

Minutes:	Approved
Location:	Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center
Date & Time:	MONDAY , July 23, 2012
Item:	~~~~~ PLANNING & DIALOGUE MINUTES ~~~~~

1.	Non-Public Session 6:00 PM	Actual Time: 6:00
<p>Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RSA 91-A:3, II (a) <i>The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee 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 public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.</i></p> <p>___ RSA 91-A:3, II(b) <i>The hiring of any person as a public employee.</i></p> <p>___ RSA 91-A:3, II(c) <i>Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.</i></p> <p>___ RSA 91-A:3, II(d) <i>Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.</i></p> <p>___ RSA 91-A:3, II(e) <i>Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled</i></p> <p>___ RSA 91-A:3, II(i) <i>Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.</i></p>		

**NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL BOARD
Non-Public Session**

<i>Date/Time of Meeting:</i>	07/23/2012	<i>Scheduled Start:</i>	6:00PM
<i>Location of Meeting:</i>	Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center		
<i>Videographer:</i>	None	<i>Assistant:</i>	None
School Board Members:			
		Present	Excused Absent
Suzanne Cheney	(Alexandria, 2013)	scheney2@myfairpoint.net	✓ arrived 6:10pm
Vincent Paul Migliore, CH	(Bridgewater, 2013)	vpigliore@budgetblinds.com	✓
Lloyd Belbin	(Bristol, 2014)	lbelbin@juno.com	✓
Ruby Hill, Vice CH	(Danbury, 2015)	topaztuesday@yahoo.com	✓
Don Franklin	(Hebron, 2015)	dgbrown@yahoo.com	✓
Paul Rheinhardt	(New Hampton, 2014)	psrheinhardt@metrocast.net	✓
Jiri Hajek	(Groton, 2013)	icefoxlab@peoplepc.com	✓
Administration:			
Marie Ross	Superintendent	mross@sau4.org	✓

Planning & Dialogue Meetings of the Newfound Area School Board are usually scheduled for the 4th Monday of the month and are intended to solicit feedback on topics of interest to the School Board or to allow the Board to discuss items of interest in a less structured manner to interact with interested members of the public. The Board reserves the right to modify the proposed agenda and to conduct business as needed as a formally posted public meeting under RSA91:A.

Non-Public Continued

At 6:00 PM and pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) the Chair entertained a motion to go into Non Public Session remaining in the Newfound Regional High School Library Media Center; made by Paul Rheinhardt , seconded by Ruby Hill . The roll was called and a unanimous vote to do so was recorded.

- a) 1st Grade Teacher nomination for NHCS
- b) 2-Day per week Guidance Counselor in Danbury
- c) Grade 5 – Recall from RIF, as required by policy GCPA detailed discussion on continued support.

Of the 15.3 positions RIF'd, the current net results of the RIF means 2 employees are unemployed due to: retirements and voluntary terminations in combination with the planned Reduction in Force.

At 6:20PM Paul Rheinhardt moved, Lloyd Belbin seconded to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Paul Migliore
Chair

2.	Return to Public Session at 6:30 PM	Actual Time: 6:30 PM
3.	Call to Order at 6:30PM	Actual Time: 6:30 PM
a.	Salute to the Flag & Pledge of Allegiance	
b.	Notice of Posting of Meeting: <i>SAU Office, website (sau4.org), Schools, sent to Town Offices</i>	
4.	Approval or Modification of Agenda <i>no modifications</i>	
5.	Discussion Items for consideration and action by the Board	
a.	Nominations (cross reference 6a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 1 NHCS – Anna Mattson Kilmer • Guidance (.4) DES – Janna Swanson • Grade 5 BES (recall from RIF) - Melanie Hodge (recall from RIF) 	
6.	Actions Taken on Discussion Item:	
a.	RE: Nominations (as discussed in 5a) Action: Move to elect staff nominated by the superintendent as discussed in non-public Moved by: <u>Paul Rheinhardt</u> Seconded by: <u>Ruby Hill</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> Amended & Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> None or Other, as noted. RECORDED VOTE: <u>7</u> YES <u>0</u> NO <u>0</u> ABSTENTIONS <u>0</u> ABSENT Minority Votes/Notes:	

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<p>7.</p>	<p>Discussion Items by the Board; with input from members of the public Note: each topic has limited discussion, or until 8:30PM, whichever occurs first.</p>
<p>a.</p>	<p>Discussion of Special Education Review as proposed by Drummond, Woodsum & MacMahon, PLLC Introductions were made by Attorney Gerald Zelin and Dr. Michael Opuda. Jerry Zelin is a lawyer from Portsmouth who specializes in school law and especially Special Education, since 1975. Michael Opuda shared his credentials, which included a PhD in Special Education Administration and post doctoral work in Applied Behavioral Analysis. Dr. Opuda presented a proposal to perform an audit of the Newfound Special Education processes, to answer two specific study questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the school district “over identify” students for special education eligibility? 2. Is the school district “over generous” with the provision of services to students with disabilities? <p>The dialogue included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyd Belbin questioned the time frame. If the Board agrees to move forward with the scope of work proposed, Dr. Opuda would begin in September and conclude by October 15, 2012. • Vincent Paul Migliore asked if this time frame would be challenging to the District, and Dr. Ross stated that it could be accommodated. • Don Franklin expressed a concern about the sample size of 10% proposed by Dr. Opuda, as his own auditing experience would have included a larger sample. Dr. Opuda discussed the balance between cost and statistical significance and reiterated that he felt comfortable with a stratified random sample of 10% of the currently identified eligible students (approximately 20). • Lloyd Belbin supported the study to determine if the district does “over identify”. • Dr. Opuda said that he would use October 1 Child Count data as a snapshot in time that would be consistent across comparison districts and the % of students in the state identified by disability type. • Vincent Paul Migliore asked Attorney Zelin to weigh in on the concept of Board members being allowed to sit in on an IEP meeting for observation purposes only. Attorney Zelin opined that this would be clearly illegal. Discussion ensued about the difference between FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) legislation, and Attorney Zelin clarified that the law does provide for other people with special knowledge or expertise on the child to sit in on a meeting, but that would typically not be a Board member. Further discussion clarified the term “LEA” (Local Education Authority) and Ms. Turk explained that this is usually the building principal or assistant. • Sue Cheney appreciated the clarification, and Paul Rheinhardt is looking for the simple answer to the question “Are we spending too much, or not?” • Dr. Ross asked for an explanation of Dr. Opuda’s suggestion to use up to 6 comparable districts as opposed to the District Data Comparison Task Force’s recommendation to use 15. Dr. Opuda and Attorney Zelin stated that demographics were important to consider, and in the end, they suggested providing five districts with higher and five districts with lower averages of SPED identified students from which the Board could select three each (above and below). Ruby Hill noted that co-operative districts should be considered, since they face unique challenges, such as students spending more time on the bus, diminishing their opportunities for after school help among other factors.

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<p>7. (Continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation was had to question the effect of Special Education Advocates, and whether there was currently significant pressure to identify students whom they represent. Although there have been some cases in the past, there has not been an issue recently. • Jiri Hajek discovered a math error in the proposal, and Vincent asked the Board’s pleasure about contracting the services of Dr. Opuda. Dr. Opuda will send a revised proposal for the Board’s consideration and possible action at their August 13 regular Board meeting. • Comments from the staff in attendance were then solicited by the Chair. Fred Robinson questioned why it was necessary to perform another audit after the state had just performed a very thorough analysis of practices in Special Education, and how can the Board justify the costs in light of recent budget cuts? Judy Turk agreed that “we have been audited to death” and shared that it feels like the Board doesn’t trust the employees. Mimi Freeman shared that the middle school has worked very hard to bring students back from placement and has saved huge amounts of money due to the extra efforts of hard working staff. • Don Franklin responded that the Board was here to help by providing another set of eyes. Vincent Paul Migliore confirmed that there are some state and federal regulations that say you have no recourse and must provide services. The Board wants to answer to the taxpayers that this audit is what we did about it, and that even beyond the state audit, we independently certified the process. Sue Cheney ended the conversation by expressing that she has a lot of faith in the Special Education people that were present. 		
<p>8.</p>	<p>Concluding Business for the Posted Meeting Time</p>	<p>Time:</p>	<p>8:27 p.m</p>
	<p>RE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion to Adjourn -or- <input type="checkbox"/> Recess (for a specified period of time) until the following date & time: _____</p> <p>Action: Moved by: <u> Ruby Hill </u> Seconded by: <u> Lloyd Belbin </u> <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> Amended & Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated RECORDED VOTE: ___ YES ___ NO ___ ABSTENTIONS ___ ABSENT</p>		
<p><i>Public Meeting Attendee List</i></p>	<p>Board Members: Vincent Paul Migliore, Chair (Bridgewater); Ruby Hill, Vice Chair (Danbury); Sue Cheney (Alexandria); Lloyd Belbin (Bristol); Jiri Hajek (Groton); Don Franklin (Hebron); Paul Rheinhardt (New Hampton) Staff: Marie Ross (Superintendent); Judith Turk (Student Services Administrator); Theodora Denoncour (SPED Case Manager – BHVS); Mimi Freeman (SPED Case Manager NMMS); Fred Robinson (SPED Para – NRHS) Guests: Gerald Zelin, Esq. – Drummond/Woodsum; Dr. Michael Opuda, consultant</p>		

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