

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 941 3649 3804

September 28, 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 (via Zoom), Graham Sullivan (via Zoom), Mark Thayer, Tom Messinger, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Jessica Ferguson, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Laura Selover, and Tara Zehr **Present via Zoom** (28 including): Jolene Comer, Cristy Croson, Jim Gilbert, Dave Kalkhoff, Jen Norvell, Bill Peters, Curt Roorda, Todd Schuster, Cara Orr, Lisa Sharp, Tina Stammeyer, Dallas VanderPol, Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News), and Randy Van (KCOB)

**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 September 28, 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** – Tom Messinger, Superintendent

**School Supplies Donation – Newton Moose Lodge**

Superintendent Tom Messinger thanked Ardis Coady and the Newton Moose Lodge for their great variety of school supplies donated to the Newton Community School District.

**Red Pride Shout Outs**

Superintendent Tom Messinger facilitated campus principals and administrators who shared their Red Pride Shout Outs. **Aurora Heights** (Teachers); **Emerson Hough** (Dr. Jessica Ferguson, Director of Special Education); **Thomas Jefferson** (Contact Tracing Teams, Jasper County Public Health, United Way); **Woodrow Wilson** (Special Education Team & Behavior Interventionist); **Berg Middle School** (PBIS Team); **Newton High School** (NCSA Teachers & Staff, District Coaches & Sponsors, District Nurses); **WEST Academy** (Kelly Sorenson, Secretary); **District Office** (Shane Wheeler, Technology Supervisor).

**Homecoming – September 24, 2020 (Theme: Cardinal Strong)**

Superintendent Tom Messinger provided a recap of Homecoming activities held September 24, 2020 at HA Lynn Stadium. He commended the students for creating a memorable evening with the Theme: Cardinal Strong. Superintendent Messinger shared a link to a video produced by Liebl Marketing and Luminary Productions.

**US Department of Education – National Blue Ribbon Schools Program (Woodrow Wilson)**

Superintendent Tom Messinger announced that Woodrow Wilson is a 2020 Award Recipient in the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, one of 367 schools nationwide and only a handful of schools in the State of Iowa. Mr. Schuster, Woodrow Wilson Principal, offered additional comments on the achievement of this award.

**GFOA Award of Financial Reporting Achievement**

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared that the Newton Community School District has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Congratulations was given to Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services and Business Office Staff Lorraine Bricker (Payroll) and Debbie Swank (Accounting). Superintendent Tom Messinger commended Mr. Bloom for his leadership.

**Purpose Statements** – Robyn Friedman, President

The mission, vision, district goals (2020 – 2021), collective commitments, and board commitments were reviewed.

**Consent Agenda** – Robyn Friedman, President – **ACTION #11086**

Cook moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously approve the Consent Agenda, with edit noted on the Open Enrollment Report. Ayes: All Nays: None

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

**Licensed Personnel** – None

**Classified Personnel** – **ACTION #11087**

**Sheri Chapman** – (agreement) – Food Service (WW) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

**Wyatt VanGorp** – (agreement) – Instrumental Music (NHS) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

**Katelyn White** – (agreement) – Educational Associate (BMS) – TBD pending completion of HR materials

**Lori Schutte** – (resignation) – Food Service (NHS) – effective September 25, 2020

**Carl DeGoey** – (retirement) – Bus Driver (Transportation) – effective September 8, 2020

Cook moved, Muhs 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

None

**Superintendent's Report** – Tom Messinger, Superintendent

**Return to Learn Plan**

**Criteria for Evaluation of Return to Learn Plan**

Superintendent Tom Messinger facilitated a presentation with the Subcommittee Leads regarding evaluation criteria for the district's Return to Learn Plan. The subcommittees include: **Infrastructure** (Leads: Laura Selover & Tim Bloom); **Health & Safety** (Lead: Trisca Mick); **Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health** (Lead: Tara Zehr); **Academic Standards** (Lead: Bret Miller); **Equity** (Lead: Dr. Jessica Ferguson). A time of question and answer was held for each Return to Learn subcommittee.

**Current Student Information**

**Enrollment** (onsite & remote)

Superintendent Tom Messinger provided a 2020 – 2021 preliminary enrollment update for PreK – 12 students as PreK – 4 (1,068), 5 – 8 (890), 9 – 12 (933) for a total of 2,891 onsite & remote students as of September 25, 2020. Student Count Date is October 1, 2020, and after that we will have a better comparison with last year's certified enrollment.

**Attendance**

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with ranges from 83.13% - 97.32%.

**Principals Reports**

Each of the campus principals gave a report on the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year. They shared topics on Return to Learn, district communications, health and safety initiatives, professional development, MAP testing, and how teachers, staff and students are learning to do "old things, in a new way."

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

**Consider Approval of Board Goal (2020 – 2021) – ACTION #11088**

Board President, Robyn Friedman facilitated discussion on approving a Board Goal for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The 2019 – 2020 Board Goal was displayed for review and any edits. The goal reads: “The Newton Community School District Board will support current best practices in instruction, engagement, culture, and professional development, by appropriately allocating resources aligned with district goals.” Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to Approve the Board Goal as presented for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for our Negative Special Education Balance of \$767,698.86 for the end of the 2019 – 2020 School Year – ACTION #11089**

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, explained board documents supporting the resolution regarding the district’s negative special education balance. He facilitated a time of questions and answers. Muhs moved, Cantu seconded to Approve a Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for our Negative Special Education Balance of \$767,698.86 for the end of the 2019 – 2020 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for LEP instruction cost in excess of funding in the amount of \$47,799.20 for the end of the 2019 – 2020 School Year – ACTION #11090**

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, explained board documents supporting the resolution regarding the district’s LEP instruction costs. Muhs moved, Cook seconded to Approve a Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for LEP Instruction Cost in Excess of Funding in the amount of \$47,799.20 for the end of the 2019 – 2020 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Consider Approval of Professional Learning Agreement – Four Oaks Family & Children’s Services (Therapeutic Classroom Agreement) – ACTION #11091**

Dr. Jessica Ferguson, Director of Special Education reviewed the details of a Professional Learning Agreement being presented for approval for the creation of Therapeutic Classrooms, enabling in-district placement for students. She facilitated a time of questions and answers. Sullivan moved, Muhs seconded to Approve a Professional Learning Agreement with Four Oaks Family & Children’s Services for Therapeutic Classrooms. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Board Policy Review – First Reading: Board Policy 200 Series (Board of Directors) (200 – 217) – ACTION #11092**

Tim Bloom, Board Secretary, reviewed the first reading of the 200 Series board policies. Muhs moved, Cook seconded to Approve the First Reading of Board Policy 200 Series (Board of Directors) (200 – 217). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Agenda Item Topics from September 14, 2020 Meeting**

Superintendent Tom Messinger gave an update on three topics from the September 14, 2020 board meeting: (1) **Assessment of Bus and Traffic Flow at Buildings** – an update will be provided at the October 12, 2020 board meeting; (2) **Food Service Balance with Donation Consideration** – a deficit balance was reported as \$17,520.45 and the Food Service Donation button (<https://newton.revtrak.net/Food-Service-Donations/>) on the RevTrak pay fees webpage was highlighted as an option for families; (3) **Status of Property Adjacent to the EJH Beard Administration Center** – an update will be provided at the October 12, 2020 board meeting.

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

**Approval of Bills – ACTION #11093**

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

**Annual Treasurer’s Report** – July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services shared the Annual Treasurer’s Report by fund and provided beginning balances, revenues, expenditures, and ending balances – with an ending balance in the General Fund of \$2,071,119.13.

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

**Future Meeting Dates:** [TBD] – Open Enrollment Meeting (via ZOOM); **October 12, 2020** – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM)

**Upcoming Events:** **Parent – Teacher Conferences** – October 1, 2020 (NHS); October 14, 2020 (WEST Academy); October 20 & 22, 2020 (PreK – 8<sup>th</sup>); **75<sup>th</sup> IASB Annual (All Digital) Convention & Trade Show** (November 18 – 19, 2020)

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

Assessment of Bus and Traffic Flow at Buildings; Open Enrollment Committee (subcommittee report, if timely); COVID-19 Procedures (medical providers & schools); Status of Property Adjacent to EJH Beard Administration Center; Board Learning Topics (Sir Ken Robinson)

**Board Highlights**

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Red Pride Shout Outs; National Blue Ribbon Schools Program; GFOA Award of Financial Reporting Achievement; Return to Learn Plan (Criteria for Evaluation); Professional Learning Agreement (Four Oaks – Therapeutic Classrooms).

**Adjourn – ACTION #11094**

Sullivan moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

Minutes Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ (President)

Approved by Action No. \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary)