

NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
New Boston, New Hampshire 03070
NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 21, 2017 - 6:00 PM
New Boston Central School Library
15 Central School Road, New Boston, NH 03070

PRESENT

SCHOOL BOARD

Wendy Lambert
Kary Jencks
Glen Dickey
Fred Hayes
Bill Schmidt

ADMINISTRATORS

Brian Balke, Superintendent

Tori Underwood, Principal

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Lambert called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2017 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Glen Dickey moved to approve the June 7, 2017 School Board meeting minutes as written. Bill Schmidt seconded the motion. The Board then reviewed the June 7, 2017 School Board meeting minutes and made the following changes:

Page 1, under Correspondence, add “from the last Goffstown Board meeting”

Page 2, under Unreserved Fund Balance, last paragraph, remove repeat sentence.

Page 3, under Superintendent’s Report, first bullet, change “Bachelaureatte” to “Baccalaureate”

Page 3, under Superintendent’s Report, second bullet, remove “rehearsal”

Page 3, under Lunch Price Discussion, first bullet, add “approximately”

Page 4, under Incoming Kindergarten, Readiness and First Grade Numbers, in the title, change “Kindrgarten” to “Kindergarten”

Page 4, under Incoming Kindergarten, Readiness and First Grade Numbers, third line, change “three” to “four”

Page 4, under Teacher Nomination, change “an art” to “a PE”

Glen Dickey moved to approve the June 7, 2017 School Board meeting minutes as amended. Bill Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Brian Balke gave the Superintendent’s report:

- The NBBS roof project is underway. Administrators met with the contractor last week.
- Brian met with John Neville while he was working on the parking lot drainage project. They reviewed the architect’s recommendations for playground improvement. John said he thought it could be expensive but he will consider how he could help with drainage for that project and a timeline. There are playground drainage issues that need to be addressed when and if the playground is improved. John is not

working on playground drainage at this time. Engineering and surveying are expected to be needed as part of the playground improvement project. Brian will meet with John again this summer, plan a presentation for the Board and meet with the PTA.

- The SAU parking lot was paved today completing this project that includes improved drainage.
- The SAU cupola and roof project will begin soon.
- The SAU bulkhead project is complete.
- The SAU slop sink project will begin soon.
- The GHS drainage project is going well.
- NBCS Kitchen Manager Sarah Prothero resigned this week as she is moving out of state. The Board wished her well. *Glen Dickey moved to accept NBCS Kitchen Manager Sarah Prothero's resignation with regret. Kary Jencks seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)*
- All graduation ceremonies were terrific with great attendance. All end of year celebrations were very nice.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Tori Underwood reported the following:

- NBCS teachers had a workshop day today where they reviewed AIMSWEB. Tomorrow teachers will be meeting in classrooms transitioning students as they advance grades. Teachers will also learn about new report card standards based grading for fifth and sixth grades. A presentation will be made to the Board in the fall on the new grading system.
- Kary noted she spoke to some Goffstown sixth grade parents about the Y day. Goffstown parents were very appreciative that their children could meet the New Boston sixth graders and said their children enjoyed the experience.

OLD BUSINESS

POLICIES 2ND READ

AD-Educational Philosophy Statement Of The New Boston School District: This policy is going back to the Committee for review and is not ready for 2nd read.

BA-New Boston School District Goals And Objectives: This policy is going back to the Committee for review and is not ready for 2nd read.

BDB-Board Officers: *Wendy Lambert moved to approve BDB Board Officers as presented. Kary Jencks seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)*

BGA-Policy Development System: *Wendy Lambert moved to approve BGA-Policy Development System as presented. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)*

ADC-Tobacco Free Schools: *Fred Hayes moved to approve ADC-Tobacco Free Schools as presented. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)*

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN, READINESS AND FIRST GRADE NUMBER UPDATE

Tori reported 38 students are currently registered for Kindergarten in 2017-2018 so far and more could register. Three sections of Kindergarten are anticipated for the 2017-2018 school year. There were 58 Kindergarten students in four sections in the 2016-2017 school year.

There are 97 students registered for Readiness and First Grade in 2017-2018 so far. Readiness screenings are complete. Sixteen students were recommended for Readiness along with nine borderline students. Letters were sent to parents and meetings occurred. Seven families accepted Readiness so far. More families could decide to place their children in Readiness at any time, including in the month after school starts as commonly occurs. The Board scheduled a July 26 meeting where it will review the policy and consider options for this grade level with the five classrooms that are set aside for this age group. The Board considered suspending Readiness for one year. The Board has confidence in NBCS teachers. This grade level is very large and may come to the point where the District can no longer afford having a Readiness classroom. There has been a grade level each year that needed only three classrooms but that could end.

The Board considered requesting a legal opinion to determine if the District is required to offer Readiness, if it is required to offer Readiness as a standalone classroom or if it can offer a combined Readiness and First Grade

classroom, and if the Board has the authority to suspend the Readiness policy based on overall enrollment numbers. ***Kary Jencks moved to allow the Superintendent and Principal to vet the Readiness policy with legal counsel so the Principal can take appropriate action. Bill Schmidt seconded the motion.***

Discussion:

The Board plans to reconvene or be notified once information is received from the attorney. The Board discussed the cost of the legal opinion. The Board considered if an opinion is needed as the Board has the power to make decisions considering the policy or to suspend the policy. The Board was concerned about changing the classroom arrangement for the upcoming year as families have already been notified of placement recommendations and some have made decisions. The Board was concerned about the cost of a teacher for a small classroom of students. Readiness and First Grade numbers are expected to change over the summer. The Board will meet July 26 to consider this further. The Board asked Tori to contact families that have enrolled in Readiness to let them know this discussion occurred. First Grade classroom size is a concern and options such as paraprofessionals may need to be considered to accommodate the number of first graders and their needs. Tori and Assistant Superintendent MaryClaire Barry will meet with the Readiness and First Grade staff to discuss options and curriculum. The Board considered making the legal opinion public. If the opinion is clear the attorney would not have to meet with the Board, instead Brian would e-mail the opinion to the Board and then present to the Board. The Board noted it wants to make the best decision for administrators, the Board, teachers and students and this is a hard decision. ***Vote: The motion carried (4-1)***

There are no other grade levels with class size concerns so far. So far, three sections of second grade are anticipated for the 2017-2018 school year.

A future of Readiness discussion will be added to Board goals for the upcoming year. The New Boston School District has a Readiness policy and is one of the only NH schools that offers Readiness. The Board asked what other districts do.

Enrollment will be updated at the next Board meeting.

The only teacher changes for the 2017-2018 school year are Cindy Blythe will teach First Grade and Kathy Marchesseault will teach Kindergarten. They are both excited about the change.

DRAFT 2017-2018 NEW BOSTON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board reviewed its 2017-2018 meeting schedule. The SAU will get the CIP and Finance Committee meeting dates and the Board will consider these to avoid conflicts this year.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCIALS

APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2017 MANIFEST

Glen reviewed the June 7 Manifest that was conditionally approved at the June 7 meeting. ***Glen Dickey moved to approve the June 7, 2017 manifest in the amount of \$340,323.71. Kary Jencks seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***

MANIFEST AND VOUCHERS

Glen has not yet reviewed the June 21 Manifest. The Board reviewed the Manifest Summary sheet. Payroll related items included two payrolls and totaled \$611,421.26 (61%). Special Education items totaled \$317,264.85 (32%). General Expenses totaled \$61,404.99 (6%). ***Glen Dickey moved to conditionally approve the June 21, 2017 manifest in the amount of \$998,980.85 pending his review. Fred Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

The Board reviewed the updated projected unreserved fund balance with a handout and considered if it should be used for tax relief, deposits to the 2.5% CRF and Building and Renovation CRF, for the roof project and/or other projects.

Fred Hayes moved to request \$230,000 from the Building and Renovation CRF from the Trustees of the Trust Funds for roof payment. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)

Fred Hayes moved to deposit \$100,000 from the unassigned fund balance to start a 2.5% CRF. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)

Fred Hayes moved to use \$52,250 from the unassigned fund balance to complete payment of the roof contract. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)

Fred Hayes moved to reserve \$22,385 from the unassigned fund balance to cover any overage of the roof contract with any not needed to be returned for tax relief. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

POLICIES

1st Read:

AC-R Regulation, BDF Advisory Committee, BDF-R Advisory Committee Regulation: To be reviewed in July.

IJOC Volunteers and IJOC-R Volunteers Regulation: The Board reviewed the changes recommended by the Committee and had concerns. The background check procedure that is currently used in Goffstown was explained extensively along with the new procedure enacted by the legislature to follow if any convictions are reported. The Board considered if this is needed for parents. Designated Volunteer and Regular Volunteer definitions included in the policy were discussed. The Board will review these again at the July 26 meeting. Minor typographical amendments were made. The Board and Administrators plan to implement these by the first day of school.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING

- Brian has not yet spoken to the Police Chief about Glen's suggestion to change the stop sign on school property to a yield sign.
- The Board will meet July 26 at 6:30 PM to discuss Readiness/First Grade numbers, the legal analysis and curriculum considerations along with the policies noted above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Litwinovich of Beard Road was present and thanked the Board for the concern it and the administrators have for the students, and how thoughtful they are in their decisions with all the outside forces affecting school decisions. He is a Planning Board member. He noted New Boston is experiencing growth as almost all developable land in Bedford is gone and people are moving to New Boston where developable land is available. He sees population issues continuing well into the future. Wendy noted many houses that are built affect the yearly tax bill due to the number of children living in each house multiplied by the cost of schooling. The Board thanked David for attending town meetings and serving on the Planning Board.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 311(c)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Kary Jencks moved to adjourn the public meeting at 8:52pm. Bill Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0). Meeting Adjourned.

All back-up material to this meeting is held in the Principal's Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Maralyn Segien