

*To be voted by the Newington School Board at its next scheduled meeting.*

**NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NEWINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The monthly meeting of the School Board of the Newington School District was held at the Newington Public School on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members: Deirdre Link, Chairperson  
David Mueller

Administrators: George Cushing, Superintendent  
Helen Rist, Principal of Newington Public School

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Link opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Link, the public minutes of September 8, 2009 were approved with corrections. Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Communication**

None

**Other**

None

**RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS** – None

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Cushing said the Secondary School Advisory Committee is set to meet tomorrow, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at PHS. One of the agenda items is the delayed openings at PHS throughout the year. It is hoped teachers' agenda for those days can be discussed.

Additionally, Portsmouth is getting ready to work on the next 2-year school calendar. Dr. Cushing has asked that they once again include the SAU 50 board members and parents involved in this process.

Professional Development Day was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at PHS. There were 150 teachers from SAU 50 and about 15 teachers from SAU 52. It was a very productive day and the presentation set up at PHS worked well. In one exercise teachers were put in teams (by school) and there was discussion about the impact of personalities with respect to effective meetings. The teachers submitted evaluations of the presentation and other feedback on the day.

**Director of Pupil Services' Report** – Dr. Cushing distributed Mrs. Lyons report. There were no questions or concerns.

**Science NECAP Report 2009** – Mr. Southworth's report of results for the NECAP given in May 2009 to students in grades 4, 8, and 11 was discussed.

**New School Board member** – As preparation for posting the vacancy for the remaining term of Mrs. Maldini's school board seat, Dr. Cushing asked the Board to consider qualities they might like to see in a school board member. He suggested they create a list and then determine the top 3-5.

The comprehensive list of 'ideal' qualities included:

- Having child(ren) in Newington Public School, Portsmouth Middle School, or Portsmouth High School
- Served on other public boards
- Vision for education
- Volunteerism
- Flexibility and availability
- Interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of budget process; fiscal responsibility
- Reliable
- Good balance; problem-solving strategies
- Reflective
- Represent the whole town (all constituents)
- Understand the balance of town and quality of education

Dr. Cushing said after discussion the Board will pick the top criteria for a school board member. The process for appointing a school board member to fulfill the remaining term of the open position (through March 2010) will be as follows: If more than one letter of interest is received, and the two board members cannot agree on a candidate, the decision will be handed over to the selectmen.

After discussion it was agreed the following top qualities were to be considered for the appointed school board member:

- Team player with good interpersonal skills
- Good communicator and good listener
- Reliable and flexible with schedule
- Thoughtful problem solver; critical thinker

The official notice of vacancy will be posted at Newington Public School and Newington Town Hall. It will be requested that all letters of interest are received by October 19, 2009. The Board will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 a.m. at NPS to review the letters and appoint a new board member.

### **Portsmouth Coalition**

Dr. Cushing is participating in a meeting of the Portsmouth Coalition on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Community Campus. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss risky behavior of students and how to build resiliency in kids. Principal Collins and Superintendent McDonough will be at the meeting as well as the state liquor commissioner and police officials.

### **Charter School Tour**

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a tour of the Great Bay eLearning Charter School in Exeter. The school is located at the old Exeter High School campus on Linden Avenue. Mr. Pollet and Mr. Smith are both going. Mrs. Reddick may go and several SAU 50 board members will attend.

### **Principal's Report**

*Mrs. Rist's highlights included:*

- NWEA testing – first testing season is complete and appears to have been very successful. Students responded well to the testing. The test measure growth using RIT scale which shows how “tall” a student is on the curriculum scale and scores can be compared to tell how much growth a student has made. Students who function below, or far above, grade level were able to successfully complete the test and produce information about their learning that will assist the staff in planning. With funding from Title IIA 2009, we have been able to give Mrs. Girardin time to assist with set up, administration, and report processing. She is compiling all of the data in binders for the teachers. Mrs. Rist also noted the NWEA technical support team was very accessible and responsive.

Dr. Cushing took a moment to recognize Mrs. Rist for spear-heading the NWEA testing at NPS. He applauded her for taking on this effort and recognized that it will provide another way to look at data.

Mrs. Rist indicated that students who did poorly on the NWEA testing this time around can take an abbreviated test in January which will let the teachers see the student's growth.

- Technology update – the eight new Mac books have arrived and are in the process of being configured. The old Dells will be phased out as the Macs are put online. Mrs. Rist has made an arrangement with Apple to have the old Dells recycled at no cost.

### **School Board Reports**

- a) Communications - None
- b) Facility – Dr. Cushing spoke with Mr. Katkin and it was agreed there were no big building projects to consider for the upcoming budget. Mrs. Rist mentioned a zone valve had to be replaced in the boiler.

She also mentioned that the bark mulch in the play area needs to be removed and replaced with new mulch. She will follow up with town selectmen to see if they may be able to provide some assistance.

c) Policy

Mrs. Link presented the following policies for adoption:

IL\*\* - *Evaluation of Curricular Programs*

IJOC\*\* - *Volunteers*

IHAM\*\* - *Exemption from Instruction and Health Education Based on Religious Objections*

As discussed at last month's meeting, Mrs. Link proposed to the SAU 50 policy committee that Newington should use its own exemption form for IHAM to make sure it is in-line with the subject matter/curriculum presented as part of health education at NPS. The committee agreed with her suggestion.

There being no further discussion on the policies presented, Mr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Link, to adopt policies IL, IJOC, and IHAM. Vote: Unanimously approved.

- d) Technology – done
- e) REAP - none
- f) PHS - done
- g) PMS - none

#### FINANCIALS

The Board reviewed the manifest of September 2, 2009 – October 8, 2009; there were no questions and there was no discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Ms. Link, the manifest of September 2, 2009 – October 8, 2009 in the amount of \$93,536.11 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Mueller asked if it would be possible for the business office to provide a history of month-to-month electrical costs for the past five years. Dr. Cushing will follow up on this.

Dr. Cushing indicated that we are trying to keep the 2010-2011 budget at 0% increase. He noted that Mrs. Reddick spends a portion of her week at Portsmouth Middle School and Portsmouth High School and we can shift that cost out of the elementary budget and charge to PMS or PHS where the students are receiving service.

Mrs. Rist said that as always her core goal is to protect curriculum. She is already looking at what we *really* need to service our kids.

#### V. UNFINISHED

Calendar of policy action – done.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

As follow up to the proposed change to the spring professional development day for staff presented at the recent SAU 50 Board meeting, Dr. Cushing asked for a vote from the Board.

Mr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Link, to change the spring professional development day for staff from March 19, 2010 to May 28, 2010 as proposed at the September 23, 2009 SAU 50 School Board meeting. Vote unanimously approved.

**VII. NON PUBLIC SESSION**

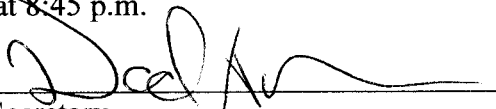
On a motion by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Link the School Board, on a roll call vote, entered non public session at 8:27 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

**OUT OF NON PUBLIC SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Link, seconded by Mr. Mueller the School Board came out of non public session and sealed the minutes of the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Link, and on a roll call of officers it was agreed to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

  
Secretary