

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

E. J. H. Beard Administration Center

East Conference Room

October 24, 2016 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Travis Padget convened the board to order at 6:36 PM

Roll Call

Present: Sheri Benson, Josh Cantu, Donna Cook, Andrew Elbert, Robyn Friedman, Ann Leonard, Travis Padget, Bob Callaghan, Gayle Isaac, and Christine Dawson

Others Present: Tom Bartello, Jolene Comer, Jim Gilbert, Brenda Hodnett, Amy Jolivette, Paula Lureman, Cody Muhs, Mike Moran, Jen Norvell, Cheryl O’Roake, Bill Peters, Todd Schuster, Brian Schwenker, Sandy Scotton, Lisa Sharp, Bev Thomas, and Jason Brooks (Newton Daily News)

Communications – Cody Muhs and Brian Schwenker with the Knights of Columbus were present to be recognized for a donation of \$1,471.88 to Special Education. Lenny Woythaler was recognized for his donation of lumber to the NHS Industrial Arts Program valued at \$4,554.00.

Consent Agenda – ACTION #10022

Elbert moved, Leonard seconded to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Human Resources Update – Superintendent Bob Callaghan presented the Human Resources Update

Certified Personnel – ACTION #10023

Steve Pearson – (Resignation) – Football (BMS) – effective pending finding suitable replacement

Brian Smith – (Resignation) – Football (BMS) – effective pending finding suitable replacement

Elbert moved, Friedman seconded to approve the Certified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Classified Personnel – ACTION #10024

Mindy DeKoning – (Agreement) – Paraprofessional (NHS) – Hired 10/12/16 and Seniority 09/12/16

Tracy Hanson – (Agreement) – Paraprofessional (BMS) – Hired 10/18/16

Elbert moved, Benson seconded to approve the Classified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Open Forum

Bev Thomas (Family & Consumer Science, NHS) spoke about the Family and Consumer Science Department and Budget.

Superintendent’s Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Department Supervisor Reports

United Way of Jasper County – 2017 Campaign – Callaghan shared that district employees donated a total of \$13,114, an increase of \$5,000 from last year.

Campus/Principal Goals – District Goal #1 – Campus principals (PreK – 12) shared their building goals and professional development as it relates to District Goal #1 – “Newton Community School District will achieve sufficient improvement on the State Assessment at each grade level and within all subpopulations to ensure that, 80 – 85% of students are meeting the expectations of the core curriculum with core instruction.”

Attendance and Enrollment Summary – Callaghan shared that the total average student attendance (PreK – 12) for the period September 22 – October 21, 2016 is 96.07%. He reported that the total student enrollment as of October 21, 2016 is 2,974.

Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent and Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

Consider Request for Out of State Travel for NHS Yearbook Journalism Convention – Indianapolis, Indiana (November 9 – 13, 2016) – ACTION #10025

Leonard moved, Friedman seconded to approve a request for out of state travel for NHS yearbook journalism students to attend a convention in Indianapolis, Indiana (November 9 – 13, 2016). The trip is self-funded. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Consider Approval of 28E Agreement between Newton Community School District and Baxter Community School District for Participation in WEST Academy and Learning Opportunity Center Programs – ACTION #10026

Friedman moved, Leonard seconded to approve a 28E Agreement between the Newton Community School District and Baxter Community School District for participation in the WEST Academy and Learning Opportunity Center Programs. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Consider Appointment of Board Secretary and Board Treasurer – ACTION #10027

It was recommended that Gayle Isaac be appointed as Board Secretary and Board Treasurer, not limited to just one year (2016 – 2017). Elbert moved, Leonard seconded to appoint Gayle Isaac as Board Secretary and Board Treasurer. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget. Isaac was sworn in by Board President, Travis Padget.

Consider Adding a Board Policy Regarding Class and Grade Level Size Goals within the Newton Community School District

There was some discussion regarding methods the district would use to meet class and grade level attendance zone goals as it relates to procedure or policy. A three-prong approach was suggested including a program of (1) voluntary transfer (2) targeted voluntary transfer (3) mandatory transfer. Policy ideas regarding class and grade level size goals will be presented at the November 28, 2016 board meeting.

Consider Formation and Board Representation for the Denison Culture Survey Committee – ACTION #10028

Leonard moved, Elbert seconded to nominate Board President Travis Padget and Board Vice-President Robyn Friedman to serve on the Denison Culture Survey Committee. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget.

Business Service Report – Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10029

Cook moved, Friedman seconded to approve the bills. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Business Services Update

2015 – 2016 Certified Budget Fund Balance

Gayle Isaac provided 2015 – 2016 budget documents and spoke to the budget deficit shared at the October 10, 2016 board meeting. He discussed the rationale to lower our fund balance, and factors as to why it dropped below projections. Isaac explained that the cuts to 2016 – 2017 campus budget allocations are related to balancing this year’s budget. He assured the board that the Business Office would strive to improve the timing of allocating campus budgets. Superintendent Callaghan emphasized that budgetary reductions are on our horizons unless we have an extreme amount of funding coming in from Supplemental State Aid (SSA). If settlements are above SSA, further reductions will have to take place.

Categorical Fund Balances

Gayle Isaac spoke about categorical funds and if able, how the district has been spending down those balances. With restrictions put on categorical funds, there is money in those funds that we cannot spend determined by a funding formula.

New Business – Old Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

71st IASB Annual Convention – November 16 – 18, 2016

Christine Dawson will register board members interested in attending the 71st Annual IASB Convention.

Future Meeting Dates:

Regular Board Meeting (November 14, 2016) – 6:30 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center)

Middle School Construction Committee Meeting (October 26, 2016) – 4:00 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center)

SIAC Meeting (week of November 16, 2016) – [TBA]

Adjourn – ACTION #10030

Benson moved, Cook seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Minutes Mailed

Approved by Action No. _____

President

_____, 2016

Secretary