

## Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting  
E. J. H. Beard Administration Center  
East Conference Room

**February 26, 2018 – 6:30 PM**

## MINUTES

**Call to Order** – Travis Padget convened the board to order at 6:31 PM

**Roll Call – Present:** Josh Cantu, Robyn Friedman, Ann Leonard, Cody Muhs, Travis Padget, Graham Sullivan, Bob Callaghan, Gayle Isaac, Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Diane Babcock, Sheri Benson, Dustin Brisel, Nat Clark, Dennis DenHartog, Ruth DenHartog, Andy Elbert, Jen Elbert, Scott Garvis, Susanne Gerlach (PFM), Jaise Gulling, Debbie Gulling, Tony Gulling, Brenda Hodnett, Benjamin Keeney, Brian Keeton, LaNita Keeton, Dennis Klingensmith, Gage Linahon, Lori Linahon, Jim Long, Paula Lureman, Meggan Machin, Merritt McConeghey, Mickey McConeghey, Trisca Mick, Owen Muhs, Jen Norvell, Bill Peters, Kristi Peters, Blayden Rhone, Ericka Rhone, Jody Rhone, Tina Ross, Todd Schuster, Cara Schwarz, Sandy Scotton, Laura Selover, Cindy Smith, Doug Smith, Jen Smith (PFM), Brian Springer, Mike Stanley, Andy Swedenhjelm, Eric VanderVelden, Bailey Wall, Michelle Williams, Randy Young, Dave Dolmage (Newton Daily News), and Randy Van (KCOB) **Absent:** Donna Cook

### Communications

Cody Muhs introduced three Boy Scouts from Troop 354 who were in the audience and working on their Citizenship Merit Badge.

### Student Artwork Display

Ruth DenHartog introduced NHS Senior and art student, Bailey Wall, who spoke about her artwork on display at the EJH Beard Administration Center.

### Newton OPEN – Teaching in Taiwan – Ruth DenHartog

Ruth DenHartog narrated a power point presentation detailing her travels to Taiwan where she met with former exchange students, and experienced schools and culture in Taiwan. Superintendent Callaghan thanked Bill Peters and Newton OPEN for the opportunity to send Ruth to Taiwan. Sheri Benson spoke on behalf of Newton OPEN, and their role in the coordination of hosting foreign exchange students.

### Recognition of 2018 IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament Qualifiers

Scott Garvis and Andy Swedenhjelm recognized this year's state wrestlers (Jaise Gulling, Gage Linahon, Blayden Rhone) who were present with their families.

### Recognition of 2018 IHSAA Principal – Administrator of the Year

Scott Garvis was present to recognize Newton High School Principal, Bill Peters, who is the recipient of the 2018 IHSAA Principal – Administrator of the Year. Superintendent Callaghan extended his appreciation for Mr. Peters' leadership.

### Consent Agenda – ACTION #10348

Friedman moved, Leonard seconded to unanimously approve the consent agenda, with Action Item XI (Consider Extension of Superintendent Contract) to be postponed and pulled from the agenda.

### Human Resources Update

#### Certified Personnel – ACTION #10349

Laura Selover presented the Human Resources Update – Certified Personnel, including those participating in the Voluntary Early Retirement Program.

**June Clute** – (VERP) – LMC (AH & EH) – effective May 31, 2018 (24 Years with NCSD); **Ruth DenHartog** – (VERP) – Art (NHS) – effective May 31, 2018 (40 Years with NCSD); **Ina Hubbard – Heidemann** – (VERP) – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (BMS) – effective May 31, 2018 (32 Years with NCSD); **Laura Lengling** – (VERP) – Art (NHS) – effective May 31, 2018 (34 Years with NCSD); **Steve Pearson** – (VERP) – PE (BMS) – effective May 31, 2018 (37 Years with NCSD); **Marcia Schrader** – (VERP) – Foreign Language (NHS) – effective May 31, 2018 (23 Years with NCSD); **Bev Thomas** – (VERP) – Family & Consumer Science (NHS) – effective May 31, 2018 (40 Years with NCSD); **Randy Young** – (VERP) – ELA, Social Studies, Special Education (LOC) – effective May 31, 2018 (14 Years with NCSD); Recognition was given for their combined years of service. Cantu moved, Friedman seconded to approve the Human Resources Update – Certified Personnel. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

#### Classified Personnel – ACTION #10350

Laura Selover presented the Human Resources Update – Classified Personnel, including those participating in the Voluntary Early Retirement Program.

**Jessica McNeer** – (Resignation) – Educational Associate (BMS) – effective February 26, 2018; **Kristena Strum** – (Resignation) – Educational Associate (BMS) – effective February 14, 2018; **Nancy Nikkel** – (Retirement) – Cook (Food Service) – effective May 31, 2018 (26 Years with NCSD); **Bryan Tipton** – (Transfer) – Custodian (BMS) to Head Custodian (EH) – effective February 15, 2018; **Betty Buckley** – (VERP) – Secretary (BMS) – effective May 31, 2018 (23 Years with NCSD); **Kim Hoskins** – (VERP) – Custodian (BMS) – effective May 31, 2018 (29 Years with NCSD); **Olivia Denham** – (Volunteer Coach) – Girls Soccer (NHS) – effective March 19, 2018; Recognition was given for their combined years of service. Leonard moved, Muhs seconded to approve the Human Resources Update – Classified Personnel. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

### Open Forum

Board President, Travis Padget, invited those to the podium who were present to speak during the Open Forum.

**Nat Clark, Andy Elbert, Sheri Benson, and Cindy Smith** – spoke about the Superintendent's contract extension; **Jim Long** – spoke about his support for Superintendent Bob Callaghan; **Doug Smith** – spoke about district leadership and positive changes in our district.

### Superintendent's Report

**2017 – 2018 Excellence in Education Awards** – A group picture of this year's Excellence in Education Award recipients was displayed – including NCEF Board Members: Superintendent Bob Callaghan, Graham Sullivan, and Amy Doerring Award Recipients: Meggan Machin, Paula Lureman, Kristi Peters, Brian Springer, and Todd Lucas Above and Beyond Award: Denny Klingensmith. Superintendent Bob Callaghan read their nomination forms and congratulated the recipients.

**Professional Development Update** – Bret Miller gave an update on district Professional Development, which included the topic of school safety.

**SIAC Update** – Bret Miller gave an update on a recent SIAC meeting held February 21, 2018. Meeting highlights included school safety, mission and vision statements, and the 2018 – 2019 school calendar.

**Weather Related Calendar Impact** – An updated chart was shared showing school cancellations, late start, and early dismissal days to date. At this time, it is not necessary to add an instructional day for students to the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, however, contracted employees will have a day added on June 1, 2018. Students are currently above the minimum 1,080 instructional hours.

**Current Student Information**

**Enrollment Summary** – Superintendent Callaghan reported a total of 2,960 K – 12 students enrolled as of February 21, 2018.

**Attendance Data** – Superintendent Callaghan shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with ranges from 90.12% - 93.72%.

**Transiency Report** – Superintendent Callaghan presented a student transiency report for those students who have either left the district, or entered the district since the October 1, 2017 certified enrollment count date. The report shows a net increase of 12 students.

**Learning, Leadership, and District Business** – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent and Gayle Isaac, Board Secretary & Director of Business Services

**Consider Acceptance of the 2016 – 2017 Audit Report – ACTION #10351**

Mike Stanley (Hunt & Associates, PC) presented the district’s Audit Report dated June 30, 2017 and including independent auditor’s reports, basic financial statements and supplementary information, and schedule of findings and questioned costs. Friedman moved, Sullivan seconded to accept the 2016 – 2017 audit report as presented. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

**Request for Field Trip Approval: DECA National Qualifiers travel to National DECA Conference, Atlanta, GA – April 21 – 24, 2018 – ACTION #10352**

Bill Peters requested permission for DECA National Qualifiers to attend the National DECA Conference in Atlanta, GA – April 21 – 24, 2018. Seven students have qualified to attend. Leonard moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the travel request. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

**Discussion Regarding Opening and Consideration of Sealed Bids**

Jen Smith and Susanne Gerlach (PFM) were present to share with board members the receipt of various bids regarding the purchase of bonds. Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. (Milwaukee, WI) was the top bid at 3.1824% true interest rate.

**Consideration of Sealed Bids Opened and Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Board, and the Financial Advisor – ACTION #10353**

Friedman moved, Cantu seconded to adopt a resolution directing the sale of \$7,690,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2018A with the best and most favorable bid being awarded to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. (Milwaukee, WI) for the purchase price of \$7,660,867.25 with a net interest cost of \$2,396,979.97 and true interest rate of 3.1824%. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Sullivan Absent: Cook Abstain: Padget

**Consider Approval of the 2018 – 2019 District Calendar – ACTION #10354**

A draft of the 2018 – 2019 district calendar was presented for approval. The calendar has been recommended by the SIAC Committee, with positive feedback from each campus, and minimal changes. Friedman moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the 2018 – 2019 District Calendar as presented. Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

**Consider Approval of the District Mission Statement – ACTION #10355**

Leonard moved, Sullivan seconded to approve the District Mission Statement as recommended by the Denison Culture Work Team – “The Newton Community School District empowers every learner to achieve a lifetime of personal success.” Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

**Consider Approval of the District Vision Statement – ACTION #10356**

Friedman moved, Muhs seconded to approve the District Mission Statement as recommended by the Denison Culture Work Team – “We are a collaborative and cohesive team that inspires and supports all learners in a culture of safety and acceptance.” Ayes: Cantu, Friedman, Leonard, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Absent: Cook

**Denison Update**

A second day of an additional two-day culture workshop will be held March 1, 2018 and the group will move forward with the approved mission and vision statements.

**Business Service Report** – Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

**Approval of Bills – ACTION #10357**

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

**Food Service – Double Stack Oven Purchase** (Woodrow Wilson)

Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services, shared information regarding the purchase of a replacement oven for Woodrow Wilson. Tri-Mark Hockenbergs submitted the low bid for \$5,720, with installation over Spring Break.

**New Business – Old Business** – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

**Future Meeting Dates**

**Regular Board Meeting:** March 12, 2018 (7:00 PM) – EJV Beard Administration Center

**Future Work Session or Meeting Dates**

**Board Work Session:** March 12, 2018 (5:00 PM) – EJV Beard Administration Center – to discuss certified budget

**Board Culture Work Session:** March 10, 2018 (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

**Consider Extension of Superintendent Contract** – postponed until March 12, 2018

**Closed Session** – postponed until March 12, 2018

**Adjourn – ACTION #10358**

Leonard moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Minutes Mailed

Approved by Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

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President

\_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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Secretary