

# NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD

## Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center

Monday, August 9, 2010 at 6:00 pm

### FINAL MINUTES

**School Board Present:** Mary Campbell (Vice Chair, Hebron), Laura Simula (Bridgewater), Sue Cheney (Alexandria), Louis Lieto (Groton), Bruce Davol (New Hampton), Jon Johnson (Danbury, arrived 6:15 p.m.)

**School Board Excused:** Leslie Dion (Chair, Bristol)

**School Board Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Marie Ross (Superintendent), Paul Hoiriis (Clerk and NMMS Teacher)

**Video Operator:** None

**Public Present:** Ann Johnson (Danbury)

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. She explained that the Chair would not be in attendance this evening and that she would chair the meeting. Next, she asked to move item 4 on the agenda to the beginning to swear in Groton's new School Board member. There were no objections. The Clerk administered the oath of office to Louis Lieto of Groton.

The Vice Chair entertained a motion to go into non-public for the purposes of discussing personnel issues per RSA 91-A:3 IIa and IIb. Bruce Davol so moved, Laura Simula seconded, and the motion was *approved on a roll call vote 5-0-0-2 (Bristol and Danbury absent)*. The personnel items on tonight's agenda were discussed. No action was taken.

At 6:30 p.m., the Vice Chair entertained a motion to come out of non-public session. Louis Lieto so moved, Bruce Davol seconded, and the motion was *approved 6-0-0-1(Bristol absent)*.

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, the SAU, and on the website at [www.sau4.org](http://www.sau4.org).

### **School Board Meeting Minutes**

- **July 12, 2010** – The Vice Chair introduced the July 12<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting minutes for corrections. Mr. Lieto stated that the word “state” needed to be capitalized on lines 6 and 20 on page 3. He also changed “echoes” to “echoed” on line 14 of the same page. Mr. Lieto then moved to approve the July 12<sup>th</sup> School Board Minutes as amended. Bruce Davol seconded the motion and it was *approved 5-0-1-1 (Hebron abstained, Bristol absent)*.
- **July 26, 2010** – The Vice Chair introduced the July 26<sup>th</sup> Planning & Dialogue Meeting Minutes for comments and corrections. Dr. Ross changed “language arts” to “Literacy” on page 2, action item b, bullet 3, line 3. Sue Cheney moved to approve the July 26<sup>th</sup> Planning & Dialogue Minutes as amended. Lou Lieto seconded the motion, and it was *approved 6-0-0-1*.

### **Announcements, Correspondence and Reports**

Ms. Campbell highlighted the two administrative reports in the Board packet. One from the Business Administrator and one from the Student Services Administrator. Dr. Ross called attention to item 5 in the Business Administrator's report that the previously reported allocations of Title IID Funding have become unavailable to the District. Dr. Ross explained that the amount was automatically allocated on the electronic application, but that it was unclear that the District still needed to apply for this funding by a certain date. She regretted the miscommunication, but added that we would not have had the resources, personnel, or capacity to apply for the grant at that time, but regrets the missed opportunity. She further

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1 added that she hopes to use Title I and Professional Development monies for purposes that would have  
2 been covered under Title IID Funding.

3  
4 Ms. Campbell pointed out that one town was late for its July dues. Ms. Campbell asked if it was the same  
5 town that is consistently late. Mr. Rossner's report did not indicate which town was late. Ms. Cheney  
6 added that the lawyer for the District said that the law states that the town cannot be late in its payments,  
7 but that the District would have to take the issue to court in order to enforce the law.

8  
9 Ms. Campbell referred to a letter of thanks from high school Spanish teacher Susan Moore. In her letter,  
10 Ms. Moore thanked Dr. Ross and the School Board for making it possible for her to attend a summer  
11 workshop on Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish. Dr. Ross added that there has been no AP Spanish class  
12 for the last two years in the District and is delighted to be able to offer this class again to students wanting  
13 to take AP Spanish. Ms. Simula asked when Spanish instruction starts in our District. Dr. Ross replied  
14 that it starts in the seventh grade. Mr. Lieto said that he knew a student who was in danger of failing  
15 Spanish in high school, college, and graduate school that put him in danger of failing at those schools due  
16 to his inability to learn languages. He cited this example as a caution to world language immersion  
17 programs. Dr. Ross pointed out that the immersion is at a moderate amount for Level 2 which is what  
18 was referred to in the letter of thanks.

### 19 20 Strategic Plan Reports

- 21 • **Core (Assessment, Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development)**

- 22 ○ **NRHS AP Exam Results – Report of the Class of 2010**

23 Ms. Campbell referred to the report distributed to the Board regarding the results of last  
24 school year's AP test results. She explained that the high school offers advanced placement  
25 classes in various subject areas and the students take a national standardized examination in  
26 May. She explained that most institutes of higher education give credit for a score of 4 or 5,  
27 do not give credit for a score of 1 or 2, and some give credit for a score of 3. She went on to  
28 say that she is grateful that we offer AP classes and applauds the efforts of students in  
29 wanting to attain advanced placement in college, but was disappointed in the results of the  
30 exams. Dr. Ross stated that some school districts offer AP classes as double periods during  
31 the school day and that she will be meeting with Monica Jackson and Mike O'Malley to  
32 discuss teacher training in AP and in format changes in the AP classes. Mr. Lieto asked if  
33 there is data available for comparable surrounding districts on how their students fared on the  
34 exams. Dr. Ross said that she would look into it as the information may be confidential, but  
35 possibly could be attained on anonymous basis. Referring to the same report, Ms. Campbell  
36 added that she was disappointed to see the low number of recent graduates attending college  
37 next year. She did add that this could be due to economic considerations.

- 38  
39 • **Infrastructure (Facilities, Finance, Policy, Technology)**

- 40 • **July 19, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes**

- 41 • **June 8, 2010 Budget Committee Minutes**

42 Ms. Campbell pointed out to the Board that minutes from these two meetings were included  
43 in the packet. No comments were offered.

- 44  
45 • **Communications (Parents, Personnel, Public, Pupils)**

- 46 ○ **TAP Survey Results**

47 Ms. Campbell explained that the reporting of the results of this survey will be postponed  
48 due to a death in the family of tonight's presenter.

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### Public Comments on Agenda Items, limited to 15 minutes

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

The Vice Chair invited comments from the public on tonight's agenda items. None were offered.

### Discussion Items

Ms. Campbell pointed out that there are some changes in some of our policies that reflect recent changes in the law.

#### **a. Policies for First Reading**

##### **o GBCBA Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools**

Ms. Campbell explained that this policy is being replaced with the model policy.

##### **o JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices**

Ms. Campbell explained that this policy is now based on the longer, more comprehensive School Board Association policy. Mr. Lieto expressed concern whether paragraph 3 of the policy could have legal implications for the District regarding confiscating and viewing student electronic devices. He asked if our attorneys looked at this policy. Ms. Campbell replied that there are two attorneys that advise the School Board Association. Dr. Ross also pointed out that the paragraph in question calls for the school administrators to refer the matters to local law enforcement which takes the responsibility out of our hands. Mr. Davol added that the policy states that the administrators can look at electronic devices if there is a reasonable suspicion that there are obscene or illegal images on the device. Mr. Lieto said that he understands that students do not have the same expectation of privacy, but added that law suits could be messy.

##### **o JHG Reporting Neglected and Abused Children**

Ms. Campbell explained that this policy is being replaced with the model policy. Ms. Simula asked about the training related to this policy. Dr. Ross replied that it is referred to in the legal references section of the policy and in the staff handbook. Ms. Campbell added that other policies mandate training as well. Dr. Ross provided an example of the new bullying law which mandates staff training.

##### **o KB Title 1 Parent Involvement in Education**

Ms. Campbell explained that the above four policies are being offered tonight for first reading and will not go into effect until they are approved on a second reading at next month's School Board meeting.

#### **b. Policy for Second Reading:**

##### **o JED Attendance, Absenteeism, Truancy**

Ms. Campbell explained that this policy had to be changed to reflect the new State law that went into effect on July 7<sup>th</sup>. She added that the Policy Committee met with high school Principal O'Malley and took some of his suggestions, and adopted most of the model State policy.

#### **c. Personnel:**

##### **o New Hires**

Ms. Campbell stated that these two positions were discussed during the non-public session.

#### **d. Request for Surplus Property Motion**

Ms. Campbell referred to a memorandum from the Business Administrator asking that a commercial reach-in refrigerator freezer be declared surplus property. Dr. Ross added that there are procedures that the District follows under Policy DN for the disposal of such surplus property.

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### Public Comments on Discussion Items, limited to 15 minutes

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

The Vice Chair invited comments from the public on tonight's discussion items. None were offered.

### Action Items

#### **a. Policies for First Reading**

- **GBCBA Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools**
- **JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices**
- **JHG Reporting Neglected and Abused Children**
- **KB Title 1 Parent Involvement in Education**

Ms. Cheney moved to approve policies GBCBA Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School, JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices, JHG Reporting Neglected and Abused Children, and KB Title 1 Parent Involvement in Education for first reading. Bruce Davol seconded the motion, and it was *approved 6-0-0-1*.

#### **b. Policy for Second Reading:**

- **JED Attendance, Absenteeism, Truancy**

Ms. Cheney moved to approve policy JED Attendance, Absenteeism, Truancy for second reading, thus becoming policy. Bruce Davol seconded the motion, and it was *approved 6-0-0-1*.

#### **c. Personnel:**

- **New Hires**

Lou Lieto moved to elect Amy Robinson as the School Nurse at Danbury Elementary School and Tara Marie Nelson as the .6 Guidance Counselor at Newfound Memorial Middle School, as nominated by the Superintendent. Mr. Davol seconded the motion, and it was *approved 6-0-0-1*.

#### **d. Request for Surplus Property Motion**

Mr. Lieto moved to declare the commercial reach-in refrigerator freezer as surplus property as recommended by the Business Administrator. Ms. Simula seconded the motion, and it was *approved 6-0-0-1*.

Ms. Campbell highlighted the upcoming Planning & Dialogue Meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She added that this meeting is not a School Board business meeting, but instead, is devoted to planning or discussing a topic. Dr. Ross pointed out that at this upcoming meeting, the consultants on Focused Monitoring and a consultant on autism will be speaking.

Ms. Campbell also invited Board members to attend the opening day breakfast and district meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Campbell pointed out that Mr. Hoiriis has returned from a summer institute on China and will be offering professional development at a workshop in the District this fall.

Ms. Campbell and Dr. Ross explained that the non-public session following tonight's meeting will be used to discuss the upcoming negotiations with the bargaining unit. Dr. Ross further explained that these non-public sessions during this negotiations period will be used to update and to get consent from the Board on various issues throughout the bargaining process. She mentioned that Mr. Johnson, Ms. Cheney, and Ms. Dion will be representing the Board during the negotiations process.

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1 At 7:06 p.m., the Vice Chair entertained a motion to go into non-public session for the above-mentioned  
2 purpose. Mr. Lieto so moved, Mr. Davol seconded, and the motion was *approved on a roll call vote 6-0-*  
3 *0-1 (Bristol absent)*. No action was taken.

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5 At 8:27 p.m., Jon Johnson moved, Lou Lieto seconded, to come out of non-public session. The motion  
6 was *approved 6-0-0-1 (Bristol absent)*. Sue Cheney moved, Laura Simula seconded, to adjourn.  
7 *Approved 6-0-0-1 (Bristol absent)*.

8  
9 Respectfully submitted,

10  
11 Paul Hoiriis  
12 Clerk

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