

~Approved Minutes~

Newbury Town School District
Newbury Elementary School Board
Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Present

Board Members: Paul Jewett, Danielle Corti, Emmy Hausman
Administrators: Bruce Williams, Assistant superintendent; Chance Lindsley, Principal NES
Visitors: Steve Cole, Lindsay LeBeau, Alyssa Vance, Patrick Hanley and Adam Ginsberg

Call to order: P. Jewett called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

Agenda Review: P. Jewett asked that the presentation of proposed additions to the playground be the first agenda item taken up. He added the possibility of an executive session, if needed. He also asked if there was any need to discuss Boltonville property winterization. B. Williams reports that nothing has been done to date.

Playground plans: Ms. LeBeau gave a brief history as to how the students in hers and Ms. Vance's first and second grade classrooms came to make plans for improvements to the playground. They first identified a problem; namely, that few students were attracted to the playground area by the existing equipment. Given that situation, they developed an essential question: how to create a playground that supports the 3 harmonies — harmony with nature, harmony with others, and harmony with self. They visited other playgrounds in their quest to answer this question. They then called in the architectural firm of Ginsburg Architects based in Burlington to develop detailed plans. At this point in the presentation, Ms. LeBeau asked the two architects in attendance, Adam Ginsburg and Patrick Hanley, to present the drawings of the proposed additions to the playground. These additions include a tunnel, a spider's web, and a climbing wall bridge, among others. P. Jewett lauded the first and second grade students on their data-driven project. Discussion of the plans. A. Ginsberg states that he was very impressed by the student's drawings and work on the project. He calls it an extraordinary testament to the students and the community. NES board members thank A. Ginsberg and P. Hanley for all their hard work on this project.

12:45 pm A. Ginsberg, P. Hanley, A. Vance, and L. LeBeau exit

Approve minutes: E. Hausman moves to approve the minutes from 12/11/2018 and 12/18/2018. Discussion re: last name of lawyer Gillian from conference call. No one knows it. Also fix typos in 12/18 minutes. D. Corti seconds. Motion passed with corrections.

Correspondence: P. Jewett received an email from Alma Roystan asking some questions about the care of the common, use of the gazebo and insurance liability for the town. D. Corti states that traditionally the NES office has been responsible for and the contact for anyone who wants to reserve the use of the common. This seemed a logical outcome of the school owning the common. Now that the common is owned by the town, some questions have arisen. S. Cole suggests having a meeting with the NES board and the Newbury select board to work out some issues. Discussion re: proposed new additions to playground and what land it would be on. B. Williams suggests a small group go to town offices to look at map and warned articles. He also suggests consulting with the insurance company for the school. B. Williams will check with VISBIT.

1:15 S. Cole exits

ACT 46 preparation: P. Jewett discusses the possibility of the meeting not happening because of the lawsuits that were filed recently. M. Maclean expects an answer on the injunction within the next 2 weeks. Dan French has appointed Joe Benning to open the meeting on 1/23/2019. P. Jewett has talked to Scott Labun re: moderating. He has agreed but would like to get more up to speed on the details and potential problems. B. Williams suggests that S. Labun be in touch with himself and E. Knisley to get more information. B. Williams also states that he and E. Knisely have contacted Chris Leopold, who has a lot of knowledge about this process, to help negotiate this process. Discussion re: state timeline and potential problems if anyone modifies from the floor during the meeting. It is very important for members of the general public to go to the meeting. Discussion re: a succinct summary of the meeting to put in ads. B. Williams will confer with E. Knisley and get something to board members. D. Corti will advertise on the list serve and front porch forum as well as various social media sites. An ad has been placed in the Journal Opinion. The meeting is at 6:00 pm on 1/23/2019 at Oxbow High School.

Discussion of priorities for the new board: articles of agreement for representation. Also, tax payments. Currently Newbury has a 4 payment system for taxpayers to pay their school taxes. Bradford has a once a year payment system. Will merging change this for Newbury? B. Williams thinks that would be a town issue but will check on it. D. Corti states that what Newbury residents want from a new board needs to be stated clearly in this meeting. It is suggested that members of BES, NES and Oxbow boards meet before the OESU meeting on the 16th to discuss these issues before the 1/23 meeting. B. Williams recommendation with the default articles of agreement is to leave them in place for a year and then if there are issues, tackle them in a year with the new board. He has made this recommendation to the BES and Oxbow boards as well. Put on the agenda for 1/15/2019 is discussion of what to bring to the 1/23 meeting. What is important for Newbury voters?

Negotiations update: Teacher professional development fund not adequately funded? C. Lindsley states that per contract, \$800.00 per year per professional is the standard on funding pd. NES has funded this much for their staff. Discussion re: is this amount sufficient and how determined to spend? B. Williams suggests getting data from M. Elliot. He also states that this line item is typically 2/3 funded by most schools as the norm is that not all teachers make use of the fund. B. Williams states that there are a couple of key questions to ask when determining pd for staff. In what ways do pd activities match the learning needs of students and the mission of the school? C. Lindsley reads off some of the more recent pd classes. All are aligned with the mission of the school and the learning of the students. He states that about half of the funded money has been used for this school year.

Principal search: E. Knisely has been in touch with Bob Stevens and he can do a modified search. The position has been posted as of this am.

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

- An accounts payable warrant dated 1/2/2019 for \$26,746.31 E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed

D. Corti would like to note that the gym door has been ordered and a partial payment has been made with this account's payable number.

2:11 pm D. Corti and B. Williams exit

Other business: P. Jewett brought the board up to date on his plans to keep the after school program at BMU open during the February and April vacation weeks to give parent's childcare options.

2:25pm E. Hausman made a motion to adjourn. P. Jewett seconds. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Fredella -minutes clerk