

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

February 10, 2020 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order – President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:30 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, Cristy Croson, Jon Dunwell, Jessica Ferguson, Alison Grier, Kelli Hinrichs, Brenda Hodnett, Jon Liebl, Kristi Meyer, Bret Miller, Jen Norvell, Sandy Scotton, Jack Sutteck, Shane Wheeler, Dave Wilkerson (RSP & Associates, LLC), Mark Yeoman, Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News), and Randy Van (KCOB). **Absent:** Laura Selover

Communications – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) – President Visit: Superintendent Callaghan and Alison Grier shared highlights from ISEA President, Mike Beranek's visit to the Newton Community School District on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

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 #10899**

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

Cook noted that Open Enrollments continue to be a concern, and that the committee has not yet met as they are working on board policies.

Human Resource Update – Bret Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning

Licensed Personnel – **ACTION #10900**

Gina McGinley – (resignation) – Assistant Bowling Coach (NHS) – effective February 26, 2020

Derek Wrage – (resignation) – Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach (NHS) – effective February 2, 2020

Mark Yeoman – (resignation) – Special Education Teacher (BMS) – effective June 30, 2020

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

Classified Personnel – **ACTION #10901**

Andi Key – (resignation) – Vocal Music (BMS) – effective February 13, 2020

Amanda VanWynyarden – (resignation) – Educational Associate (WW) – effective February 20, 2020

Jerry Landgrebe – (retirement) – Custodian (NHS) – effective March 31, 2020

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

Open Forum – Robyn Friedman, President

Alison Grier (NCEA) participated in the Open Forum by speaking about the school district's Employee Handbook and the opportunity for the association to give input on the handbook.

Public Hearing for the SIAC Recommended 2020 – 2021 School District Calendar – 6:45 PM

Alison Grier (NCEA) expressed how members did not realize March 13, 2020 was on the calendar as a snow make up day, and how to handle staffing for that day.

Superintendent Callaghan read an email from LaNita Keeton on behalf of elementary teachers requesting that March 13, 2020 not be utilized as a snow make up day, due to elementary conferences that week.

Superintendent's Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Website Data – November & December – Jon Liebl with Liebl Marketing Group provided a statistical report for traffic and reach on the district's website and Facebook pages, related to the launch of the Bridge posts and videos (Vimeo page).

Supervisor's Reports

Cristy Croson (**Food Service**) – shared information about the district's snack programs; summer meal program; equipment grants; and unpaid meal balances.

Jack Sutteck (**Maintenance**) – shared information about the winter season; summer projects list; new trucks; parking lot at softball complex; and HVAC work at the high school.

Curt Roorda (**Transportation**) – was unable to attend, he will give a report at the February 24, 2020 board meeting.

Shane Wheeler (**Technology**) – shared information about the "Here Comes the Bus" app; installation of outside Wi-Fi at the transportation department; Infinite Campus migration to the cloud; software purchase to manage staff devices; 1:1 devices at Newton High School; camera bids for the elementary schools; and the door system at Newton High School.

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). **Aurora Heights Elementary** (High Performing); **Emerson Hough Elementary** (Priority); **Thomas Jefferson Elementary** (Commendable); **Woodrow Wilson Elementary** (Exceptional); **Berg Middle School** (Commendable); **Newton High School** (Commendable); **WEST Academy** (Commendable). Jolene Comer (EH Principal), was present to explain the change in rating for Emerson Hough from High Performing to Priority.

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

Presentation Update: Planning for the Future – 2018 – 2019 Enrollment Analysis

Dave Wilkerson (RSP & Associates, LLC) shared an enrollment analysis report with the board, as a tool prepared to help the Newton Community School District plan for the future. The presentation was comprised of four parts: (1) Enrollment and Demographics; (2) Development; (3) Enrollment Projections; (4) Moving Forward.

Consider Recommendation to Amend the 2019 – 2020 (March 25, 2019) Board Adopted School Calendar – ACTION #10902

After some discussion regarding amending the 2019 – 2020 board adopted school calendar, Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to Strike March 13, 2020 as a Snow Make Up Day (for January 24, 2020), and Utilize June 2, 2020 as a Teacher Work Day. Ayes: Cantu, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: Cook, Friedman, Muhs

Consider Approval of the SIAC Recommended 2020 – 2021 School District Calendar – ACTION #10903

After some discussion regarding approval of the 2020 – 2021 school district calendar, Sullivan moved, Padget seconded to Accept the SIAC Recommended 2020 – 2021 School District Calendar, with an edit that March 12, 2021 not be utilized as a snow make up day, and any snow make up days (other than February 15, 2021) be added to the end of the school year (June 2021). Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: Cook

Consider Approval of the Berg Middle School (BMS) Bleacher Bid Recommendation – TownsEnd Co. in the amount of \$87,825 to be financed with BMS Construction Fund dollars – ACTION #10904

Jack Sutte, Maintenance Supervisor, was present to explain schematics and options for the new bleachers for the track and football field at Berg Middle School. Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to Approve the Berg Middle School Bleacher Bid Recommendation for TownsEnd Co. in the amount of \$87,825 to be financed with BMS Construction Fund dollars. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Consider Release of Retainage for Softball Complex – Phase 2 to Edge Commercial, LLC in the amount of \$23,525.64 – ACTION #10905

Jack Sutte, Maintenance Supervisor, provided an update on the completion of the softball complex. Padget moved, Cantu seconded to approve the Release of Retainage for Softball Complex – Phase 2 to Edge Commercial, LLC in the amount of \$23,525.64. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Consider Approval of Classified Seniority Report – ACTION #10906

Muhs moved, Sullivan seconded to Approve the Classified Seniority Report. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Consider Approval of the Newton Community School District’s Employee Handbook – ACTION #10907

Cook moved, Sullivan seconded to table consideration approval of the Newton Community School District’s Employee Handbook. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

District Culture Council (Survey) Update – ACTION #10908

The board was presented with quotes from Denison Consulting for two survey options: (1) up to 300 invited participants (\$7,900); (2) up to 500 invited participants (\$12,200). For consulting, the cost would be \$5,000 plus travel and accommodations. The District Culture Council meets next on February 19, 2020. Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to move forward with administering a second Denison Culture Survey for up to 500 participants in the amount of \$12,200. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: Cook Abstain: Thayer

Board Policy Review – Second Reading: Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (409.8) – ACTION #10909

Bloom reviewed the second reading of the 400 Series board policies (409.8). Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the Second Reading of Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (409.8). Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None Absent: Cook

Board Policy Review – Second Reading: Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) (413 – 414.9) – ACTION #10910

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

School Board Protocol Handbook

Cody Muhs, Board Member, plans to present another draft of the Newton Community School District School Board Handbook at the next board meeting – February 24, 2020.

Board Reflections of IASB Day on the Hill – January 28, 2020

Superintendent Callaghan, and board members Donna Cook and Cody Muhs shared their reflections from attending IASB Day on the Hill – January 28, 2020.

Business Service Report – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10911

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

New Business – Old Business – Tim Bloom, Board Secretary

Future Meeting Dates: February 24, 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); April 4 – 6, 2020 – NSBA Public Education Leaders Conference – (Chicago).

Consider Open Forum Topics or Future Agenda Items

A variety of future agenda items were discussed – **Employee Handbook** (tabled); **Update from Denison Culture Council** (touch points); **Addressing subsequent inclement weather dates for the 2019 – 2020 school year**; and **SIAC Review**.

Superintendent Search Process Update

The board held 30-minute screening interviews for eight candidates on February 6, 2020; three finalists (Nicole Kooiker, Chad Straight, and Thomas Messinger) were invited to a formal interview on February 20, 2020 with a closed session at 6:00 PM to follow for a decision on the new Superintendent.

Enter into Exempt Session – ACTION #10912

At 9:46 PM Muhs moved, Cook seconded to unanimously enter into an exempt session to discuss negotiations. Ayes: All Nays: None

Negotiations – Exempt Session

The board went into closed session to discuss negotiation strategies for the FY21 school year, which included new state money estimates.

Adjourn – ACTION #10913

Cook moved, Sullivan seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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