

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

E. J. H. Beard Administration Center

East Conference Room

January 23, 2017 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Travis Padget convened the board to order at 6:30 PM

Roll Call

Present: Sheri Benson, Josh Cantu, Andrew Elbert, Robyn Friedman, Ann Leonard, Travis Padget, Bob Callaghan, Gayle Isaac, and Christine Dawson

Others Present: Tom Bartello, Mark Burnett, Jolene Comer, Jen Elbert, Amy Farmer-Shannon, Chris Forsyth, Scott Garvis, Brenda Hodnett, Paula Lureman, Trisca Mick, Jen Norvell, Amy Rau, Sarah Patterson, Bill Peters, Deb Rose, Tina Ross, Todd Schuster, Laura Selover, Brandon Sharp, Lisa Sharp, Justin Jagler (Newton Daily News) and Randy Van (KCOB)

Absent: Donna Cook

Communications – Superintendent Bob Callaghan expressed appreciation for recent donations to the district from the Newton Wellness Coalition totaling \$4,500 to be used for healthy snacks for students K – 8. Bill Peters (NHS Principal) and Scott Garvis (NHS Activities Director) were present to recognize Coach Sarah Patterson for the 2016 IA NFHS Girls' Swimming Coach of the Year and Coach Brandon Sharp for the PGC Transformational Coach of the Year.

Consent Agenda – ACTION #10076

Friedman moved, Elbert seconded to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget Absent: Cook

Human Resources Update – Laura Selover presented the Human Resources Update

Certified Personnel – ACTION #10077

Amy Blasius – (Contract) – Special Education Teacher (BMS – Consortium for Success) – effective 01/24/17

Jenny Moore – (Transfer)– from Specialist (LOC) to Specialist (Behavior Interventionist) (BMS–Consortium for Success)–effective TBD

Tara Allen – (Resignation) – Band – Color Guard (NHS) – effective 01/18/17

Krista McNew – (Resignation) – Assistant Volleyball Coach (NHS) – effective end of 2016/2017 school year

Mark Burnett – (Retirement) – District TLC Coordinator – effective 05/31/17

Elbert moved, Benson seconded to approve the Certified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget Absent: Cook

Classified Personnel – ACTION #10078

Sophia Wicklund – (Resignation) – Crossing Guard (TJ) – effective 02/09/17

Friedman moved, Leonard seconded to approve the Classified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget Absent: Cook

Open Forum – None

Superintendent's Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Goal #2

Principals spoke on the topic of parent involvement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Attendance and Enrollment Summary + Student Transiency Report

Callaghan shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with the total average student attendance (PreK – 12) for the first semester at 95.55%. He reported total student enrollment as of January 6, 2017 at 3,007. Superintendent Bob Callaghan presented a student transiency report for those students who have either left the district, or entered the district since the October 1, 2016 certified enrollment count date. The report showed a net increase of 22 students.

Updates on Berg Middle School Construction Document Development

Callaghan shared that great progress is being made on the floor plans for the new middle school. Floor plan maps of the main and upper levels, along with the food service equipment plan and schedule were shared.

Legislative Update

Callaghan, Padget, and Benson will attend the Day on the Hill IASB Conference in Des Moines on January 24, 2017. At this time there is no word on the State Supplemental Aid (SSA). This will need to be closely monitored for impact on budget and spending authority. An IASB Guide to the 2017 Iowa Legislature and 87th Iowa General Assembly 2017 Iowa Legislature Session Timetable was shared with board members in their informational packet.

Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent and Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Update on 2017 – 2018 School Calendar

Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources, shared excerpts from previous SIAC minutes (January 9, 2014; January 7, 2016; January 18, 2017) giving background on calendar recommendations for prior years. Selover presented Draft #1 and Draft #2 of a 2017 – 2018 School Calendar, coming from the SIAC Committee. Discussion included start and end dates, number of student instructional hours, and teacher contract days. Selover introduced members of the DIL sub-committee who presented calendar Draft #3 and Draft #4, which had also been shared with the SIAC Committee. A main discussion topic was devoting time toward Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and improving student achievement. The DIL draft calendars reflect early release or late start options. The SIAC Committee will continue its work on developing the 2017 – 2018 School Calendar, as the board would like to see other options.

Department of Education – Iowa School Report Card

Callaghan shared information from the Iowa Department of Education regarding Iowa School Report Card data, including the following ratings for 2016: Aurora Heights Elementary (Commendable); Berg Elementary (Commendable); Berg Middle School (Acceptable); Newton Senior High School (Commendable); Thomas Jefferson Elementary (High-Performing); and Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Commendable). Callaghan has reviewed the various data components contributing to these ratings with each building principal.

Business Service Report – Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10079

Friedman moved, Leonard seconded to approve the bills. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget Absent: Cook

Budget Preparation Update

Isaac gave an update on recent meetings with Gary Sinclair (IASB/Forecast 5) and the district’s spending authority. He shared information about two upcoming meetings through IASBO on the new Aid & Levy worksheet, and an IASB Budget Certification Workshop. He reported that two Budget Committee meetings have been held, and as soon as we are advised of the State Supplemental Aid amount, the committee will be reconvened for further discussion.

Upcoming Bond Sale Timeline

Isaac reviewed the upcoming bond sale timeline, which is for a second installment of \$10,000,000 towards construction of the new 5 – 8 middle school. February 27, 2017 – set sale date, approve electronic bidding, and approve preliminary official statement; March 13, 2017 – bids received and board asked to approve sale; March 27, 2017 – approval of final documents; April 12, 2017 – closing and delivery date.

New Business – Old Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Josh Cantu requested an update from Mark Burnett and the District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) in April 2017.

Robyn Friedman requested that a Denison Culture Committee update be placed on a future agenda. Laura Selover shared that she is in the process of working with Chris Pierson and Jim Verlengia, with a first steering committee meeting to be scheduled.

Future Meeting Dates

Day on the Hill – 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM January 24, 2017 – (Des Moines) – Callaghan, Benson, and Padget to attend

Closed Session – 6:30 PM February 6, 2017 – (E.J.H. Beard Administration Center)

Board Work Session – 5:00 PM February 13, 2017 – (E.J.H. Beard Administration Center)

Topic: Special Education – Tina Ross, Director of Special Programs

Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM February 13, 2017 – (E.J.H. Beard Administration Center)

Adjourn – ACTION #10080

Friedman moved, Leonard seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Closed Session

The board went into closed session for negotiating strategy, as allowed by Iowa Code 20.17(3).

Minutes Mailed
Approved by Action No. _____

President
_____, 2017

Secretary