

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 943 9500 0366

October 26, 2020 – 6:30 PM

### MINUTES

**Call to Order** – Board President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:32 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, Tom Messinger, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Jolene Comer, Jessica Ferguson, Jim Gilbert, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Bill Peters, Todd Schuster, Laura Selover, and Lisa Sharp **Present via Zoom** (48 including): Jordan Bell, Sheri Benson, Tom Butler, Brady Calow, Cristy Croson, Regina Gill, Julie Hauber, McKenna Heisdorffer, Brenda Hodnett, Rachelle Hyde, Kelly Kauffman, Katelyn Konfrst, Ann Leonard, Paula Lureman, Kristi Meyer, Michelle Modlin, Jen Norvell, Deborah Rose, Ryan Rump, Dallas VanderPol, Eric VanderVelden, Tara Zehr, 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 October 12, 2020 board meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.

**Communications** – Tom Messinger, Superintendent

**Jasper County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Mask Donation**

Superintendent Messinger thanked the Jasper County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for their generous donation of child and adult size masks.

**Red Pride Shout Outs**

Superintendent Messinger facilitated campus principals and administrators who shared their Red Pride Shout Outs. **Aurora Heights** (First Grade Team); **Emerson Hough** (Regina Gill, Special Education Teacher); **Thomas Jefferson** (Kim Bunker Photography) (Thomas Jefferson PTA); **Woodrow Wilson** (Emilee Brisel and Dallas VanderPol); **Berg Middle School** (All of the Berg Middle School Teachers!); **Newton High School** (Ryan Rump and Mindi Walker); **WEST Academy** (Ryan Rump); **District Office** (District Special Education Teachers); **District Office** (Dallas VanderPol).

**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 #11108**

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 #11109**

**Josh Carpenter** – (resignation) – Assistant Varsity Boys Soccer Coach (NHS) – effective October 19, 2020

**Tom Vanderlaan** – (transfer) – from 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Head Boys Basketball Coach (NHS) to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (NHS) – effective November 9, 2020

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

**Classified Personnel** – **ACTION #11110**

**Makayla Mikkelsen** – (agreement) – Educational Associate (EH) – effective November 24, 2020

**Linda Schaper** – (retirement) – Educational Associate (BMS) – effective November 4, 2020

**Amy Tratchel** – (termination) – Educational Associate (EH) – effective October 22, 2020

Sullivan moved, Cook 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

**October 2020 Certified Enrollment**

Superintendent Tom Messinger reported on the Newton Community School District's certified enrollment. The district is down 45.52 students from the 2019 – 2020 school year. This is a similar downward trend seen by most other schools in our conference. These changes seem to be a direct result of the pandemic. This will have an impact on next year's budget process, as the operating general budget is directly affected by the number of enrolled students.

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

Prior to the Regular Board Meeting, a Board Work Session was held on the topic of the district's Return to Learn Plan and our Criteria for Evaluation. A Virtual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Superintendent Messinger shared that data from the Return to Learn Monitoring Plan was reviewed, with discussion on the Return to Learn Plan and any modifications to current learning models. He noted that four options were presented for addressing future needs of on-site and remote learners, as well as teaching staff. Superintendent Messinger shared the importance of having students learning on-site, in consideration of current data from the district's COVID-19 Dashboard. There was a time of questions and answers. Superintendent Messinger shared that any action on modifications to our Return to Learn Plan would take place at the November 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

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

**Consider Purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Traverse from Karl Chevrolet in the amount of \$26,837.10 – ACTION #11111**

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, presented a quote from Karl Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Traverse in the amount of \$26,837.10. The vehicle purchase was a part of our Capital Improvement Plan for the Technology Department, and will be paid for with SAVE Fund dollars. Muhs moved, Cantu seconded to Approve the Purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Traverse from Karl Chevrolet in the amount of \$26,837.10. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

**Board Policy Review – First Reading: Board Policy 705.1R2 – Procedures for Contracts Paid with Federal Funds – ACTION #11112**

Tim Bloom, Board Secretary, reviewed the first reading of Board Policy 705.1R2. He shared that he has been working with FEMA to try and recover some expenditures from the Derecho storm event, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Bloom is ensuring that our board policies comply with federal purchasing requirements. Muhs moved, Sullivan seconded to Approve the First Reading of Board Policy 705.1R2 – Procedures for Contracts Paid with Federal Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

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

**Approval of Bills** – **ACTION #11113**

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

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

**November 2, 2020** – 6:30 PM – Virtual Town Hall Meeting (via ZOOM); **November 9, 2020** – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Administration

Center/via ZOOM) **Upcoming Events: End 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter** – November 6, 2020 (42 Days); **75<sup>th</sup> IASB Annual** (All Digital) **Convention (November 10, 2020** Pre-Convention; **November 17, 2020** Delegate Assembly; and **November 18 – 19, 2020** Convention)

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

**Denison Culture Committee** (Superintendent Messinger is working on this, with an update at a future board meeting); **Traffic Study Plan** (Study is being conducting, we are awaiting a meeting with engineers and will have an update at a future board meeting); **Property Update** (adjacent to administration building) (Cook); **Winter Sports Guidelines** (Friedman).

**Board Highlights**

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Red Pride Shout Outs, October 2020 Certified Enrollment, and Return to Learn Plan.

**Adjourn – ACTION #11114**

Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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