMenaman (NMMS Student), Karissa Wolivar (NMMS Student), Ashley Ruseski (Alexandria), Hailey McAfee (Alexandria), Thao Nguyen (Alexandria), Johanna Soule (Bristol), Kelly Gallagher (Bridgewater), Diane Dexter-Smith (Budget Committee), Steve Favorite (Bristol), Neal Martin, Claire FitzMorris (NMMS Student), Meaghan FitzMorris (NRHS Student), Lexie Santry (NRHS Student), John Voelbel (Budget Committee, Bridgewater)

At 6:37 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order.

The flag was saluted by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Marie Ross indicated that the notices of postings have been placed at the town offices, the schools, and on the website at www.newfound.k12.nh.us.

Recognition

The Chair asked middle school Principal Eric Chase to introduce the Math Counts Competition participants from the middle school. Mr. Chase introduced the coaches as middle school math teachers Eileen Magee and Christina Touhey. Ms. Touhey complimented the students on working hard and a job well-done. The Chair presented certificates to Tate Miller, Caitlyn McAfee (absent), Sara Nestic (absent), Katie O'Neil (absent), Logan Frye (absent), Zack Allen (absent), Kim Armstrong (absent), Megan Libby, Katie Crosby (absent), Allie Meegan, Kayleigh Kehough (absent), Allison Smith (absent), Sydney Como (absent). Ms. Magee explained that these are the sixth graders who are the team's up-and-comers. The Chair then presented certificates to eighth graders David Gibson, Megan Geldermann, Kelly Gallagher, and Ashley Ruseski. Ms. Magee stated that these four students competed at the competition at Plymouth State University and the regional competition. The Chair commented on the number of Megan Geldermann's trophies. The coaches explained that Megan achieved second place overall in the entire competition. They showed a plaque with Megan's name on it that would appear in the school trophy case at Newfound Memorial Middle School. The two commented that Megan's name would be etched forever in the school's history. The Chair then presented certificates to Felicia Livingston (absent), Johanna Soule, Thao Nguyen, Ben Learned, Mark McMenaman, Justin Hanser (absent), Bridget Henss (absent), Karissa Wolivar, Hailey McAfee, Jake Holton, Emmett Morrill. The Board gave the entire math team a standing ovation. Seventh grade social studies teacher Paul Hoiriis added that he received word that

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

50 Megan Geldermann has been accepted to compete in the State Geography Bee. Mr. Hoiriis added that
51 Megan's name also appears on a plaque in the trophy case as NMMS school geography champion which
52 will be forever etched in the school's history.

53

54 The Chair next recognized Sue Cheney and Vincent Paul Migliore with certificates for their dedication
55 and service in their positions as School Board representatives-at large for the towns of Alexandria and
56 Bridgewater respectively. The Chair explained that their terms were ending as they are both up for re-
57 election and that she wanted to be sure to recognize them in case they would not be returning.

58

59 Danbury Elementary School Principal Annmarie Holloran shared with the Board that she received a
60 shadowbox containing a flag of our nation from Sergeant First Class Billy Mitchell presented to DES
61 students honoring those soldiers killed in Iraq. Ms. Holloran explained that students have skyped with
62 soldiers as part of a Veteran's Day celebration and have continued communication since then with letters
63 and e-mails. Ms. Campbell asked how the students reacted to receiving this honor. Ms. Holloran said
64 that the reactions were great and that the students were proud. The Chair thanked the students. Ms.
65 Holloran also mentioned that the New Hampton Community School Destination Imagination team placed
66 second in their competition on Saturday and would go on to compete at the state level next month.

67

68 Superintendent Ross asked the Chair if the Board would add an item to the agenda regarding the approval
69 of a Substitute Teacher Handbook under Discussion and Action items. The Board agreed.

70

71 Student Council Report

72 The Chair introduced Claire FitzMorris as the Student Council representative from the middle school.
73 Claire highlighted several events at the middle school including an upcoming sixth grade field trip to the
74 Boston Museum of Science, the upcoming seventh grade KAPER Conference, and the fundraising efforts
75 for the upcoming eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. Ms. Dion asked Claire how the fundraising was
76 going. Claire responded that it has been quite successful, especially for students who have brought in
77 canned goods or food to the dances.

78

79 The Chair next invited high school Student Council Representatives Meaghan FitzMorris and Lexie
80 Santry to deliver the high school report. Meaghan noted the Valentine's Day fundraiser selling chocolate
81 roses and raising over \$200 for the upcoming Spring Fling. Both young ladies commented on the success
82 of Winter Carnival pointing out that the seniors won. Dr. Ross asked for some highlights. Ms.
83 FitzMorris responded that part of the competition included recycling efforts and hallway decoration. Ms.
84 Santry added that this year's theme was "Fantasy" around which students based their artwork and lip sync
85 competitions. Dr. Ross asked Meaghan to comment on the recent speaker Ed Garretty who visited both
86 the high school and the middle school. Meaghan said that Mr. Garretty spoke to a the entire student body
87 about making good choices and taking responsibility for your actions. She added that his stories were
88 meaningful and relevant to their lives. Dr. Ross asked Claire and Mr. Hoiriis if the middle school
89 students had a similar experience. Claire said that she has noticed a great change in attitude among her
90 peers. Mr. Hoiriis agreed with Meagan that the speaker was extremely engaging to students. Dr. Ross
91 commented that this speaker fits in appropriately with the anti-bullying initiative in the District. Meaghan
92 announced that the March 3rd Blood Drive at the high school was quite successful exceeding the goal for
93 number of pints at 65. Lexie reminded the Board and the public of the upcoming Spring Fling. Meaghan
94 concluded by commenting on the high school students' participation in the New Hampshire Highway
95 Seat Belt Challenge where students compete in teams of four.

96

97 School Board Meeting Minutes

- 98 • February 5, 2010 – The Chair introduced the February 5th minutes from the First Deliberative
99 Session to the Board for corrections and comment. Ms. Dion changed the word "in" to "if" on
100 line 130. Dr. Ross corrected the spelling of "Stant" to "Stamp" on lines 135 and 137. Dr. Ross

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

101 also changed “ARA” to “ARRA” and “QZAD” to “QZAB” on line 142 and 143 respectively.
102 She also added the word “asked” on line 147 after the word “also.” Dr. Ross changed the word
103 “wander” to “wider” on line 228. On line 241, she changed “stimulus” to “building aid.” Mr.
104 Migliore corrected a typo of the word “where” on line 305. Dr. Ross corrected the spelling of the
105 name “Wendleboe” on line 342. On line 374, she corrected the spelling of the name “Barnard.”
106 Mr. Migliore asked Mr. Rossner for clarification for the number of bargaining unit and other
107 employees on lines 387 and 388. The Chair then entertained a motion to accept, as amended, the
108 February 5th First Deliberative Session Minutes. Mary Campbell so moved, Vincent Paul
109 Migliore seconded, and the motion was *approved 5-0-0-2 (New Hampton and Groton absent)*.
110

- 111 • February 8, 2010 – The Chair introduced the February 8th School Board Minutes to the Board
112 for corrections and comment. Ms. Campbell changed “t” to “the” on line 99. Dr. Ross explained
113 that “CTE” stands for “Career Technical Education” referred to on line 161. She also corrected
114 “Bear Shack” to read “Cat Shack” on line 165. Mr. Migliore changed “supporting” to
115 “supportive” on line 177. Ms. Dion corrected typos on lines 186, 189, and 197. Finally, Dr. Ross
116 changed “will” to “could” on line 200. The Chair then entertained a motion to accept, as
117 amended, the February 8th School Board Minutes. Ms. Campbell so moved, Mr. Migliore
118 seconded, and the motion was *approved 5-0-0-2*.
119

120 121 Correspondence and Administrator Reports

122 Dr. Ross read portions of a letter from seventh grade home school student Sharleigh Thomson
123 recommending a way to decrease carbon dioxide levels at the middle school using plants. Both Dr. Ross
124 and the Board commended her on her thorough research and well-written letter. One note of interest was
125 a recommendation for having two plants for every 180 square feet. Dr. Ross stated that she will write
126 back to Ms. Thomson and answer her point-to-point. Mr. Migliore added that Ms. Thomson’s plan is
127 worth taking a serious look at since it proposes a great impact with a more minimal cost. Mr. Migliore
128 asked about the idling of buses in the parking lot. Dr. Ross said there is a no-idling policy by the State
129 and this has been addressed – with the only exception being during the winter to properly heat the buses.
130 Dr. Ross also drew attention to a *Concord Monitor* article by Professor Michael Ellenbecker about the air
131 quality at our middle school. Professor Ellenbecker commented that the air quality there is among the
132 highest he has ever encountered. He adds that even though there is no direct health hazard, it shows a
133 complete lack of fresh air. Dr. Ross called this article a timely response to the issue we face at NMMS.
134 She added that it is important not to overdramatize the situation, but just as important not to underreport
135 the concern.
136

137 The Chair asked the Board if they had any comments on the Administrators’ Reports. Ms. Campbell
138 replied that they are always the highlight of the Board packet. Ms. Dion asked who Humphrey is at
139 Danbury Elementary School. Dr. Ross replied that he is a hamster related to the “one school, one book”
140 initiative at DES.
141

142 Ms. Campbell also congratulated the efforts of Jason Robert and the middle school students and staff for a
143 successful Shave-Your-Head-A-Thon. Ms. Campbell asked middle school teacher Paul Hoiriis how he
144 thought this year’s event went. Mr. Hoiriis commented that there was a record number of participants this
145 year at 47 with only two hairdressers getting the job done. He also added that this was the second highest
146 year in terms of fundraising bringing a two year total to \$10,000. Dr. Ross asked high school student
147 David Drury for his comments on the event. He said that it was quite meaningful to him after losing his
148 mother to cancer last fall and was excited to see everyone stepping up for such a great cause.
149

150 Ms. Campbell thanked Dan Rossner for a job well-done regarding the new bus contract. Mr. Rossner
151 asked the Board if they had a strong feelings about either the 3-year or 5-year contract. Ms. Campbell

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

152 replied that they trust his judgment. Dr. Ross asked him to review the options. Mr. Rossner explained
153 that neither option will result in a cost increase for next year. However, under the three year option, the
154 District will pay for the GPS system which is around \$11,000 per year, where under the five year option,
155 the bus company covers this cost. Mr. Rossner said this GPS is one tool which will help First Student
156 take on more of the route management responsibility and improve efficiency. Mr. Rossner explained that
157 there will be an incentive agreement between First Student and the District where the savings proceeds
158 will be split between the two for any decrease in the number of buses used. Mr. Migliore asked about the
159 difference in cost increases between the two contracts. Mr. Rossner responded by saying there is a
160 smaller percentage cost increase in the five year contract at only 2.25% v. the 2.5% in the three year
161 agreement. Mr. Migliore congratulated Mr. Rossner on a job well-done.
162

163 Dr. Ross introduced a DVD on Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) at four schools, including
164 Newfound, in New Hampshire. She thanked Beth Colby and the area partners for their hard work on this
165 program and DVD. Dr. Ross further explained that these ELOs help bring expanded curriculum to
166 schools for students who want to explore learning outside the normal curriculum. Dr. Ross played the
167 DVD. After the presentation, she explained that we are involved in a Nellie Mae Grant for \$90,000 to
168 fund our ELOs. She added that this money can provide mentoring and opportunities to offer courses after
169 school. Dr. Ross cited an example in our District of a student working on a film project as part of an
170 ELO. She concluded by saying that this is a great way to personalize education and make it more relevant
171 for students.
172

173 Lastly, Dr. Ross reviewed the different tax rate contributions in each town and explained this was based
174 on the make-ups of those towns. She reiterated that she was pleased with the great relationship between
175 the Board and the Budget Committee this year resulting in the ability to absorb costs and call for less
176 contribution from taxes to fund education this year over last.
177

178 Strategic Plan Reports

- 179 • Policy Committee Minutes February 17, 2010 – The Chair asked the Board if there were any
180 comments on these minutes. Ms. Campbell said that she had no comments, but pointed out
181 that there were some action items regarding policy on the agenda this evening. Ms. Dion
182 thanked Ms. Campbell and the Policy Committee for their hard work as this committee is one
183 of the more active committees.
184
- 185 • Communication and Community Relations Council February 17, 2010 – Dr. Ross asked
186 Council member Neal Martin if he had any information about a report coming from this
187 council in April. He said that something meaningful is in the works and that members of the
188 council had a great relationship and level of respect for one another.
189
- 190 • Community Evaluation of School Board (Policy AFA, AFA-E) – Dr. Ross asked that each
191 School Board Member fill this out and return it to the Chair. She also pointed out that this
192 evaluation is posted on our website and welcomes community feedback.
193

194 Public Comments on Agenda Items, limited to 15 minutes

195 Not to exceed five minutes per individual (School Board Policy BDDH)
196

197 Diane Dexter Smith asked whether there are minutes available to the public for these councils and
198 committees. Mr. Migliore responded by searching the District website for council and committee
199 minutes. He replied that most are there on the website, but not the Communication and Community
200 Relations Council minutes. Dr. Ross said that she would speak with Ruth Whittier and Sue Cross about
201 posting those minutes.

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

202 Neil Martin asked Dr. Ross to make available the results of the School Board evaluations to the
203 Communication and Community Relations Council to which she responded in the affirmative. Mr.
204 Martin also commended Mr. Rossner on great job on negotiating the bus contract which would save the
205 District money by entering into a five year v. a three year contract. Finally, Mr. Martin mentioned a
206 student Ethan Caputo who has been accepted to a six week program at Berkeley School of Music. Mr.
207 Martin said that he worked with the student on the video application and the student may even get a
208 scholarship. Ms. Campbell thanked Mr. Martin for mentoring the student.

209
210 Mr. Martin said it was great that two school board members came to the Candidates Night. Mr. Migliore
211 added that there was a great turnout at the Danbury session. Ms. Cheney concurred.

212
213 Dr. Ross thanked Kathleen Gerona for mentoring a student doing a newspaper.

214
215 Steve Favorite cited an article in the *New Hampshire Business Review* about obesity in children. He said
216 that New Hampshire has a 29% child obesity rate ranking them among other New England states. He
217 added that he expects big changes will come regarding the food served in schools. He also mentioned a
218 bullying case in South Korea that he heard about on National Public Radio. He said the result of the
219 bullying was a gruesome suicide making a statement about what the bullying victim's fellow students did
220 to her. He added that he spoke with a Manchester police officer who said that bullying is not just a
221 middle school phenomenon, but starts at second grade and continues through high school. Mr. Favorite
222 thinks that bullying is economy-related and that it worsens with economic conditions.

223
224 Mr. Migliore spoke about a conference that he and middle school Principal Eric Chase attended in
225 Bedford. He said that he was startled by notes from the presenting attorney based on his diary. These
226 notes were regarding policy issues on technology in school districts. He added that cyber bullying is now
227 occurring between schools as a form of school rivalry. Dr. Ross pointed out that this increased concern
228 about bullying in schools is being proactively addressed in our District with assemblies, motivational
229 speakers, and other programs in order to create empathy and sensitivity. One concern she has is that it is
230 becoming increasingly difficult to take action for things that happen beyond the school day off school
231 premises.

232
233 Mr. Favorite stated that he was concerned about early release for prisoners and recent cases of
234 disappearing kids in this nation.

235
236 Diane Dexter Smith stated that she is concerned with the middle school Literacy curriculum. She said
237 that it was her understanding that all the kids do is read and journal. She is concerned that spelling,
238 punctuation, and grammar are not being corrected in the journals. Ms. Dion recommended that Ms. Smith
239 ask to meet with the Literacy teachers, the principal, and then with the superintendent, in that order if she
240 would like to address her concerns. She also added that it was her understanding that she has a right of
241 school choice for her student if the school falls under the Schools-in-Need-of-Improvement plan. Dr.
242 Ross said that this is correct, but the choice is to attend another school within the District. Dr. Ross
243 invited Ms. Smith to meet with her to clarify these issues.

244 245 Discussion Items

246 The Chair invited discussion from the Board regarding the following policies for first reading. Ms.
247 Campbell mentioned that JED Student Attendance was approved for first reading in November 2009, but
248 was then tabled due to some concerns by high school Principal Mike O'Malley. Since then, the policy
249 has been reworked and comes forth again for first reading. Ms. Campbell stated that JHFA Supervision
250 of Students basically adds some language from the Model Policy in order to update our own policy.

251 a. Policies for First Reading

- 252
 - JED Student Attendance – was approved for first reading Nov. 2009

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

- 253 • JHFA Supervision of Students
254

255 The Chair invited discussion from the Board regarding the following policies for second reading. Ms.
256 Campbell reminded the Board that Mr. Migliore made some suggestions to the wording of GBEBD
257 Employee Use of Social Networking Web Sites. His words were added and the Board approved the
258 policy, as amended, for a first reading at the last Board meeting.

259 b. Policies for Second Reading

- 260 • GBEBD Employee Use of Social Networking Web Sites
261 • GBH Employee-Student Relations
262 • IHBH Extended Learning Opportunities
263 • IKF High School Graduation Requirements
264

265 c. Delete Policy – GCQAB – Ms. Campbell said that this item is on the agenda because it is not the
266 current practice since teachers do work in homework clubs and afterschool programs that tutor
267 students in our District. The current policy states that no employees could be paid for tutoring
268 students after school. Dr. Ross pointed out that our homework clubs are paid for by grant money.
269 Mr. Migliore added that he believes the policy was meant to prevent a one-on-one paid tutoring
270 relationship between employees and students in our District. The Board agreed that a formal after
271 school relationship setting is acceptable.
272

273 d. Field Trip – The Chair mentioned that there is a field trip request form Bristol Elementary
274 students to bring students to the Freedom Trail in Boston to connect classroom instruction with
275 Revolutionary War historical sights.
276

277 e. Substitute Handbook – Dr. Ross added this item to the agenda for approval by the Board. Ms.
278 Campbell pointed out that this handbook was created by SAU employee Sue Cross and that we
279 have never had one before. Ms. Campbell thanked Ms. Cross for her initiative and said that will
280 be a great tool for substitute teachers.
281

282 Public Comments on Agenda Items, limited to 15 minutes

283 Not to exceed five minutes per individual (School Board Policy BDDH)

284 The Chair invited comments from the public on the above discussion items. There were none.
285

286 Action Items

287 The Chair entertained a motion to approve the following policies for first reading:

- 288 • JED Student Attendance
289 • JHFA Supervision of Students

290 Mary Campbell so moved, Sue Cheney seconded, and the motion was *approved 5-0-0-2*.
291

292 The Chair entertained a motion to approve the following policies for second reading:

- 293 ○ GBEBD Employee Use of Social Networking Web Sites
294 ○ GBH Employee-Student Relations
295 ○ IHBH Extended Learning Opportunities
296 ○ IKF High School Graduation Requirements

297 Ms. Campbell so moved, Ms. Cheney seconded, and the motion was *approved 5-0-0-2*.
298

299 The Chair entertained a motion to delete the following policy regarding tutoring:

- 300 • GCQAB

301 Ms. Campbell so moved, Jon Johnson seconded, and the motion was *approved 5-0-0-2*.
302

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

303 The Chair entertained a motion to approve the field trip request from Bristol Elementary School to bring
304 students to the Freedom Trail in Boston. Mr. Johnson so moved, Ms. Campbell seconded, and it was
305 *approved 5-0-0-2*.

306
307 The Chair invited a motion to approve the Substitute Handbook. Mr. Migliore complimented Ms. Cross'
308 initiative. Dr. Ross added that Ms. Cross started a committee made up of Ken Darsney, Norma Barney,
309 and Monica Paiva that interviews substitutes and deals with various substitute issues and policies. Ms.
310 Cheney added that this handbook would also be a great tool to incoming Board members. Mr. Migliore
311 asked if the Policy Committee has reviewed and recommends the handbook. Ms. Campbell replied that
312 they have and that they do. Ms. Campbell moved to approve the Substitute Handbook, Mr. Migliore
313 seconded, and it was *approved 5-0-0-2*.

314
315 The Chair asked if there are any manifests for this month. Mr. Migliore moved to table the manifests.
316 Ms. Cheney seconded the motion and it was *approved 5-0-0-2*.

317
318 At 8:15 p.m., the Chair entertained a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91 – a:3, II a in
319 order to discuss personnel issues. Ms. Campbell so moved, Mr. Migliore seconded, and the motion was
320 *approved on a roll call vote 5-0-0-2 (Groton and New Hampton absent)*. No action was taken.

321
322 At 9:15 p.m., Sue Cheney moved, Mary Campbell seconded, to come out of non-public session; *approved*
323 *5-0-0-2*. Mary Campbell moved, Sue Cheney seconded, to adjourn; *approved 5-0-0-2*.

324
325 Respectfully Submitted,

326
327 Paul Hoiriis
328 Clerk

329
330 **Upcoming Board Meetings**
331 March 29 Planning and Dialogue Meeting

332
333 **School Events**

334	March 15	Winter Sports' Awards Night	NRHS	6:30pm
335	March 17	Early Release Day	All Schools	
336	March 23	Grade 6 Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science		8:15am-4:45pm
337	March 24	Kids' Fair	NHCS	5:30-7:00PM
338	March 27	PTO-Sponsored Pancake Breakfast	NHCS	8:00-10:00AM
339	March 29	Gr. 4 & 5 to Capitol Center for the Arts to 340 see "Four Score and Seven Years Ago"	NHCS	
341	March 31	NWEA Testing Begins	NRHS	
342	March 31	TIGER assembly	NHCS	