

Newfound Area School Board

Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center
Monday, February 13, 2012

**Public Hearing on
Warrant Article 3: Tax Cap and Warrant Article 6: Rescinding the Official Ballot
Begins at 6 pm**

**School Board Meeting
Begins at 6:30 pm**

APPROVED AS AMENDED MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD Present: Lloyd Belbin (Bristol), Mary Campbell (Hebron), Suzanne Cheney (Alexandria), Jon Johnson (Danbury), Louis Lieto (Groton), Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater), Paul Rheinhardt (New Hampton)

SAU Present: Michael O’Malley (NRHS Principal), Marie Ross (Superintendent), Dan Rossner (Business Administrator)

PUBLIC Present: Todd Westfall (Alexandria), Janet Cote (Bristol), Don Franklin (Hebron), Steve Favorite (Bristol), Fred Robinson (Danbury), Karen P (New Hampton), Louise Hislip (Alexandria), Terry Murphy (Bridgewater), Kathleen Connor (Hebron), Max Stamp (Bristol), Debbie Richardson (Alexandria), Stephanie B (Bridgewater), Amy Fairbanks (Bristol), Heather Gosslin (Bristol), John Janes, Debbie ? (Alexandria), Stephanie Peters (Bridgewater), Katherine Meegan (Bristol)

Call to Order at 6:30 pm

- Salute the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance
- Notice of Posting

Recognition

- Dylan Collins and Carly Huard were recognized for being National Merit Scholar Finalists.
- Principal O’Malley explained the competition for being a National Merit Scholar.

School Board Meeting Minutes

- ^ January 9, 2012
- ^ *Louis Lieto motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Vincent Paul Migliore; approved 7-0-0-0.*
- ^ January 11, 2012 Budget Hearing
- ^ *Louis Lieto motioned to approve as amended, seconded by Paul Rheinhardt; approved 7-0-0-0.*
- ^ January 16, 2012
- ^ Postponed until the March meeting.

Announcements, Correspondence and Reports

- ^ Josh Adjutant gave his report. He talked about winter carnival and other happenings at the High School.
- ^ Dr. Ross congratulated Josh for winning the local Rotary Club speech contest and talked about his moving on in the contest. He noted his speech was about highlighting the importance of honesty and the benefits. Dr. Ross further talked about the service groups at the high school associated with local community organizations.
- ^ Mary Campbell noted the different school reports in the Board packet. Dr. Ross talked about the “Granite State Reads” grant being awarded to the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School.
- ^ Mary Campbell mentioned BHVS celebrating Doug “Amoo” Riddle.
- ^ Mary Campbell and Dr. Ross highlighted other events and goings on at the various schools.
- ^ Vincent Paul Migliore noted in the interest of fairness that the math team did extremely well, but the ranking in the data task force is the second worst. He wants to point out there are anomalies in how they

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- 51 make decisions based on facts.
- 52 ^ Dan Rossner talked about his Business Administrator's Report and the challenges facing the SAU with
53 the retirement of Carol Exford in Food Service. He talked about the service fee at TD Bank. He
54 discussed item 6, local restaurants supplying pizza. He talked about spreading the business out through
55 different vendors. He also talked about the Facilities Committee. They had a meeting but there were no
56 minutes.
- 57 ^ Sue Cheney asked about the carpet at the high school. Dan Rossner said they are staying with carpet,
58 replacing one section in the building. He talked about the product, the 25 year warranty and issues it
59 addresses.
- 60 ^ Mary Campbell talked about an article on Competency Based Learning that was included in the Board
61 packet and talked about an author from Groton who worked with students on illustrating a book she
62 wrote. Dr. Ross talked about other educational opportunities at the high school.
- 63 ^ Principal O'Malley showed the audience an article in Education Weekly and a story on Newfound
64 Regional High School.
- 65 ^ Mary Campbell said she appreciated Vincent Paul Migliore attending the NHSBA Delegate Assembly
66 on January 14th and representing the Board and asked if there were any questions or comments from the
67 Board.
- 68 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about the labor relations section of the report and asked Dr. Ross and
69 Mary Campbell for input regarding the collective bargaining and a sever-ability clause. He talked about
70 rifting.
- 71 ^ Dr. Ross said she thinks they are in good shape with the agreement. The law says you can't use seniority
72 as your only measure. The SAU4 policy is to retain the most effective teacher, not necessarily seniority.
73 She went over the different issues they would look at and seniority is the tie breaker. She further talked
74 about classifications and that the policy can't be changed during the term of the contracts. She also
75 talked about tenure and the changes they made. She noted the Newfound Area School Teacher's Union
76 President is in complete agreement.
- 77 ^ Louis Lieto asked about following any changes in the law and if it is in the contract. Dr. Ross said the
78 law supersedes policy.
- 79 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said that if we have a contractual agreement, perhaps there is no contract any
80 more if it expires on July 1. He further talked about sever-ability and laws regarding the contract.
- 81 ^ Dr. Ross said when you renegotiate you can look at adding that clause. She further talked about the
82 reduction in staff, retirements and being cautious on making the reductions. They are bringing in a
83 consultant and will be looking at the effectiveness of the cuts.
- 84 ^ Sue Cheney said she noticed in the report that the US spends more money than all other countries
85 except Switzerland but have poorer results. She talked further about the results and whether or not all
86 the children are going to school. Louis Lieto further talked about citizenship and children being
87 excluded from schools etc. and his surprise that the US was being compared to Mexico.

88 **Strategic Plan Reports**

89 90 Core (Assessment, Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development)

91 NECAP Test Results

- 92 ^ Mr. Chase put the presentation together but had a broken rib and was unable to attend. Dr. Ross will
93 present his results for grades 3 through 8. (See attached)
- 94 ^ Mr. O'Malley presented the results "Fall 2011-Beginning of Grade 11 NECAP Tests". (See attached)
- 95 ^ Dr. Ross explained what NECAP is.
- 96 ^ Mr. O'Malley explained how the scoring is done. He went over the Newfound versus the State mean
97 scores. He talked about proficiency levels and how Newfound compares to other districts.
- 98 ^ Mr. O'Malley talked about the Newfound Regional High School Math Team and their need for
99 recognition.
- 100 ^ Dr. Ross gave Principal Chase's NECAP report on grades 3 through 6. She went over the results of
101 Newfound compared to the State. Mr. Chase put together reports to show where the NECAP scores for
102 Newfound would fall if the IEP students were not included and the gap between students with and

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- 103 without IEPs.
- 104 ▲ She asked people to keep in mind that there are different reasons for IEPs and the likelihood of those
- 105 students to bridge the gap and the kind of help they are receiving. She further went over the Newfound
- 106 versus the State mean scores.
- 107 ▲ She further talked about analysis that has been done and the criteria that label a school a “school in need
- 108 of improvement”. She explained how testing takes place for students with IEPs.
- 109 ▲ She further explained the tests, the results, and that they will have more analysis in the spring when they
- 110 get the AYP results.
- 111 ○ Professional Development Jan 18th minutes
 - 112 ○ Infrastructure (Facilities, Finance, Policy, Technology)
 - 113 ○ Policy Committee January 30th minutes
 - 114 ○ School Budget Committee January 3rd minutes
 - 115 ○ School Budget Committee January 11th minutes
 - 116 ○ Communications (Parents, Personnel, Public, Pupils)
- 117

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

- 118 ***Public Comments on Agenda Items Only***
- 119 Not to exceed five minutes per individual [School Board Policy BDDH]
- 120 ▲ Janet Cote, Bristol, asked if the presentations on the NECAP would be on the website. Dr. Ross said
- 121 they can be put on the website.
- 122 ▲ Todd Westfall, Alexandria, said he saw these presentations last year and Mr. Chase explained there
- 123 were bumps in the scores and that the drops in the scores were because of a certain grade not
- 124 performing well through their whole school career. His concern is that, this increase this year is due to
- 125 what the school is doing. He wonders if he would be willing to guarantee these results or better for the
- 126 coming year. What he would like to see moving forward is that they shouldn't gloss over the low points
- 127 and only highlight the high points. He would like to see the total for the entire district. It looks like
- 128 overall we are making improvements but we need to see over the entire district.
- 129 ▲ Dr. Ross explained the testing and results and how the scores are calculated. It doesn't make any sense
- 130 to add in the 11th grade score with the 3rd grade scores.
- 131 ▲ Dr. Ross asked Louis Lieto how the District Data Task Force came up with their numbers. Louis Lieto
- 132 said they got them from the State website. Louis Lieto explained where they found the numbers and
- 133 how they determined the percentages.
- 134 ▲ Mr. O'Malley talked about how the scores are calibrated. He said not to look at the mean score but the
- 135 AYP index score to compare districts.
- 136 ▲ Dr. Ross said they could offer different percentages per grade level and then further talked about AYP
- 137 proficiency. Mr. O'Malley further discussed index scores.
- 138 ▲ Mr. O'Malley talked about difference between cohorts making a minimal difference in AYP. Dr. Ross
- 139 talked about team teaching and improving skills. She talked further about program changes, extra
- 140 remediation, math labs, tutoring etc.
- 141 ▲ Todd Westfall, commented what they are trying to achieve is a steady increase, but they seem to be
- 142 going up and down, not a leveling out from one grade to the next. Mr. O'Malley agreed they need to
- 143 stop the fluctuation.
- 144 ▲ Todd Westfall asked what programs he thinks improved the scores. Mr. O'Malley talked about opening
- 145 the writing lab and how it works.
- 146 ▲ Dr. Ross talked about work done at the middle school in the reading program that she believes it helped
- 147 improve the scores. She further talked about teacher training programs to help with teaching special
- 148 education students.
- 149 ▲ Don Franklin, Hebron, talked about tracking students and comparing the testing of students when they
- 150 were in 3rd grade to when they were tested again in the 11th grade.
- 151 ▲ Steve Favorite, Bristol, talked about the No Child Left Behind program and wondered if NH will stay in
- 152 this program.
- 153 ▲ Dr. Ross talked about the waiver that states were granted. She talked about the strings attached to the

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- 154 waiver that were more stringent than those for the NCLB program. She talked Dr. Barry wanting to be
155 cautious and doing more research before applying for the waiver.
- 156 ^ Fred Robinson, Danbury, talked about the guarantee on improvement in scores. He said because of the
157 significant staffing cuts there are going to be changes to the education in the district. It would be
158 difficult to give a guarantee.
- 159 ^ **Vincent Paul Migliore talked about a resolution passed at the General Assembly. The Stratford
160 School Board wanted to change the dates for testing from October to May and this was passed by
161 the Delegation in July.** He also talked about the NCLB act and legislation that will provide additional
162 waivers and that nothing will happen prior to the election. He talked about the waivers and rules
163 governing them and different issues being addressed.
- 164 ^ Louis Lieto talked about the criteria that requires the State to define the criteria for competency and take
165 it away from local school districts. In general, about the presentations, the District Data Task Force will
166 sharpen some of the data they use to be more specific on the performance matrix and to ask more
167 questions about cohorts of students and improvements or drops in scores.
- 168 ^ Mr. O'Malley and Dr. Ross talked about changes to the NECAP testing. Next year will be the last
169 NECAP testing then they will move to the Common Assessment Test. These will be on the computer
170 with questions getting increasingly difficult with each correct answer.

171

172 *Discussion Items*

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- 174 a) Policies for First Reading
- 175 o GCN Evaluation of Personnel
- 176 ■ Mary Campbell went over changes that were made.
- 177 o IKFC Awarding of Diplomas
- 178 ■ Mary Campbell went over changes that were made.
- 179 o JLCJ Concussions and Head Injuries [new policy]
- 180 ■ Mary Campbell went over changes that were made.
- 181 ■ Louis Lieto made sure the changes were clear to the Board.
- 182 b) First Deliberative Session
- 183 ^ Mary Campbell noted the great turnout and that 524 people voted.
- 184 ^ Lloyd Belbin thanked everyone for coming to the session. But he thinks it was a bad decision to
185 have voters in the gym when there were non-voters in the auditorium.
- 186 ^ Dan Rossner said the moderator said they could not segregate. Lloyd Belbin further discussed that
187 people were upset, but the moderator has the right to do it, it's not against the law. Dr. Ross said
188 they reminded the checklist supervisors to maintain the lists.
- 189 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said he thought it was well handled and it was a well run meeting. He would
190 like to motion, when they get to action items, to hold the deliberative session on a Saturday with a
191 snow date on the second Saturday also.
- 192 ^ Louis Lieto said he was thrilled with the turnout and the quality and politeness of the meeting. He
193 talked about the mailing and that no one in Groton got the mailing because it goes through Rumney.
- 194 ^ Dan Rossner said they did talk to the USPS to figure out how to do the mailing. There was further
195 discussion about addresses in the Newfound district having Plymouth and Rumney addresses and
196 other people noted they didn't receive the mailing.
- 197 ^ Dr. Ross went over how the mailing was done per the USPS.
- 198 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about the voting in March and the need to get final ballots resolved for
199 absentee ballots. Dr. Ross said it is under control.
- 200 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about the checklist and that there is disagreement in New Hampton
201 whether they need to keep it or not. Mary Campbell said she heard the moderator announce they
202 need to be held as required by law. Vincent Paul Migliore said he will further pursue this. Mary
203 Campbell asked if Paul Rheinhardt knew anything about it. Paul Rheinhardt said that he does not.
204 Sue Cheney is a supervisor of the checklist in her town and confirmed they are supposed to be held

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- 205 for 7 years.
- 206 ^ Mary Campbell went over the dates and times for the hearings on the warrant articles in the
207 different towns. She encouraged the Board members to attend their town's meetings.
- 208 c) Plan for Adding the 5th Grade to NMMS
- 209 ^ Dr. Ross talked about the process they took to try to get to a \$20million budget and the cuts she said
210 would need to be made to reach that budget. She talked about the rejection of closing Danbury
211 Elementary School and the move of the 5th grade to NMMS and the hopes that the Board would have
212 deliberation tonight, given the amount of negative parent response. She wants to put together a team to
213 look into doing the transition plan or looking at other ways to save by moving monies from one line
214 item to another.
- 215 ^ She further discussed the feasibility warrant articles and the accommodations and that it is a big
216 conversation and she and Dan Rossner are here to answer the questions of the Board.
- 217 ^ Louis Lieto talked about a similar experience he had when his son was in school and moving grade
218 levels. He said it could be done well and successfully given his experience.
- 219 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said he would like to hear from the public on this matter. He heard loud and clear
220 that this is not a good idea. He said they probably shouldn't make any decision until they hear the vote
221 on the warrant articles. He further talked about new collective bargaining agreements and the benefits to
222 wait to see the outcome of the vote before doing any implementation. However, there is still a need to
223 do something with the numbers we have. Dr. Ross went over the numbers of positions that would
224 change and the estimated costs and the savings was about ¼ million.
- 225 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said the direction the district seems to be going in could move more people to
226 home schooling or moving out of the district. He also asked if there was a reason why they didn't
227 consider rifting more support staff in lieu of the teachers.
- 228 ^ Dr. Ross talked about the number of people required is dictated by the number of IEPs. They looked at
229 reducing academic interventionists and that some of the positions are federally funded and Title 1 says
230 you can't supplant. She further talked about Judy Turk's reports and having an effective model at the
231 different levels.
- 232 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said in looking at the data, by comparison, Newfound has the second best/worst
233 ratio of support staff to students. Dr. Ross talked about Fred Robinson's comments at the deliberative
234 session that Newfound is made up of 4 different buildings and support staff includes food service,
235 custodial, administrative and paras. Vincent Paul Migliore further talked about the support staff in other
236 districts.
- 237 ^ Dr. Ross again noted that those districts don't have as many buildings as Newfound. She further went
238 over staff reductions. There was discussion amongst the Board and SAU staff regarding the numbers
239 compared to other districts, if they outsource food service etc. Dr. Ross asked if Vincent Paul Migliore
240 was asking if they could cut more support staff. Vincent Paul Migliore said, in order to not move the 5th
241 grade then more changes need to be made.
- 242 ^ Paul Rheinhardt said there are other ways to save and asked Dan Rossner about revenues through the
243 Honeywell project.
- 244 ^ Dan Rossner made an observation; the studies that are being contemplated will take years to complete
245 and then act upon and then see results. Dr. Ross said there is no building aid either. Dan Rossner said
246 that if the tax cap goes in there is no room for additional debt service such as building projects.
- 247 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about there being more physical space in the buildings. Dr. Ross talked
248 about the two feasibility studies. She talked about capacity at the different schools and which ones
249 could accommodate growth and which are at full capacity. With declining student enrollment in a tough
250 economy she doesn't think bonds to add on will fly.
- 251 ^ Vincent Paul Migliore said for example, if Danbury Elementary School wanted to do a k-8 they would
252 need to consider adding on. There are costs and trade offs he noted. He talked about the practicality of
253 these feasibility studies and how to keep the 5th grade as it is.
- 254 ^ Lloyd Belbin said they aren't addressing the problem at hand. They need to address the problem with
255 the 5th grade rather than talking about the feasibility studies.
- 256 ^ Louis Lieto talked further about the warrant articles taking many years. If the 5th grade was moved next

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- 257 year, it wouldn't need to be undone the following year. There are a lot of factors that need to come into
258 play. We are here because of budgetary issues, but he wants the conversation to focus on the advantages
259 and disadvantages of moving the 5th grade. He wants to hear them as part of an ongoing discussion.
- 260 ▲ Paul Rheinhardt said the Budget Committee didn't think moving the 5th graders was a big problem. If it
261 doesn't work, you fix it. There are advantages like more art and music. He doesn't see a problem with
262 the move.
- 263 ▲ Lloyd Belbin asked if physical plant wise there was no problem. Dr. Ross said she called the
264 Department of Education about changing the configuration and discussed what she was told. Currently
265 there are 15 schools in the state that are 5 through 8. She noted that this is a community decision and
266 she's not going to say there is an advantage one way or another. She talked about different models but
267 there is not superior academic model.
- 268 ▲ Dr. Ross further noted there have been no issues of violence at the high school this year.
- 269 ▲ Vincent Paul Migliore said they should discuss the educational value at some point but he doesn't think
270 it's going to take 5 years for the studies to be done and implemented. He gets the feeling that some
271 towns will pull away before the studies are done. He doesn't think the studies are intended to take long
272 at all. He also noted there are contingencies in the budget, he would contend that they will be giving
273 money back this year. Through this year, with the change in benefit structure, some people will leave
274 the district. As a result, he predicts they will be able to give back money. He thinks they will be able to
275 come up with the \$250k to leave the 5th grade as they are. He wants more extensive study done on the
276 support staff and also to hear more public input.
- 277 ▲ Sue Cheney said she doesn't favor moving the 5th graders. The reason she didn't object to it is because
278 she thought anything they saved could be put toward the huge blow to the benefit put on the support
279 staff. She thinks anything they can save anywhere should go toward helping the support staff. She heard
280 many people at the deliberative session say they didn't vote for the increase because there was no
281 guarantee that the Board would put the money toward benefits for the support staff.
- 282 ▲ Sue Cheney asked about recess for the 5th graders and how would lunches work for each grade. Dr. Ross
283 said they would have recess and add a 4th lunch. Sue Cheney asked about gym and Dr. Ross explained
284 the schedule.
- 285 ▲ Lloyd Belbin said they spent a lot of time on this budget, they listened to the public and he doesn't
286 understand tearing it all apart again by bringing up the health care etc.
- 287 ▲ Mary Campbell clarified that there never was a specific motion about moving the 5th grade but there
288 were specific ones about the health benefit.
- 289 ▲ Jon Johnson said he had some concerns about the safety aspect of bringing young children into the
290 middle school. He further talked about the changes being made at Danbury Elementary School to work
291 more efficiently and is worried, given comments in the public, that closing Danbury Elementary School
292 should still be an option given that it would save \$500k compared to the savings of \$250k moving the
293 5th grade.
- 294 ▲ Mary Campbell talked about the Board agreeing not to close Danbury Elementary School, and it is not
295 on the table. She commented she has complete confidence in Mr. Chase and Dr. Ross and that there are
296 pros and cons to moving the 5th grade. She further talked about amendments that were made at the
297 deliberative session and cuts to the budget.
- 298 ▲ Dan Rossner commented on the business side. Waiting for the outcome of the vote is not practical from
299 a business side. The only meeting between the time of the vote and handing contracts to the teachers is
300 one meeting. They need clear direction to prepare a nomination list to be considered by April 9th to have
301 the contracts in the teacher's hands by April 13th. Dr. Ross said they also need to give teachers 10 days
302 notice if they aren't going to receive a nomination letter.
- 303 ▲ Vincent Paul Migliore talked about calling a Board meeting and the laws to go about it. He doesn't
304 disagree that is how it would be traditionally handled, but this is an unusual year. He said they can deal
305 with it and he wants to hear from the public attending tonight and what they think about this and other
306 topics. Vincent Paul Migliore explicitly disagreed with Dan Rossner and said it only took three Board
307 members to call another meeting prior to any deadlines.
- 308 d) Field Trips

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- 309 ^ Boston Museum of Science
- 310 ^ Conference in Concord
- 311 e) Other Business
- 312 ^ Lloyd Belbin asked that all the meetings be posted in the Laconia Daily Sun.
- 313

314 **Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

315 Not to exceed five minutes per individual [School Board Policy BDDH]

- 316 ^ Karen P, New Hampton, wanted to talk about the 5th grade staying at the community schools. She
- 317 passed around a photo album to the Board with pictures of the 5th grade green house project and
- 318 explained the project to the audience and the Board. She thinks there is a huge difference between
- 319 surviving and thriving and nothing can compare to the experiences students receive at their community
- 320 schools.
- 321 ^ Louise Hislip, Alexandria, and a mother of a student with severe disabilities talked about her son's
- 322 progress at BHVS. She noted that yes, you will save money, but pay now or pay later.
- 323 ^ Terry Murphy, Bridgewater, talked about capacity at BHVS and longer bus rides for students impacting
- 324 education negatively. He said the kids deserve better. The middle school is not performing like they
- 325 portray it and it should have been changed years ago. It's a huge error to abandon what the people voted
- 326 for in favor of what the school board wants. He talked about schools being closed and that he could
- 327 convert BHVS into a K-8 because that was what it was built for. He doesn't see any savings and said
- 328 they aren't making as much progress as the Board thinks.
- 329 ^ Todd Westfall, commented on the deliberative session. He sees more people getting active in the votes
- 330 and being more informed. They want to improve education and not just cut the budget. They aren't
- 331 trying to decimate the educational system but improve it. He talked about the savings with the
- 332 Honeywell project and asked how the savings are being calculated. He's heard from some people that
- 333 we are never going to get our money back on that project and asked to see some real figures. He also
- 334 thinks there are areas to look at and the District Data Task Force should do some more digging such as
- 335 the area of technology spending and do more line by line comparisons, areas such as substitutes, and
- 336 many others.
- 337 ^ Kathleen Connor, Hebron, appreciates they are talking about the concerns of the parents moving the 5th
- 338 graders. She noted that double the amounts of students are being affected by moving the 5th grade than
- 339 keeping Danbury Elementary School open. She talked about losing opportunities because of cuts. She
- 340 also asked about the costs for sports. She has kids on the ski team and never gets a bill. She further
- 341 talked about the ICT position and smaller areas that could be cut without altering opportunities. She
- 342 thinks the kids will all ready be at a loss with the support staff cuts.
- 343 ^ Max Stamp, Bristol, thinks they are losing site that 2013 will probably be just as tough as the budget
- 344 they just went through. If looking at things in one year increments, they need to look out farther. When
- 345 he hears the Board back off from decision that have been made, he doesn't want to be put in the position
- 346 to try to back off and wiggle through.
- 347 ^ Debbie Richardson, Alexandria, gave a statement to the board (include)
- 348 ^ Stephanie B, Bridgewater is disappointed that this is the only solution the Board could come up with.
- 349 What she expects from her School Board is a high quality school at a decent budget. She hasn't heard
- 350 anything about the educationally sound reason to move the 5th grade, only the financial reasons. She
- 351 talked about her education and studies done that it is not beneficial to move the students. She said it is
- 352 not the right choice and they can do better. The deliberative session was between tax payers and parents
- 353 and she understands but they need to come up with more creative solutions. She wants to compare
- 354 Newfound to other towns with k-8 models.
- 355 ^ Amy Fairbanks, Bristol is torn by this issue. She talked about keeping students segregated but also that
- 356 she is comfortable with the discipline going on at the middle school. She says the only ones hurt by this
- 357 decision are those that are 4th graders now. She says, give it a chance. Parents of the 5th graders are
- 358 motivated and will volunteer and be more involved.
- 359 ^ Heather Goslan, Bristol, talked about the changes that were suggested were close Danbury Elementary
- 360 School and move the 5th grades. Why is Danbury Elementary School not being closed but the 5th graders

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- 361 still being moved.
- 362 ▲ John Janes said there is haste behind this move. There is curriculum in place in the 5th grade that
- 363 involves the DARE program to prepare the 5th graders for moving to the middle school. Now those 4th
- 364 graders won't have that benefit. He noted that several Board members have said it could be done if it
- 365 was done well but he thinks this is being done fast and cheap.
- 366 ▲ Debbie, Alexandria, talked about the default budget and looking at this as a \$100k savings, or are we
- 367 looking for \$250k? Mary Campbell said \$250k to keep the 5th graders. And further talked about the
- 368 default budget. Dr. Ross talked about the numbers needed to pass the default vs. the Board number.
- 369 Debbie asked what would be the intention with the extra money. Dan Rossner said it's up to the School
- 370 Board. Mary Campbell said that's why there were no guarantees given at the deliberative session and
- 371 talked about the Board making decisions but the Board could change with the vote in March.
- 372 ▲ Amy Lyn, Bristol commented that Fran Wendelboe had come up with almost \$200k of savings by going
- 373 line by line through the budget and perhaps those cuts could be looked at further. She also asked if there
- 374 had been any thought to charging for sports, summer and/or after school programs. She also noted that
- 375 more parental involvement and fundraising could help offset costs.
- 376 ▲ Janet Cote, is not getting a feeling from the Board about moving forward, if they are in favor or not. Are
- 377 they holding off on decision based on the election? Mary Campbell said she would entertain a motion.
- 378 Janet said she supports the work that was done to get to the decision of the Board, but the taxpayers
- 379 need to demand an affordable and quality education.
- 380 ▲ Stephanie Peters, Bridgewater, is a teacher in a different district. She strongly feels that in order for
- 381 everyone to think this is a great idea to move the students is to keep them segregated, then it's not a
- 382 great idea. Why move these students so they are only with other 5th graders. Every grade has pluses and
- 383 minus from interacting with each other. She doesn't see it as a positive experience to segregate.
- 384 ▲ Katherine Meegan, Bristol, her children went to New Hampton Elementary. If you take 5th grade away
- 385 from New Hampton, you will take the heart right out of the school.
- 386 ▲ Dr. Ross offered her personal opinion. She has heard a lot of testimony for and against this. After
- 387 listening to all the input, she would say that she thinks there would be more division if they move
- 388 forward with this, this year than wait a year. She knows if she is directed to find other ways, they will
- 389 find other ways. She talked about moving positions around, class sizes, not increasing the tax base. She
- 390 talked about building a budget, that this is a decisive decision and is putting a lot of pressure on the staff
- 391 at the middle school. Her personal opinion "she would be up to the task of finding another way to make
- 392 this work without moving them this year."
- 393 ▲ Sue Cheney appreciates Dr. Ross's personal opinion.

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Action Items

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- a) Policies for First Reading
- ▲ GCN Evaluation of Personnel
- ▲ IKFC Awarding of Diplomas
- ▲ JLCJ Concussions and Head Injuries [new policy]
- *Paul Rheinhardt motioned to approve, Louis Lieto seconded; approved.7-0-0-0.*
- b) Field Trips
- ▲ *Louis Lieto moved to approve, Paul Rheinhardt seconded; approved 7-0-0-0.*
- c) First Deliberative Session
- ▲ *Vincent Paul Migliore motioned to have it on the first Saturday of February with a snow date on the second, Louis Lieto seconded. Approved 7-0-0-0.*
- ▲ Vincent Paul Migliore requested that the administration take immediate steps to reserve those dates for next year.
- ▲ Louis Lieto talked about including an amendment including the mailing.
- ▲ *Lloyd Belbin motioned that the Laconia Daily Sun be included with the other newspapers as a paper of record for all notification of the School Board. Vincent Paul Migliore seconded.*
- ▲ Vincent Paul Migliore spoke to the motion regarding what are the papers of record. The Board further

Newfound Area School Board

- 413 discussed where people could get it. Dr. Ross noted they have to pay to post public notices. Mary
414 Campbell noted they cut the marketing budget and noted there are charges for public notices.
- 415 ^ *Approved 7-0-0-0.*
- 416 d) Plan for Adding the 5th Grade to NMMS
- 417 ^ *Vincent Paul Migliore motioned that the School Board direct the Superintendent to modify the 5th grade*
418 *plan to maintain the current 5th grade status. Seconded by Sue Cheney.*
- 419 ^ Paul Rheinhardt said they should look at the money first. Vincent Paul Migliore said he offered
420 suggestions where to look earlier. He would like to see what the Superintendent has to say about her
421 change of direction.
- 422 ^ Paul Rheinhardt said if he modified the motion to see where to find the money, he would vote for it.
- 423 ^ Lloyd Belbin said the other people that voted on this change aren't here tonight. The Board has an
424 obligation to represent the people who voted. There needs to be a lot more looking into before making a
425 vote on this tonight.
- 426 ^ Louis Lieto said when Dr. Ross was accused of not putting together a plan, she did explain her plan.
427 There was a lot of planning done. He also wants to keep the division in the community to a minimum.
428 There are "locally" right answers but the Board needs to make the right decision for the district. There
429 has been reasonable discussion regarding this issue and they should move forward with it.
- 430 ^ Mary Campbell said that Mr. Stamp was right, they will be faced with the money issues again with the
431 declining enrollment. She thinks it would be a good idea to wait another year before considering moving
432 the students. She talked about keeping Danbury Elementary School open and moving their 5th graders to
433 BES.
- 434 ^ *Approved 4-3 (Bristol, Groton, New Hampton)-0-0*
- 435 e) Manifests
- 436 ^ *Sue Cheney said the last month approved was September. Motioned to approve manifest for October*
437 *through January, Paul Rheinhardt seconded; approved 7-0-0-0.*
- 438

439 ***Non-public session***

440 At 10:30 pm Sue Cheney moved, Lou Lieto seconded, to go into non-public session for the purpose of
441 discussing personnel per RSA 91-A:3 Iia Employee. Approved on a roll call vote 7-0-0-0. The Chair reported
442 on personnel issues that the Board had asked her to research. No action was taken.

443

444 ***Return to public session***

445 At 11 pm Sue Cheney moved, Lou Lieto seconded, to come out of non-public session. Approved 7-0-0-0.

446

447 ***Adjournment***

- 448 • *Sue Cheney moved to adjourn, seconded by Lou Lieto. Approved 7-0-0-0.*
- 449

450 URLs Accessed: by Vincent Paul Migliore:

451 www.SAU4.org, www.Google.com, www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html

452

453 Respectfully submitted,

454 Amy Lyn Kench, School Board Clerk

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