

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

E. J. H. Beard Administration Center

East Conference Room

November 28, 2016 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Travis Padget convened the board to order at 6:35 PM

Roll Call

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

Others Present: Diane Babcock, Tom Bartello, Jenny Blankenship (PFM), Karla Cazett, Tim Hemann, Brenda Hodnett, Justin Liston, Tanya Michener, Mike Moran, Jodi Morgan-Peters, Jen Norvell, Steve Pearson, Bill Peters, Deborah Rose, Tina Ross, Todd Schuster, Sandy Scotton, Laura Selover, Brandon Sharp, Lisa Sharp, Jen Smith (PFM), Bev Thomas, Patty VanHaften, Jason Brooks (Newton Daily News) and Randy Van (KCOB)

Communications – NHS Principal Bill Peters recognized Jodi Morgan-Peters as recipient of the STEM Innovator Award. Superintendent Bob Callaghan recognized the Newton REALTORS for their donation of winter items for NCSD elementary students. Superintendent Bob Callaghan noted a letter received from an NCSD employee regarding the possibility of the NCSD offering an early retirement package.

Consent Agenda – ACTION #10048

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

Human Resources Update – Laura Selover, Director of Human Resources presented the Human Resources Update

Certified Personnel – ACTION #10049

Eric Robbert – (Contract) – Assistant Boys Soccer Coach (NHS) – 2016 – 2017 school year

Wayne Prime – (Resignation) – Wrestling Coach (BMS) – November 18, 2016

Chad Garvis – (Contract) – Wrestling Coach (BMS) – November 21, 2016

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

Classified Personnel – ACTION #10050

Carol Koon – (Retirement) – Human Resources Assistant – effective March 31, 2017 (Hired 06/21/1999)

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

Open Forum

Jen Norvell and Diane Babcock invited board members to Thomas Jefferson's annual Candy House Day (December 15, 2016).

Superintendent's Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Principal's Report on Professional Development

Principals from the elementary, middle, and high schools presented campus activity reports for the November 28, 2016 Professional Development Day.

Attendance Percentages

Superintendent Bob Callaghan presented campus attendance percentages (PreK–12) for the period October 14 – November 23, 2016).

Enrollment Report

Superintendent Bob Callaghan presented a campus enrollment summary report (PreK–12) effective November 23, 2016.

Student Transiency

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 26 students.

Update on Bond Project

Superintendent Bob Callaghan gave an update on the new 5 – 8 middle school. User groups have been meeting, with FRK utilizing feedback to update the schematic design which will be presented to the construction committee, and then to the school board for approval on December 12, 2016.

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

STEM Innovation Presentation

Karla Cazett, Tim Hemann, Justin Liston, Jodi Morgan-Peters, and Tanya Michener introduced board members to the FLEDGE Program – “*Where Innovation Takes Flight*”, a partnership between local business/workforce and school to be implemented in the fall of 2017. The STEM Committee is seeking funds for in the amount of \$29,000 to create an innovative classroom at Newton High School. A new FLEDGE Innovator course will be proposed for next year's academic handbook.

Discussion Regarding Special Education Student Services, Staffing, and Funding

Tina Ross, Director of Special Programs and Board Members Ann Leonard and Robyn Friedman facilitated discussion brainstorming various topics regarding special education to address at a future board work session.

IASB – Promise of Iowa – Support of Public Education Resolution

Board Member Donna Cook read the Promise of Iowa public education campaign resolution of support. Superintendent Bob Callaghan shared the launch video and website (www.promiseiowa.org). After discussion, the board requested this be an action item at a future board meeting. Callaghan shared plans for an upcoming luncheon on 2017 Iowa Legislative priorities.

Consideration of Voluntary Early Retirement Program – Policy Code 410.1 – ACTION #10051

Callaghan and Isaac shared that the board needs to make an annual motion (to the positive or negative) regarding consideration of the Voluntary Early Retirement Program. Friedman moved, Elbert seconded to not offer the Voluntary Early Retirement Program this fiscal year. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Discussion Regarding Opening and Consideration of Sealed Bids

Callaghan and Isaac explained the process of opening and considering sealed bids pertaining to the \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2016.

Consideration of Sealed Bids Opened and Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Board, and the Financial Advisor – ACTION #10052

Jenny Blankenship and Jen Smith from Public Financial Management (PFM) were present to share the tabulation of bids for the Newton Community School District \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2016. The district received an “A1” rating from Moody’s Investors Service. It was proposed that the formal award go to CitiGroup Global Markets, Inc. with a resulting purchase price of \$9,912,871.84, interest rate of 2.5703%, and net interest cost of \$2,277,245.66. Elbert moved, Friedman seconded to approve the resolution directing the sale of \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2016 and that the bid for the bonds determined to be the best and most favorable should be awarded to CitiGroup Global Markets, Inc. for a purchase price of \$9,912,871.84, net interest cost of \$2,277,245.66 and true interest cost of 2.5703%. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget.

Denison Culture Committee Update

Board President Travis Padget and Board Vice-President Robyn Friedman gave an update on the Denison Culture Committee, and data presentation by Bob Lewis (Denison) to district teachers. A new steering committee will move the district forward toward becoming high-performing. Data will be sent out to district staff, with those interested in participating on the steering committee to respond to Laura Selover by December 9, 2016.

Business Service Report – Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10053

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

It was noted that all board members will want paper copies of the 2016 2017 line item budget book.

New Business – Old Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Board Member Donna Cook gave an update on the November 16, 2016 SIAC Committee Meeting.

Future Meeting Dates:

Regular Board Meeting – (December 12, 2016) – 5:30 PM (EJH Beard Admin Center)

Board Work Session – (Topic: Special Education) (January 2017)

Adjourn – ACTION #10054

Leonard moved, Elbert seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Minutes Mailed

Approved by Action No. _____

President

_____, 2016

Secretary