

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

ZOOM 886 4114 6981

July 27, 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, 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:** Jessica Ferguson, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Laura Selover, Tara Zehr, and Randy Van (KCOB) **Present via Zoom** (48 including): Jordan Bell, Sheri Benson, Jolene Comer, Kristi Cook, Leah Cope, Cristy Croson, Marianne Decker, Carole Hall, Tammy Heriford, Brenda Hodnett, Lois Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Rachelle Hyde, Molly Kremer, Kay Law, Ann Leonard, Michelle Miller, Jennifer Norvell, Bill Peters, Danielle Pickering, Jeff Richardson, Deborah Rose, Ryan Rump, Todd Schuster, Shane Wheeler, 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 July 27, 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 – Remote Learning Clarification Letter (July 15, 2020)**

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared a remote learning clarification letter addressed to Cardinal parents and guardians regarding our Return to Learn Plan. The letter included information about our Learning Model Survey, and two options available for families to choose from: (1) four day on-site/one day remote OR (2) fully remote. Also included in the letter was an excerpt from revised board policy 501.9 – Student Absences – Excused. The policy added information about students attending school through remote learning opportunities, due to public emergencies.

**Return to Learn – Google Site**

Superintendent Tom Messinger announced the launch of the district's Return to Learn Google Site (<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ia.us/newtonreturntolearn/home>), which was created with information provided by subcommittee leads in the areas of: Academic Standards (Bret Miller), Equity (Dr. Jessica Ferguson), Health & Safety (Trisca Mick), Infrastructure (Laura Selover), and Social-Emotional Behavioral Health (Tara Zehr). The site also includes resources on Parent & Family Support, the 2020 – 2021 school year calendar, and the option to submit a question direct to Superintendent Tom Messinger with a response within 48 hours. The site will be updated as we receive recommendations and guidance from local, state, and national experts. Dr. Jessica Ferguson reviewed the site topic tabs with board members and meeting attendees. A Virtual Town Hall Meeting was held Thursday, July 23, 2020 (6:30 PM – 8:00 PM) to answer questions about the district's Return to Learn Plan.

**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 #11048**

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

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

**Licensed Personnel** – **ACTION #11049**

**Michelle Ankrum** – (contract) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher (EH) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**McKenna Fiebelkorn** – (contract) – Kindergarten Teacher (EH) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

**Meggan Machin** – (transfer) – from Kindergarten Teacher (EH) to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher (TJ) – effective beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year

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

**Classified Personnel** – **ACTION #11050**

**Noah Short** – (agreement) – Technology Manager (Technology) – effective August 3, 2020

Padget moved, Cantu 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

**Fall Athletics & Activities Update**

Ryan Rump, Director of Athletics & Activities (NHS) thanked district coaches and student athletes for their efforts during the summer baseball and softball season, which began on July 1, 2020. He gave an update on Cardinal Power, which began on July 1, 2020. In regards to Fall Athletics & Activities, Mr. Rump is awaiting further guidance from associations in regards to public health matters. If on schedule, the start date would be August 10, 2020 with scheduling adjustments likely. District staff has been in conversation on Band, Choir, and Theater, and any questions can be directed to NHS Principal, Bill Peters. Marching Band will not participate in any festivals this fall. Cheerleading and Pacesetters will resume. An Athletics & Activities tab will be added to the district's Return to Learn Google Site (<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ia.us/newtonreturntolearn/home>).

**Construction Project Update**

Superintendent Tom Messinger gave an update on the Newton High School Partial Roof Replacement Project, which should be completed by August 13, 2020. Photos, minutes from the July 21, 2020 construction progress meeting, and a project timeline were shared.

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

**Consider Approval of the Newton Community School District's Return to Learn Plan for the 2020 – 2021 School Year** – **ACTION #11051**

Superintendent Tom Messinger requested that the Return to Learn Subcommittee Leads present in detail their section of the Return to Learn Google Site. Trisca Mick, TJ Principal reviewed **Health & Safety**; Tara Zehr, WEST Academy Principal reviewed **Social Emotional – Behavioral Health**; Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources reviewed **Infrastructure**; Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning reviewed **Academic Standards**; and Jessica Ferguson, Director of Special Education reviewed **Equity**. Superintendent Messinger shared that we are in the process of developing the final part of the plan which outlines criteria for school closures. The topic will be discussed at the August 10, 2020 board meeting. The Return to Learn Google Site will be updated as we receive recommendations and guidance from local, state, and national experts. The evaluation of our Return to Learn Plan will begin approximately six weeks into the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year so that any modifications can be made for the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October 27, 2020). Board Members were invited to ask any questions prior to plan approval. Padget moved, Cantu seconded to Approve the Newton Community School District's Return to Learn Plan for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: Cook

**Board Policy Review – Second Reading (IASB Special Release Policy Updates: Public Emergencies)** – **ACTION #11052**

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 second reading of affected Newton Community School District board policies for approval (contained in 400, 500, 600 & 900 series). Cook moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the Second Reading of IASB Special Release Policy Updates: Public Emergencies. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan, Thayer Nays: None

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

**Approval of Bills – ACTION #11053**

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

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

**Future Meeting Dates: Board Policy Review Meeting** – August 3, 2020 – 6:00 PM (via ZOOM); **Regular Board Meetings** – August 10, 2020 – 6:30 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM) and August 24, 2020 – 6:30 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM); **Board Work Session** – August 24, 2020 – 5:30 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center/ZOOM) – Topic: District Goals (2020 – 2021)

**Upcoming Events: Individual & Group Picture** – August 4, 2020 (12:00 – 1:00 PM) (or by appointment with John Lee Photography); **Back to School: Staff Zoom Meeting** – July 29, 2020 – 4:00 PM (via ZOOM) – Topic: Return to Learn Plan & 2020 – 2021 School Year; **New Teacher Academy** – August 11 – 13, 2020; **New Teacher Luncheon** – August 12, 2020; **Proud to Know Newton Radio Broadcast** – August 13, 2020; **Teacher Professional Development** – August 19 – 21, 2020; **Teacher Professional Development** – August 24, 2020; **Back to School Days [TBD]** – August 24, 2020; **First Day of School** – August 25, 2020; **NSBA Center for Safe Schools – School Safety Virtual Summit** – September 16 – 17, 2020; **75<sup>th</sup> IASB Annual Convention & Trade Show** – November 18 – 19, 2020

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

None

**Board Highlights**

Board President Robyn Friedman expressed that the board highlights have been well received. This meetings highlights: Return to Learn Plan Approval; Fall Athletics & Activities Update; Newton High School Partial Roof Replacement Project

**Adjourn – ACTION #11054**

Muhs moved, Padget seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None

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

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

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