

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 838 5475 1235

June 8, 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 (via Zoom), Donna Cook (via Zoom), Robyn Friedman (via Zoom), Cody Muhs (via Zoom), Travis Padget (via Zoom) (6:41 PM), Graham Sullivan (via Zoom), Mark Thayer, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Tom Messinger, Curt Roorda, Randy Van (KCOB)

**Present via Zoom:** Niki Aldrich, Cristy Croson, Erik Davis, Jessica Ferguson, Brenda Hodnett, Bret Miller, Jen Norvell, Bill Peters, Ann Rankin, Deb Rose, Sandy Scotton, Laura Selover, Melissa Sommars, Jack Suttek, Shane Wheeler, Tara Zehr, and Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News)

**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 June 8, 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** – Laura Selover, Interim Superintendent

**CoronaVirus (COVID-19) Communication**

Laura Selover, Interim Superintendent, shared that all district facilities continue to remain closed. A protocol will be implemented for when offices open to the public. A Return to Work Plan has been developed (Phase I), and employees will be transitioned back into buildings on June 15, 2020 with protocols in place. At this time, the best way to communicate with district staff is via phone or email. Softball and baseball practices resumed June 1, 2020.

**All State Speech Recognition – Leo Friedman**

Bill Peters (NHS Principal) recognized Leo Friedman for receiving a I Rating and being nominated for All State Speech. He qualified in both large group and individual speech as a freshman. His individual speech was entitled, "Why Math is Important."

**Purpose Statements** – Robyn Friedman, President

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

**Consent Agenda** – Robyn Friedman, President – **ACTION #11003**

Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to unanimously approve the Consent Agenda, with item F (Contract for Driver Education – Triple 'R' Driving School, LLC) tabled. Ayes: All Nays: None Absent: Padget

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

**Licensed Personnel** – **ACTION #11004**

**Jeffrey Beener** – (contract) – Special Education Teacher (Strat I) (BMS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**Daniel Brau** – (contract) – Special Education Teacher (Strat I) (NHS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**RJ Brown** – (contract) – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach (NHS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**Mike Kremer** – (contract) – Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach (NHS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**Abigail Morgan** – (contract) – LMC Technology Coordinator (AH/EH/TJ/WW) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**Tyler Williams** – (contract) – Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach (NHS) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

**Dustin Brisel** – (resignation) – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach (BMS) – effective June 3, 2020

**Kelly Hinrichs** – (resignation) – Music Teacher (AH/EH) – effective June 3, 2020

**Ann Rankin** – (resignation) – Teacher Instructional Coach (BMS) – effective June 3, 2020

**Tricia Maher** – (volunteer) – Volunteer Coach Girls Softball (NHS) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

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

**Classified Personnel** – **ACTION #11005**

**Kim Hinton** – (agreement) – Secretary (TJ) – effective July 28, 2020

**Sarah Hummel** – (agreement) – Secretary (BMS) – effective July 28, 2020

**Wyatt Van Gorp** – (agreement) – Drum Line Sponsor (NHS) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

**Erik Davis** – (resignation) – Technology Manager (Technology) – effective June 12, 2020

**Brianna Fuller** – (resignation) – Educational Associate (BMS) – effective May 29, 2020

**Dawn Shaw** – (resignation) – Food Service Cook (NHS) – effective May 29, 2020

**Deb Witte** – (resignation) – Food Service Cook (NHS) – effective May 29, 2020

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

**Open Forum** – Robyn Friedman, President

None

**Superintendent's Report** – Laura Selover, Interim Superintendent

**Return to Learn Plan**

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning shared that the subcommittees working on the district's Return to Learn plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year have held their first week of meetings. The subcommittees include: Academic Standards, Equity, Health & Safety, Infrastructure, Leadership, and Social Emotional Behavioral Health. The teams will continue to meet weekly through August 2020. Each subcommittee is represented by district administration, building administrators, department supervisors, licensed personnel, and central office staff. A Teaching & Learning update will be sent out to staff weekly, on Tuesdays with other planned communications in progress.

**Supervisor's Reports**

**Food Service** – Cristy Croson

Croson shared information about state grant funds that were received for WEST Academy (hot cart) and Woodrow Wilson (freezers). She gave an update on the summer Grab and Go meals for May 2020, with an average daily participation of 917 students. Extra items passed out with meals in May included Kentucky Fried Chicken meal coupon, educational bags/books, and Newton Public Library activities.

**Maintenance** – Jack Suttek

Suttek gave an update on summer projects, including: status of the NHS gym and painting being completed; NHS locker room improvements; NHS shop area windows replacement; NHS southeast entrance; plumbing at various schools; carpet installation at various schools; soccer fields storage shed; grounds crew work; and Emerson Hough shelter house removal, green space improvements, with donated brick pavers to be relocated at the Cardinal sculpture at NHS.

**Technology** – Shane Wheeler

Wheeler provided an update on summer projects, including: completion of spring projects; dedicated outside access points; filtered wifi solution on three

activity buses; camera project (BMS); and device updates. Wheeler thanked Erik Davis (Technology Manager) for his service to the Newton Community School District.

**Transportation – Curt Roorda**

Roorda gave an update on the June 3, 2020 bus inspection. The department is also working on summer bus maintenance, back to school route planning, and implementation of Here Comes the Bus app (Goal: October 2020).

**Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Laura Selover, Interim Superintendent and Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services**

**Consider Approval of the Proposed Breakfast and Lunch Rates for the 2020 – 2021 School Year – ACTION #11006**

Cristy Croson, Food Service Supervisor, shared that breakfast and lunch prices for 2020 – 2021 will remain the same, with the exception of the adult lunch price which will increase from \$3.75 to \$3.85 (due to price lunch equity). Muhs moved, Cantu seconded to Approve the Proposed Breakfast and Lunch Rates for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Consider Purchase of 975 Student and 80 Teacher MacBook Air Laptops for Newton High School from Apple, Inc. in the amount of \$792,216.25 to be paid for with SAVE Funds – ACTION #11007**

Shane Wheeler, Technology Supervisor, shared a comparison of Chromebooks and MacBook Air Laptops. Wheeler worked with a committee of District Administration, Building Administration, staff and students to survey for a preferred device solution. If the recommended purchase is approved, Ryan Humke, along with Shane Wheeler, would work on their Apple certification to become site servicers. Cook moved, Muhs seconded to Approve the Purchase of 975 Student and 80 Teacher MacBook Air Laptops for Newton High School from Apple, Inc. in the amount of \$792,216.25 to be paid for with SAVE Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Consider Purchase of Two (2) 77 Passenger International Gasoline Buses from Hoglund Bus Company in the amount of \$218,000 to be paid for with PPEL Funds – ACTION #11008**

Curt Roorda, Transportation Supervisor, presented a recommendation that the Newton Community School District purchase two new passenger buses. Muhs moved, Padget seconded to Approve the Purchase of Two (2) 77 Passenger International Gasoline Buses from Hoglund Bus Company in the amount of \$218,000 to be paid for with PPEL Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Consider Recommendation that the Newton Community School District Award Hoglund Bus, Inc. the Bid to Install Safety Seats on 9 Buses for \$90,485.00 to be paid for with SAVE Funds – ACTION #11009**

Curt Roorda, Transportation Supervisor, presented a recommendation that the Newton Community School District install safety seats with 3-point lap seat belts on 9 of our fleet buses. Muhs moved, Cantu seconded to Award Hoglund Bus, Inc. the Bid to Install Safety Seats on 9 Buses for \$90,485.00 to be paid for with SAVE Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Thayer Nays: None

**Board Policy Review – Second Reading: Board Policy 700 Series (Non-Instructional Operations & Business Services) (700 – 712R1) – ACTION #11010**

Bloom reviewed the second reading of the 700 Series board policies. Muhs moved, Cook seconded to approve the Second Reading of Board Policy 700 Series (Non-Instructional Operations & Business Services) (700 – 712R1). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

**Board Policy Review – First Reading: Board Policy 800 Series (Building & Sites) (800 – 804.5) – ACTION #11011**

Bloom reviewed the first reading of the 800 Series board policies. Cook moved, Muhs seconded to approve the First Reading of Board Policy 800 Series (Building & Sites) (800 – 804.5). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Board Policy Review – First Reading: Board Policy 900 Series (Community Relations) (900 – 906) – ACTION #11012**

Bloom reviewed the first reading of the 900 Series board policies. Muhs moved, Cook seconded to approve the First Reading of Board Policy 900 Series (Building & Sites) (900 – 906). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

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

**Approval of Bills – ACTION #11013**

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

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

**Future Meeting Dates: June 22, 2020 – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM); Open Enrollment** (will postpone for summer due to Return to Learn); **Board Culture Work Session** – (communication) – [TBD] – Robyn Friedman will coordinate for end of June 2020.

**Upcoming Events:** None

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

To consider Board Work Session on equity (Friedman).

**Board Highlights**

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Safety Seat Installation, Bus Purchases, MacAir Laptops Purchase, Breakfast and Lunch Rates (2020 – 2021 SY).

**Adjourn – ACTION #11014**

Cook moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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