

Newport School Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2017

I. Call to Order

Chair Shannon Howe called to order a public meeting of the Newport School Board at 6:30 PM on January 5, 2017 at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, Lou Thompson Room. Present: Virginia Irwin, Tim Renner, Ann Spencer, and Linda Wadensten.

Also in attendance:

Phil Banios, Richards co-principal, Suzanne Boyington, NMHS interim principal, Patrick Dowsett, NMHS interim assistant principal, Cindy Gallagher, superintendent, Patrice Glancey, curriculum coordinator, and Sue Schroeter, Richards co-principal.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

Deleted from the agenda: principals' reports and the NEASC report. Added to the agenda: action items from the earlier non-public meeting and a report from the communications committee.

IV. Minutes

AS MOVED BY MR. RENNER AND SECONDED BY DR. SPENCER, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2016 AND DECEMBER 8, 2016 AS PRESENTED (4-0-1).

Dr. Wadensten abstained because she had not been at the meetings.

V. Public Forum

None.

VI. Information/Action

A. 6th Grade Bus Schedule

Ms. Boyington introduced NMHS interim assistant principal, Patrick Dowsett.

In proposing that the sixth grade follow the same bell schedule as the middle and high schools, Ms. Boyington noted that:

- Students will have a better schedule that will include dedicated writing time and an advisory that they do not have with the current schedule.
- A survey of parents was taken at the open house and during winter sports night and the response was positive.
- The proposed schedule:

7:30-7:45 Advisory

7:45-8:35 Block 1

8:35-9:25 Block 2

9:25-10:15 Block 3

10:18-11:11 Special 1

11:14-11:43 Flex/SSR

11:45-12:10 Lunch

12:15-12:45 Writing

12:48-1:35 Special 2

1:38-2:40 Reading

- The start time will be the same as the NMHS schedule. There will be plenty of room for breakfast in the morning to serve sixth-grade students. Lunch time will stay the same as it has been. Mr. Spydell welcomes the change to allow for more prep time for lunches since he will not have to prepare a second breakfast.
- The students will be dismissed at the same time as the other NMHS students.
- Mr. Howard reports that there are plenty of seats available for the sixth-grade students on the NMHS runs.
- Upon board approval, notices will be sent home through students, SchoolMessenger, weekly videos, and NCTV announcements.

Dr. Gallagher noted that the change to the sixth-grade schedule does not affect the elementary school schedule at Richards.

The proposed change would take effect January 23, 2017, the first day of the second semester.

Ms. Howe asked the administration to request that parents sign and return a form indicating that they have been notified of the change. Parents who do not return the form will be called to verify notification.

In response to a question from Mr. Renner, Ms. Boyington reported that there would be seating arrangements on the buses to keep the youngest students separated from the oldest.

AS MOVED BY MS. IRWIN AND SECONDED BY DR. SPENCER, THE BOARD VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO ADJUST THE SIXTH-GRADE SCHEDULE SO THAT IT WILL BEGIN AND END ON THE CURRENT NMHS SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2017. SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS WILL RIDE ON THE SAME BUSES AS THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (4-1-0).

Mr. Renner voted no.

Ms. Boyington invited parents to contact her if they have questions or concerns about the schedule change. She noted that currently sixth-grade students are arriving to school with older siblings and waiting in the cafeteria until their classes begin.

B. Budget Update/Warrant Articles/Negotiated Contracts

The board will meet at 5:00 PM on January 10 to ratify the contracts and vote on whether they should be included in the operating budget or included as separate warrant articles.

Dr. Gallagher reported that the budget advisory committee (BAC) has met three times to review the FY18 proposed budget. Committee members have raised a concern about the increase in the health insurance costs (in prior board meetings this figure has been noted as 20.6%; HealthTrust has indicated that it is actually 20.1%). The BAC will discuss whether it should recommend that the district budget for the entire 20.1% or at a lower rate.

The BAC is also reviewing enrollment figures and related services costs, and suggested that the board be prepared to promote positive changes to the delivery of education in order to justify the proposed budget (e.g., PACE, SWIFT, Marzano, and strategic supervision).

Dr. Gallagher also noted that the proposed and default budgets would not include special education hypothetical placements, but only those with the administration's written commitment.

Ms. Howe reminded the audience that the public hearing will take place at 6:00 January 12 in the Lou Thompson Room.

C. *Personnel*

AS MOVED BY MS. IRWIN AND SECONDED BY DR. WADENSTEN, THE BOARD VOTED TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF JUSTIN RICE TO COACH THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AT A STIPEND LEVEL OF 5% (\$1,718.15) (5-0-0).

Dr. Gallagher reported that the administration had also hired Doug Fillion as the part-time maintenance director. Mr. Fillion is not HVAC-certified.

AS MOVED BY MS. IRWIN AND SECONDED BY DR. WADENSTEN, THE BOARD VOTED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF \$1,000 PER WEEK TO DR. GALLAGHER TO COMPENSATE HER FOR THE TIME SHE HAS PERFORMED THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES BEGINNING NOVEMBER 14, 2016 UNTIL MR. WIGGIN RETURNS (5-0-0).

Ms. Irwin noted that Paul Brown had been compensated for performing the town manager's duties between the time the town manager resigned and was replaced.

AS MOVED BY MR. RENNER AND SECONDED BY DR. SPENCER, THE BOARD VOTED TO AUTHORIZE DR. GALLAGER TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE LEMPSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT OF A STUDENT PURSUANT TO RSA 193:3III (a) (5-0-0).

AS MOVED BY MR. RENNER AND SECONDED BY MS. IRWIN, THE BOARD VOTED TO ACCEPT THE REQUEST FROM SAU 6 TO RECEIVE A CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR A STUDENT PURSUANT TO RSA 193:3III (a) (5-0-0).

VII. Administration & Board Communications

Dr. Gallagher reported that she had received a thank you note from Gerry DeMuro of the non-profit Northern Heritage Mills for the participation of Newport students at its Women in Engineering conference.

Dr. Gallagher thanked the administration for its productive work at its recent retreat.

The unified sports team won its first game Wednesday 21-20 against Fall Mountain. Ms. Howe noted that the *Eagle Times* posted excellent photos on its Facebook page.

Ms. Schroeter reported that the grade 3, 4, and 5 spelling bee would take place Friday and Mr. Banios reported that NCTV had recorded the potato walk from Richards to the food pantry. Students delivered 1,200-1,500 pounds of potatoes. The event was covered by the *Eagle Times* and *Valley News* as well.

The fifth grade produced a video on behavior expectations that was shown at an assembly and on NCTV.

Ms. Boyington reported that Mr. Dowsett had been introduced to families via SchoolMessenger.

In response to a question from Ms. Irwin regarding the next iteration of report cards to be sent home following the second quarter, Ms. Schroeter reported that she has been working with Ms. Glancey to make sure that the competencies reported on the report cards are correct and that they are written to ensure that parents will understand them. They will be previewed prior to being printed. A letter describing the report cards will go out Monday, as well as a letter identifying PowerSchool logins and passwords.

Mr. Banios emphasized how important it is that parents make sure that the schools have their proper contact information.

Ms. Irwin suggested that the staff at Richards Free Library be briefed on how to access PowerSchool to help patrons. Parents are welcome to use the Richards School media center as well.

Ms. Boyington reported that the sixth-grade team has paved the way for the middle school teams to roll out the competency-based report cards that will be printed for the third quarter.

Ms. Irwin commended the SRVRTC staff and students for their work on the Minion Christmas night. She commented that the level of effort was phenomenal and the evening was delightful.

Ms. Irwin also noted that two seventh-grade teachers produced a video with their students about cities around the world for a geography lesson. The video is on YouTube and NCTV and is excellent. The students were superb and the video was funny and educational. She thanked the teachers for their extra efforts.

Dr. Spencer reported that NCTV has invited the communications committee to produce a talk show to bring students in to showcase their work and put it in context of board initiatives. Ms. Irwin suggested a discussion about unified sports, and Mr. Renner suggested bringing in sixth-grade students to ask how they feel about the schedule change. Dr. Spencer put out a call to teachers and principals for ideas, and Mr. Renner suggested

that the communications committee agenda the invitation. The next communications committee meeting will take place at 4:30 on Monday, January 9 at the Richards Free Library.

The board authorized the communications committee to move forward by consensus.

Dr. Gallagher reported that the chamber of commerce has invited the board to host an “after hours” event in January, describing it as an event at which businesses come together from 5:00 – 7:00 at a hosted venue to discuss what they are doing. Ms. Howe agreed that it would be a good opportunity for the board to discuss the budget with community members, and the board agreed to host the event in February. Dr. Gallagher will contact Ella Casey and report back at the January 10 meeting.

The board will meet January 10 at 5:00 to hold a ratification vote on the collective bargaining agreements; it will then travel to the Claremont SRVRTC Teal Room to meet with the Goshen School Board at 6:00.

The public hearing will be held January 12 at 6:00, and the next regular board meeting will be held January 26 at 6:00. The deliberative session will take place February 7 at 6:00 in the gym. The February regular board meetings are scheduled for February 9 and 23, although the meeting on the 23rd may be re-scheduled or cancelled because it falls during winter break.

The ballot vote takes place on March 14.

VIII. Agenda Items For the January 26 Meeting

Principals’ reports

A NH Charitable Trust proposal to fund a position in collaboration with the community
FY17 budget update

IX. Adjournment

The public session adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Scott