

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 881 4067 5107

July 13, 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, Donna Cook (via Zoom), Robyn Friedman, Cody Muhs (via Zoom), Travis Padget, Graham Sullivan, Tom Messinger, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Jessica Ferguson, Bret Miller, Sandy Scotton, Randy Van (KCOB) **Present via Zoom** (115 including): Cristy Croson, Jack Sutteck, Curt Roorda, Todd Schuster, Laura Selover, Lisa Sharp, Tara Zehr, Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News) **Absent:** Mark Thayer

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 July 13, 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

Return to Learn – Introduction Letter (July 8, 2020)

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared an introduction letter regarding the district's Return to Learn Plan. The letter included assurances submitted to the Iowa Department of Education on July 1, 2020 and a timeline. On July 6, 2020 the School Board approved a learning model that would have students return to school onsite four days, and one day remote each week. Parents will also have the option for their child(ren) to receive all of their education remotely. Superintendent Messinger invited meeting attendees to submit questions via Zoom chat, so responses could be addressed in a 30 minute Q & A session at the end of the meeting.

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 #11037**

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

Human Resource Update – Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources

Licensed Personnel – **ACTION #11038**

Danny Brau – (contract) – 7th Grade Football Coach (BMS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

Daniel Bright – (contract) – 9th Grade Head Volleyball Coach (NHS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

Ashley Kahler – (contract) – Head Varsity Girls Golf Coach (NHS) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

Jim Beerends – (contract amendment) – Administrator, Assistant Principal (NHS) – effective August 17, 2020

Jeffrey Beener – (resignation) – Special Education Teacher (Strat I) (BMS) – effective June 28, 2020

Lauren Drake – (resignation) – 3rd Grade Teacher (EH) – effective July 6, 2020

Ashley Kahler – (transfer) – from 8th Grade Volleyball Coach (BMS) to 7th Grade Volleyball Coach (BMS) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

Meghan Frehse – (transfer) – from 2nd Grade Teacher (TJ) to 6th Grade Teacher (BMS) – effective beginning of 2020 – 2021 school year

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

Classified Personnel – None

Open Forum – Robyn Friedman, President

None

Superintendent's Report – Tom Messinger, Superintendent

Return to Learn Plan

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning shared that subcommittees continue working on the district's Return to Learn plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year. He noted that our assurances have been submitted to the Department of Education. Pending tonight's board meeting, and a vote on amending the 2020 – 2021 school calendar, a survey will be sent out to our families for their decision on whether their child(ren) will return to school on-site or (fully) remote. The district's Return to Learn plan will be submitted to the board for approval at the July 27, 2020 board meeting.

Extended School Year Services – Transition

Dr. Jessica Ferguson, Director of Special Education gave an update on Extended School Year (ESY) Services, and a recommendation from the Iowa Department of Public Health that instruction remains remote. Dr. Ferguson commended the teachers who are providing ESY services for their hard work, and for the guidance their instruction will provide for the Fall 2020.

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

Consider Amendment to the February 10, 2020 Board Adopted 2020 – 2021 School Calendar – **ACTION #11039**

Superintendent Tom Messinger and Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources presented an amended 2020 – 2021 school calendar for board approval. The calendar reflects Mondays as Remote Learning for Students, and Tuesdays – Fridays as On-Site Learning for Students. The proposed first day of school would be Tuesday, August 25, 2020, allowing Monday, August 24, 2020 for various staff trainings. November 30, 2020 and January 25, 2021 were transitioned from teacher professional development, collaboration, and work days to student instructional days. February 15 and March 12, 2021 will be potential make up days due to inclement weather. The calendar reflects a total of 1,124.42 student instructional hours, 44.42 hours above the 1,080.00 minimum required. Superintendent Tom Messinger emphasized that the calendar would be reviewed quarterly, pending any guidance from the State of Iowa and Department of Public Health and necessary precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sullivan moved, Muhs seconded to Approve the Amendment to the February 10, 2020 Board Adopted 2020 – 2021 School Calendar. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: Cook Absent: Thayer

Consider Recommendation from Return to Learn – Health & Safety Subcommittee Regarding Face Coverings – **ACTION #11040**

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared that after consideration, it is the recommendation that protective face coverings be required by all people (staff, students, and visitors) inside school buildings. The same requirement applies for staff and students on district school buses and vehicles. He noted this requirement would be handled similar to a dress code, and that there may be exceptions. He expressed that the details of acceptable face coverings are still being finalized. Staff will be provided with face shields, and have the option to wear a mask in addition, depending on duties performed. Students and visitors who do not have already, will be provided with face masks. Cook moved, Padget seconded that All Staff, Students, and Visitors Wear Face Coverings When Inside School Buildings and on Buses. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Discussion of Board Policy 711.1 – Student School Transportation Eligibility from Return to Learn – Infrastructure Subcommittee

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, reviewed Board Policy 711.1 (Board Approved – June 8, 2020). The policy on transporting eligible students aligns with Iowa Code. *"Elementary and Middle School students living more than two miles from their designated school attendance centers and High School students living more than three miles from their designated attendance centers are entitled to transportation to and from their attendance center at the expense of the school district."* The transportation department is working on scheduling routes, student seating at 50% capacity, and determining other health & safety protocols with a communication forthcoming.

Consider Purchase of One (1) Cargo Van for the Technology Department from Stew Hansen Dodge City Jeep in the amount of \$29,601.00 to be financed with SAVE Funds – ACTION #11041

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services and Curt Roorda, Supervisor of Transportation, presented for approval the purchase of a Cargo Van for the Technology Department in the amount of \$29,601.00. The van is a replacement vehicle, and will serve as a mobile workshop for the Technology Department. Cantu moved, Padget seconded to Approve the Purchase of One (1) Cargo Van for the Technology Department from Stew Hansen Dodge City Jeep in the amount of \$29,601.00 to be financed with SAVE Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Consider Purchase of Replacement Roof Top Unit Equipment for Newton High School from Trane in the amount of \$230,860.00 to be financed with SAVE Funds – ACTION #11042

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services and Jack Sutteck, Supervisor of Maintenance, presented for approval the purchase of roof top unit equipment for Newton High School in the amount of \$230,860.00. This project will be done in phases, with installation costs to be determined. Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to Approve the Purchase of Replacement Roof Top Unit Equipment for Newton High School from Trane in the amount of \$230,806.00 to be financed with SAVE Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Consider Annual Statutory Assignments for Board Secretary/Treasurer, Depositories, Publication and Legal Counsel for FY 2021 – ACTION #11043

Cook moved, Cantu seconded to assign Tim Bloom as Board Secretary/Treasurer; First Newton National Bank, US Bank, Bank Iowa, BMO, UMB and PMA as Depositories; Newton Daily News as Publication; and Ahlers & Cooney as Legal Counsel for FY 2021. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Board/Superintendent Communication Protocol

Board President Robyn Friedman, and Board Vice-President Cody Muhs gave an update on the communication protocol with incoming Superintendent Tom Messinger. Friedman submitted to board members the finalized communication protocol for collaborative leadership that had been coordinated with Doug Stilwell and Jim Verlengia. An evaluation survey between the board members and superintendent will be completed after each board meeting to ensure goals are being met.

Review the IASB Legislative Platform and Choose (Four) Priorities – 2021 – 2022 – ACTION #11044

Board members reviewed Tips for Selecting Legislative Priorities, and reviewed the 2020 IASB Legislative Resolutions, and resulting 2020 IASB Legislative Priorities. Board members submitted their priorities for discussion and selection. Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to Choose Four Legislative Priorities for 2021 to submit to IASB by August 10, 2020 as follows: (1) Research-Based Initiatives; (7) Mental Health; (8) Special Education – State; (18) School Funding Policy. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Board Policy Review – First Reading: IASB Special Release Policy Updates: Public Emergencies – ACTION #11045

Bloom reviewed sample updates to the IASB Policy Reference Manual in the areas of Continuous Learning, Health and Safety, and Employee Leave – due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He presented the first reading of affected Newton Community School District board policies for approval (contained in 400, 500, 600 & 900 series). Cook moved, Padget seconded to approve the First Reading of IASB Special Release Policy Updates: Public Emergencies. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None Absent: Thayer

Business Service Report – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #11046

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

New Business – Old Business – Tim Bloom, Board Secretary

Future Meeting Dates: July 27, 2020 – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM)

Upcoming Events: Individual & Group Picture – Date/Time [TBD] – Christine will coordinate with John Lee Photography, and board members; Leadership Through a Crisis: COVID-19 and Beyond Digital Conference (IASB) – July 15, 2020 (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) – Robyn Friedman, Donna Cook, and Laura Selover to attend; NSBA Center for Safe Schools – School Safety Virtual Summit – September 15 – 17, 2020; 75th IASB Annual Convention & Trade Show (November 18 – 19, 2020)

Consider Open Forum Topics or Future Agenda Items

Extra – Curricular Activities and maintaining Health & Safety (Padget); Hand-washing stations (Padget); Passing Time and maintaining Health & Safety (Cook); Signage (Cook); What does Capturing Kids’ Hearts look like in a remote environment (Cook); Acceptable face coverings; Drinking Water Fountains (Sullivan).

Board Highlights

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Return to Learn Plan update; 2020 – 2021 School Calendar Amendment; Face Coverings; and Transportation (Board Policy 711.1).

Question and Answer Session – Return to Learn (30 minutes)

Superintendent Tom Messinger answered questions from the public that were submitted via Zoom chat during the board meeting, and on the topic of Return to Learn. A total of 96 participants remained in attendance and viewed the Q & A session. A total of 76 questions were compiled and submitted. Superintendent Messinger was not able to address all of the questions submitted, but plans to have all of the questions and answers posted on the district’s website in the near future.

Adjourn – ACTION #11047

Sullivan moved, Padget seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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