

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 974 886 353

March 23, 2020 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order – President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:33 PM.

Roll Call – Christine Dawson, Recording Secretary

Present: Josh Cantu (via Zoom), Donna Cook (via Zoom), Robyn Friedman, Cody Muhs (via Zoom), Travis Padget, Graham Sullivan (via Zoom), Mark Thayer, Bob Callaghan, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News), and Randy Van (KCOB) **Present via Zoom:** 58 attendees

Iowa Code – Chapter 21 (Open Meetings Law) – *Chapter 21 states electronic meetings can be held only if meeting in person is impossible or impractical. The March 23, 2020 board meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, and the need to limit audience numbers (to <10) and to maintain 6' social distancing recommendations.*

Communications – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

CoronaVirus (COVID-19) Communication

Superintendent Callaghan presented a School Closure Plan (March 17 – April 13) due to the Coronavirus pandemic which identified essential personnel, and gave guidelines on pay and emergency leave.

Independent Impasse Agreement

Superintendent Callaghan shared that an Independent Impasse Agreement was signed March 19, 2020 between the NCSD and NCEA. Both parties agreed to waive May 31, 2020 for completion of negotiations and/or impasse procedures as specified in Chapter 20, Code of Iowa.

Property Purchase Agreement

Superintendent Callaghan shared that he had received a signed Real Estate Purchase Agreement from attorney, Bruce Nuzum. He noted the corresponding agenda item XE to Consider Setting a Public Hearing for Property Purchase.

Grab n Go Meals

Superintendent Callaghan announced that 162 Grab N Go meals had been served thus far by district food service personnel during the school closure at two meal sites – BMS and NHS.

Teaching & Learning Update

Superintendent Callaghan shared that Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning, would be meeting with district instructional leaders, along with the US and Iowa Department of Education to offer some type of online learning during the school closure.

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 #10944**

Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to unanimously approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: All Nays: None

Human Resource Update – Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources

Superintendent Bob Callaghan presented the Human Resources Update.

Licensed Personnel – **ACTION #10945**

Ronald Brown – (contract) – Physical Education Teacher (NHS) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

McKenna Heisdorffer – (contract) – 1st Grade Teacher (EH) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Madison McDowell – (contract) – 4th Grade Teacher (EH) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Mallory Shipley – (contract) – Mathematics Teacher (BMS) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Joshua Vanderwiel – (contract) – Chemistry Teacher (NHS) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Miranda Bratland – (transfer) – from Special Education Teacher Strat II LD/ID (EH) to Special Education Teacher Strat I (EH) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Adam Hale – (transfer) – from Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach (NHS) to Head Varsity Wrestling Coach (NHS) – effective November 16, 2020

Cook 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 #10946**

Keith Dunkerson – (agreement) – Custodian (NHS) – effective TBD, pending completion of HR materials

Brad Loisselle – (agreement) – Custodian (TJ) – effective TBD, pending completion of HR materials

Scott Duncan – (resignation) – Custodian (EH) – effective March 12, 2020

Sullivan moved, Padget 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

Friedman shared that we would bypass the Open Forum, and noted that the public could begin submitting concerns prior to the next board meetings. Persons may call the district office, email the superintendent, or communicate through The Bridge on the district website (www.newtoncisd.org).

Public Hearing – Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Certified Budget – 6:45 PM

No one was present or submitted written comments on this topic.

Superintendent's Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Construction Progress Update – NHS Gym HVAC

Superintendent Callaghan shared agendas, minutes, and project schedule from the February 24 and March 9, 2020 Construction Progress Meetings for the NHS Gym HVAC upgrade project.

Newton Graduation & DropOut Rates

Superintendent Callaghan gave an overview of district graduation (90.10%) and dropout rates (2.33%) for the 2019 school year. Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning, will provide a more detailed report at a future board meeting.

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

Consider a Resolution in support of the Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy – **ACTION #10947**

Superintendent Callaghan read the resolution in its entirety. He noted that if any employee needs further clarification on the resolution to please contact him, Tim Bloom (Director of Business Services), or Laura Selover (Director of Human Resources). Cook moved, Sullivan seconded to approve a Resolution in support of the Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Update on Self-Funded Insurance

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, Jeff Maki (Clemon-Maki Insurance) and Jana Belle (Global Benefits) facilitated a Group Renewal presentation that was prepared by Global Benefits. Medical benefits offered to employees of the Newton Community School District were reviewed, along with data to help illustrate utilization and how the self-funded plan is performing. Global Benefits will provide out of network information at a future board meeting. Any questions can be directed to Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services.

Consider Approval for the Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Certified Budget – ACTION #10948

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, presented a slideshow FY 2021 Budget Certification – Informing the Public. The Certified Budget is a document showing the amount of taxes to be levied for each fund and/or program and the aggregate revenues and expenditures. The report is certified by the local board no later than April 15 each year for the upcoming fiscal year after holding a public hearing and adoption. State Supplemental Aid (SSA) is projected at 2.30% for FY21, with property taxes projected at \$15.79/\$1,000 taxable valuation. Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to Approve the Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Certified Budget. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Consider Setting a Public Hearing to Consider Expending Funds from the Flexibility Account for Math Curriculum – April 13, 2020 at 6:45 PM – (EJH Beard Administration Center) – ACTION #10949

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, explained the use of funds from the Flexibility Account. Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning, will be requesting an expenditure of \$66,943.04 for math curriculum. Padget moved, Cantu seconded to Set a Public Hearing to Consider Expending Funds from the Flexibility Account for Math Curriculum for April 13, 2020 at 6:45 PM (EJH Beard Administration Center). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

Consider Setting a Public Hearing for Property Purchase – April 13, 2020 at 6:50 PM – (EJH Beard Administration Center) – ACTION #10950

Thayer moved, Padget seconded to Set a Public Hearing for Property Purchase for April 13, 2020 at 6:50 PM (EJH Beard Administration Center). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

School Board Protocol Handbook

Board Member Cody Muhs shared that a new version of the School Board Protocol Handbook has been sent to board members, updating the version included in the board packet. He described the updates and asked that Board Members review the handbook and offer any additional edits.

Business Service Report – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10951

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

New Business – Old Business – Tim Bloom, Board Secretary

Future Meeting Dates: March 30, 2020 – 6:00 PM – Board Policy Review Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM) – 500 Series Board Policies; April 13, 2020; April 27, 2020; May 18, 2020 – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meetings (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM); March 23, 2020 – 5:30 PM – Board Work Session (EJH Beard Admin Center) – Topic: Open Enrollment (to reschedule); April 27, 2020 – 5:30 PM – Board Work Session (EJH Beard Admin Center) – Topic: In-District Transfers, Boundaries; March 24, 2020 – 5:30 PM – Public Meeting (NCEA Initial Proposal Presentation – ZOOM).

Upcoming Events: April 4 – 6, 2020 – NSBA Public Education Leaders Conference – (Chicago) (cancelled); April 15, 2020 – 2020 Safety Group Risk Management Web-Based Workshop (9-11 AM)

Consider Open Forum Topics or Future Agenda Items

A variety of future agenda items were discussed – ZOOM Meeting suggestions; Update on School Lunches

Board Highlights

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Zoom meeting, Coronavirus (COVID-19) communication, Resolution information, Proposed FY21 Certified Budget.

Adjourn – ACTION #10952

Sullivan moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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