

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

E. J. H. Beard Administration Center East Conference Room

January 27, 2020 – 6:30 PM

### MINUTES

**Call to Order** – President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:31 PM.

**Roll Call** – Christine Dawson, Recording Secretary

**Present:** Josh Cantu, Donna Cook, Robyn Friedman, Cody Muhs, Travis Padget, Graham Sullivan, Mark Thayer, Bob Callaghan, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Jolene Comer, Jessica Ferguson, Christine Forsyth, Jim Gilbert, Brenda Hodnett, Lois Holmes, Natalie Jack, Paula Klosterboer, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Michelle Modlin, Emily Monarchino, Cara Orr, Bill Peters, Ryan Rump, Sara Schlager, Todd Schuster, Sandy Scotton, Laura Selover, Lisa Sharp, Brian Springer, Andy Swedenhjelm, Mark Yeoman, Tara Zehr, Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News), and Randy Van (KCOB).

**Communications** – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

**Red Pride Shout Outs:** Campus Principals shared various Red Pride Shout Outs with the following staff honored – **Aurora Heights** (Custodian Gary McVay); **Emerson Hough** (Secretary Lesa Blatchford); **Thomas Jefferson** (Music Teacher Jenni Harris); **Woodrow Wilson** (Kindergarten Teacher Holly Clayton); **Berg Middle School** (Math Teacher Sarah Schlager); **Newton High School** (Industrial Tech Teacher Todd Lucas); and **WEST Academy** (Community Partners – Olive 'et Boutique, Silverado Jewelry, and the YMCA).

**Excellence in Education Award Winners:** Superintendent Callaghan congratulated the following teachers who were honored with an Excellence in Education Award at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chamber Dinner held January 23, 2020. **Aurora Heights** (Lora Caves); **Emerson Hough** (Miranda Bratland); **Thomas Jefferson** (Brooke Kuker); **Woodrow Wilson** (Emilee Brisel); **Berg Middle School** (Chase Dickinson); **Newton High School** (Andrea Hogeland); **WEST Academy** (Phil Calvin); and the **Above & Beyond Award** (The Brody Family).

**Purpose Statements** – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

The mission, vision, district goals (2019 – 2020), collective commitments, and board commitments were reviewed.

**Consent Agenda** – Robyn Friedman, President – **ACTION #10888**

Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to unanimously approve the consent agenda. Ayes: All Nays: None

**Human Resource Update** – Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources

**Licensed Personnel** – **ACTION #10889**

**Andy Swedenhjelm** – (contract) – Head Varsity Football Coach (NHS) – effective August 10, 2020

**John Bieber** – (resignation) – Assistant Speech Sponsor (NHS) – effective May 29, 2020

Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to approve the Human Resources Update – Licensed Personnel Report. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Ryan Rump, NHS Director of Activities/Athletics, introduced Andy Swedenhjelm as the district's new Head Varsity Football Coach.

**Classified Personnel** – None

**Open Forum** – Robyn Friedman, President

None.

**Superintendent's Report** – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

**Website Data – November & December** – This item was tabled until the February 10, 2020 board meeting

**Principal's Reports** – Campus Principals discussed survey data (October 2019) as part of an improvement process being utilized district-wide called the Marzano High Reliability Schools (HRS) framework. Each principal reported on improvements their campuses were implementing in regards to data feedback for Level 1: Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture.

**Iowa School Performance Profiles** – Superintendent Callaghan shared data with board members from the Iowa Department of Education regarding the Iowa School Performance Profiles and the overall score/ratings of each campus ([www.iaschoolperformance.gov](http://www.iaschoolperformance.gov)). As of the board meeting, the data was still under embargo and not available for media release.

**Current Student Information**

**Enrollment** – Superintendent Callaghan provided a 2019 – 2020 enrollment update for K – 12 students as K – 4 (1,050), 5 – 8 (910), 9 – 12 (908) for a total of 2,868 students as of December 12, 2019.

**Attendance** – Superintendent Callaghan shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with ranges from 88.14% - 92.46%.

**Transiency** – Superintendent Callaghan presented a student transiency report for those students who have either left the district, or entered the district since the October 1, 2019 certified enrollment count date. The report shows a net increase of 9 students.

**Inclement Weather Update** – Superintendent Callaghan provided an update on school cancellations, late starts, and early dismissals. He noted the difference between student contact hours and teacher/staff contract days. Thus far, we have had two school cancellations due to inclement weather (**January 17 – make up day: February 17**) and (**January 24 – make up day: March 13**). A discussion followed as to the number of requests for staff time off on Friday, March 13 and potential availability of substitutes. It was noted that any proposed amendments to the 2019 – 2020 school year calendar be placed on the February 10, 2020 board agenda.

**Learning, Leadership, and District Business** – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services

**District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) Presentation**

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning, along with representatives of the District Instructional Leadership Team shared a presentation detailing campus artifacts and efforts on the Marzano High Reliability Schools (HRS) framework – **Level 1:** Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture; **Level 2:** Effective Teaching in Every Classroom; and **Level 3:** Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum.

**Report from the January 15, 2020 School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Meeting**

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning, gave a report from the January 15, 2020 SIAC Meeting. Highlights included SIAC's work on the 2020 – 2021 school year calendar and bringing a recommendation to the school board for approval; an update on HRS certification which led to a discussion on parent involvement, and getting more parents involved on the SIAC committee; the meeting concluded with an Open Forum.

**Consider Setting a Public Hearing for the SIAC Recommended 2020 – 2021 School District Calendar – February 10, 2020 at 6:45 PM (EJH Beard Administration Center) – ACTION #10890**

Cook moved, Sullivan seconded to Set a Public Hearing for the SIAC Recommended 2020 – 2021 School District Calendar for February 10, 2020 at 6:45 PM (EJH Beard Administration Center). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**District Culture Council Update**

Robyn Friedman, Board President, and Travis Padget, Board Member, gave an update on what has been accomplished since the initial Denison culture survey. A discussion followed regarding the administration of an updated survey with timelines (Spring or Fall 2020) and costs considered. Friedman requested the Denison Culture Survey topic be placed on the February 10, 2020 agenda for action. The District Culture Council meets next on February 19, 2020.

**Board Policy Review – Second Reading: Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (406 – 412.4) – ACTION #10891**

Bloom reviewed the second reading of the 400 Series board policies. Padget moved, Cook seconded to approve the Second Reading of Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (406 – 412.4), with the exception of policy 409.8 (Licensed Employee Unpaid Leave). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Board Policy Review – First Reading: Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (413 – 414.9) – ACTION #10892**

Bloom reviewed the first reading of the 400 Series board policies. Cook moved, Padget seconded to approve the First Reading of Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (413 – 414.9), with edits noted. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**School Board Protocol Handbook**

Cody Muhs, Board Member, presented a draft of the Newton Community School District School Board Handbook. The table of contents thus far includes – Communication Protocol, Organization Chart, Form to Send to Presenters to the School Board, Form to Send to People Requesting Funds, Intro to Iowa School Financing, and Acronym Cheat Sheet. Muhs requested that board members review the draft and offer any suggestions for additional content.

**Business Service Report – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services**

**Approval of Bills – ACTION #10893**

Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to unanimously approve the bills. Ayes: All Nays: None

**Supplemental State Aid (SSA) Estimate Based on Governor Budget Recommendation**

Bloom shared information from the Iowa Association of School Boards regarding estimates for FY2021 and FY2022 Supplemental State Aid (SSA) and its impact on new money, budget guarantee, and funding.

**Property Tax Valuation History**

Bloom provided a Property Valuations History including budget year amounts for General, TIF, Debt & PPEL with the School Levy Rate (per \$1,000) of \$15.79274 for 2020 – 2021. He is hoping the School Levy Rate will stay below \$15.80 (per \$1,000). Bloom continues to meet with Forecast 5 and will be attending an IASB budgeting conference on February 5, 2020 in Des Moines. Bloom reminded board members that budget planning will need to be completed before April 15, 2020.

**New Business – Old Business – Tim Bloom, Board Secretary**

**Future Meeting Dates: February 6, 2020 – 2:45 PM – Board Work Session (CLOSED) (EJH Beard Admin Center); February 10, 2020 – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center); March 5, 2020 – 6:00 PM – Board Policy Review Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center) – 500 Series Board Policies.**

**Upcoming Events: January 9 – February 20, 2020 – IASB Regional Workshops – (Various Locations); January 28, 2020 – IASB Day on the Hill (Des Moines); April 4 – 6, 2020 – NSBA Public Education Leaders Conference – (Chicago). Calendar invites have been sent to all board members, who are to let Christine Dawson know if interested in attending so she can complete any conference registrations.**

**Consider Open Forum Topics or Future Agenda Items**

A variety of future agenda items were discussed – **School Year Calendars** (1) 2019 – 2020 and (2) 2020 – 2021; **Denison Culture Council; Negotiations; Budget Work Session** (March 2020).

**Superintendent Search Process Update**

Preparations for the February 6, 2020 Board Work Session were discussed. Topics included: application deadline January 12, 2020; 31 in candidate pool; school board met with Grundmeyer Leader Services on January 21, 2020 to review candidate pool; board identified eight candidates to move forward for 30-minute screening interviews on February 6, 2020; board drafted screening interview questions and reviewed the formal interview schedule (for three finalists) February 20, 2020.

**Adjourn – ACTION #10894**

Muhs moved, Padget seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

Minutes Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ (President)  
Approved by Action No. \_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary)