

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

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

September 23, 2019 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order – Board President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call – Christine Dawson, Recording Secretary

Present: Josh Cantu, Donna Cook, Robyn Friedman, Ann Leonard, Cody Muhs, Travis Padget, Graham Sullivan, Bob Callaghan, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Ronda Barloga, Jana Belle, Lorraine Bricker, Jolene Comer, Courtney Dawson, George Dawson, Jon Dunwell, Darin Eide, Jessica Ferguson, Jim Gilbert, Alison Grier, Brenda Hodnett, Jeff Maki, Brittany McDowell, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Bill Peters, Ann Rankin, Todd Schuster, Laura Selover, Sandy Scotton, Lisa Sharp, Carmen Smith, Jack Suttek, Darin Tisdale, Rick Wilgenbusch, Mark Yeoman, and Randy Van (KCOB)

Communications – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Superintendent Callaghan acknowledged and expressed appreciation for school supply donations from the **Newton Moose Lodge**.

Superintendent Callaghan displayed a sign created for the **Steve McDermott Cardinal Invitational**. The cross country meet will be renamed in memory of the Newton Community School District's former Superintendent.

Board President Robyn Friedman explained the concept of **Red Pride Shout Outs**, an idea from the District Culture Council. Shout Outs were given to:

Andy Swedenhjelm – for sending Newton High School athletes to elementary schools to greet and read to students.

Brittany McDowell and **Ann Rankin** – for taking a group of Berg Middle School students to Aurora Heights to read to second grade students.

Superintendent Callaghan and Bill Peters (NHS Principal) shared highlights from the variety of activities held during **Homecoming Week**.

Superintendent Callaghan and Bill Peters (NHS Principal) recognized Courtney Dawson for her achievements as a **National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist**.

Purpose Statements – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

The mission, vision, district goals (2019 – 2020), collective commitments, and board commitments were reviewed. Board President Robyn Friedman shared that the need to complete the **High Performing School Board Surveys** has come to an end. She thanked those who had completed the surveys for use during their board culture work.

Consent Agenda – Robyn Friedman, President – **ACTION #10802**

Cook moved, Leonard seconded to unanimously approve the consent agenda with the removal of Item V.F. (Fundraisers). Ayes: All Nays: None

Human Resource Update – Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources

Certified Personnel – **ACTION #10803**

Jena Teed – (contract) – 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (BMS) – effective October 18, 2019

Muhs moved, Cook seconded to approve the Human Resource Update – Certified Personnel Report. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan. Nays: None

Classified Personnel – **ACTION #10804**

Elke O'Harra – (agreement) – After School Monitor (BMS) – effective September 23, 2019

Jan Poulson – (agreement) – Food Service Cook (BMS) – effective pending completion of HR materials

Leonard moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the Human Resource Update – Classified Personnel Report. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Open Forum – Robyn Friedman, President

None

Public Hearing – 6:45 PM – Newton High School Mechanical Equipment Project

No one was present to speak on this topic.

Superintendent's Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Principal Reports – Campus Principals

Each of the principals gave an update on academics and activities at their campuses.

Power Outage Communication – Superintendent Callaghan reviewed communications from the August 27, 2019 power outage (due to transformer fire). He thanked the Newton Fire and Police Departments, and Alliant Energy for their assistance. Teachers and staff were recognized for their willingness to do whatever necessary to aid in keeping the students safe during the transition of early dismissal.

Current Student Enrollment

Enrollment Summary – Superintendent Callaghan provided a 2019 – 2020 enrollment update for K – 12 students as K – 4 (1,057), 5 – 8 (903), and 9 – 12 (909) for a total of 2,869 students as of September 20, 2019. He noted that Certified Enrollment will be completed on October 1, 2019.

Attendance Data – Superintendent Callaghan shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with ranges from 80.85% - 97.76%. In the future, analyzed data from Forecast5 will be shared.

Learning, Leadership, and District Business

Consider Approval of the Newton High School Mechanical Equipment Project – **ACTION #10805**

Leonard moved, Cook seconded to Approve the Newton High School Mechanical Equipment Project with a contract award to Hart-Hammer, Inc. for an Aaon unit in the amount of \$191,963.00. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Update on Self-Funded Insurance

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, and the district's insurance team gave an update on the transition to dental and medical insurance. The insurance team included: Ronda Barloga, Jana Belle, Darin Eide, Jeff Maki, and Carmen Smith. The team gave an update on plan coverage comparisons, open enrollment process, and Q & A sessions. They were available to answer any questions from Board Members, and plan to give additional updates at a future board meeting.

Teaching and Learning Update

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning shared a handout entitled 2018 – 2019 Student Proficiency Rates, Overall and by Student Subgroup. The information detailed statewide ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) results for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science for all students; by race/ethnicity; by English Learner (EL); by Individualized Education Program (IEP); and by Socioeconomic Status (SES). Scores for Newton will be shared as they are received. Miller shared topics for the September 30, 2019 PreK – 12 Teacher Professional Development day.

Consider Approval for Out of State Travel: NHS Choir and Band Students Travel to Festival Disney – March 12 – 19, 2020 – Orlando, Florida – ACTION #10806

Leonard moved, Padget seconded to Approve the Request for Out of State Travel for NHS Choir and Band Students to Travel to Festival Disney – March 12 – 19, 2020 in Orlando, Florida. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Consider Purchase of One (1) Blue Bird Micro Bird Lift Bus from School Bus Sales Company of Waterloo, Iowa in the amount of \$80,295.00 from SAVE Funds – ACTION #10807

Sullivan moved, Padget seconded to Approve the Purchase of One (1) Blue Bird Micro Bird Lift Bus from School Bus Sales Company of Waterloo, Iowa in the amount of \$80,295.00 from SAVE Funds. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Consider Installation of the Berg Middle School Cell Phone Repeater Project funded with BMS Construction Funds – ACTION #10808

Muhs moved, Leonard seconded to Approve the Installation of the Berg Middle School Cell Phone Repeater Project funded with BMS Construction Funds with a contract award to TechZone to cover the whole building interior in the amount of \$44,228.07. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan 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 \$29,142.12 for the end of the 2018 – 2019 School Year – ACTION #10809

Padget moved, Cook seconded to Approve the Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for LEP Instruction Cost in Excess of Funding in the amount of \$29,142.12 for the end of the 2018 – 2019 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for Negative Special Education Balance of \$298,269.32 for the end of the 2018 – 2019 School Year – ACTION #10810

Padget moved, Sullivan seconded to Approve the Resolution for the District to Request Modified Allowable Growth and Supplement Aid for Negative Special Education Balance of \$298,269.32 for the end of the 2018 – 2019 School Year. Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Consider Appointing Board Member Delegate for the IASB Delegate Assembly (November 20, 2019) – ACTION #10811

Sullivan moved, Padget seconded to Appoint Robyn Friedman as the Board Member Delegate for the IASB Delegate Assembly (November 20, 2019). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

Statement of Candidacy for District Director, IASB Board of Directors

No action was taken on this agenda item, due to lack of motion and second.

Statement of Candidacy Submission for the Election to Area Education Agency 11 (AEA) Board of Directors – District 1

No action was taken on this agenda item, due to lack of motion and second.

Board Policy Review – Second Reading: Board Policy 400 Series (Employees) – ACTION #10812

Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, explained an update to Board Policy 401.7 (Employee Travel Compensation). Muhs moved, Leonard seconded to Approve the Second Reading of Board Policy 400 Series (Employees). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: None

District Culture Council Update

Board President Robyn Friedman gave an update on the September 18, 2019 District Culture Council meeting. The next meeting will be held November 20, 2019.

Business Service Report – Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10813

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

Certificate of Recognition – IASB Safety Group

Bloom shared that the district received a certificate of recognition from the IASB Safety Group for its performance in the area of Workers' Compensation. The district has a 2019 – 2020 Experience Mod of less than 1.00 which puts us in the top 50% of all public and private schools, area education agencies, and community colleges in the State of Iowa.

Treasurer's Report – Certified Annual Report (CAR)

Bloom discussed the FY19 Treasurer's Report by fund. The beginning balance in the General Fund was \$714,108.74 and ending balance \$1,763,297.27. Bloom was commended for his hard work and effort, and shown appreciation for the financial well-being of the district.

New Business – Old Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Future Meeting Dates: October 14, 2019 – 5:30 PM – Board Work Session (EJH Beard Admin Center) – Gary Sinclair, Forecast 5; October 14, 2019 – 6:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center); [Date & Time TBD] – Board Policy Review Meeting (EJH Beard Admin Center) – Remaining 400 Series Board Policies

Callaghan noted an upcoming **Joint County Board of Director Meeting** – Legislative Discussion and had Board Members give their preference on the meeting date as either October 9 or 16, 2019. The preferred date was **October 16, 2019** with Newton hosting, and more information will follow.

Upcoming Events: School Board Elections – Last day candidates may withdraw. Last day written objections to nomination papers or eligibility of candidates may be filed (5:00 PM) – **September 24, 2019**; IASB Employee Relations Conference – **October 17, 2019** (Altoona); School Election Day – **November 5, 2019** (Polls are open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM); 74th IASB Annual Convention and Trade Show – **November 20 – 21, 2019** (Des Moines)

Consider Open Forum Topics or Future Agenda Items

None.

High Performing School Board Survey

Per Board President Robyn Friedman, this item will be removed from future board agendas.

Adjourn – ACTION #10814

Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Minutes Mailed _____ (President)
Approved by Action No. _____, 2019
_____, (Secretary)