

~Draft Minutes ~

Newbury Town School District  
Newbury Elementary School Board  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

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**Present**

Board Members: Paul Jewett, Danielle Corti, Emmy Hausman  
Administrators: Emilie Knisley, Superintendent; Bruce Williams, Assistant superintendent; Chance Lindsley, Principal NES  
Visitors: Chip Conquest

**Call to order:** P. Jewett called the meeting to order at 12:36 PM

**Agenda Review:** P. Jewett adds a conference call with David Kelly and Margaret Maclean.

**Approve minutes:** D. Corti made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/13/2018 and 11/26/2018. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Received engineering documents regarding the division and transfer of the common. Need to be filed with the town clerk. Also received the wastewater/potable water permit from the state. Needs to be filed with the town. P. Jewett will deliver to town clerk.

**Contracts:** P. Jewett moves to approve a contract addendum For Wally Fischer effective 9/7/2018 to move from \$39,170.00 to \$44,036.49. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

12:40 Chip Conquest and Bruce Williams enter.

**Act 46 -Next steps:** P. Jewett states that he has been advised by the lawyers handling the lawsuit that working with and getting support from state legislators is very important moving forward. C. Conquest states that there are currently multiple bills being drafted to be introduced once the legislature gets back in session on Jan. 9, 2019. One of these bills is to effectively "pause" implementation of the forced mergers until various sticking points are addressed, including different levels of debt and property transfers. There are potentially 3 more pieces of legislation dealing with different aspects of the law and forced mergers. He is doing all he can to work with various legislators to see if there is widespread support of these bills. He also states that he can share the draft of the bills when they come out. P. Jewett asks if the town has voted to not merge, will that be taken into account? C. Conquest thinks some of the legislation will incorporate that.

**Conference call:** David Kelley, Gillian ?, Margaret Maclean. P. Jewett asks David Kelley if he received the letter of acceptance on to the lawsuit. D. Kelley answers in the affirmative. P. Jewett states that he will also send a copy of the minutes which include the vote by the board to join the lawsuit. C. Conquest reiterates what the legislators have been doing. He suggests that if there is a legal injunction it would halt forced mergers until legislation can be introduced and worked on. D. Kelley states that they are furiously trying to file a lawsuit by the beginning of January. They are pursuing lawsuits based on statutory claims and constitutional claims. Discussion re: warning a meeting of the interim board. E. Knisley states that she has given the state board a few options for a meeting time all between 1/21/2019 and 1/28/2019. D. Kelley rudely asks E. Knisley if she has information from the state re: timelines. E. Knisley states that she would have to look at her email. D. Kelley is

rude about her not knowing the answer off the top of her head and then demands that she forward information to him. E. Knisley responds by saying they are public records and he can ask for them through a public records request. D. Corti asks what the recommendation is for participating in the interim board process. The NES board has a good working relationship with the OESU and the other boards and she doesn't want to do anything to compromise that. D. Kelley suggests "informal" meetings between board members and states that it is very hard to give advice about this until a legal challenge has been filed. M. Maclean states that the earliest interim board meeting around the state is 1/9/2019 and it would be good to schedule it as late as possible to have the benefit of what happens with those earlier meetings. Discussion of other issues pertaining to lawsuit can only happen in executive session. Conference call ends. P. Jewett will speak on phone at a later date and relay to other board members.

Discussion re: timing of interim board's first meeting. It will be warned by the secretary of education and it is the understanding that he will attend that first meeting. E. Knisley also states that it is her understanding that this first meeting will be for the public to have input on the creation/organization of this interim board. B. Williams believes that equal representation will be best and once a new board is formed it will be working in the best interests of the new entity, not for the benefit of specific towns.

1:50 pm E. Knisley, B. Williams, C. Conquest exit.

Payables: D. Corti made a motion to approve and authorize the board chair to sign the following:

- An accounts payable warrant dated 12/7/2018 for \$6,771.55
- A payroll warrant dated 12/14/2018 for \$71,064.12 E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

1:50 C. Lindsley enters.

1:53 pm P. Jewett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

2:33 Out of executive session. No action taken

2:34 P. Jewett made a motion to adjourn. D. Corti seconds. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Fredella -minutes clerk

Not official until approved.