

~Approved Minutes ~

Newbury Town School District  
Newbury Elementary School Board  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

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**Present**

Board Members: Paul Jewett, Danielle Corti, Emmy Hausman  
Administrators: Bruce Williams, Assistant superintendent; Chance Lindsley, Principal NES

**Call to order:** P. Jewett called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM

**Agenda Review:** Add executive session to discuss personnel.

**Approve minutes:** D. Corti moves to approve the minutes from 1/2/2019 and 1/7/2019. Correction in the 1/2/2019 minutes. The after- school program referenced is BMU not NES. Motion passed with corrections.

**Correspondence:** A letter has been received from Casey Doerner submitting her resignation effective 1/25/2019. Discussion re: school nurse regulations and requirements at elementary level. C. Lindsley states that NES meets the requirements and standards. C. Horniak works 4 days/week and he is looking into covering medication delivery on the other day. E. Hausman moves to accept C. Doerner's resignation with regret. D. Corti seconds. Motion passed. The board thanks Casey for all she has done for NES.

An email from David Kelley hoping for a speedy outcome on the decision concerning the presiding judge in the Act 46 lawsuit. He cites the need for schools to develop and vote on local budgets at town meeting. B. Williams states that budgets should be built from the local level up and go from there.

**Payables:** D. Corti moves to approve and authorize the board chair to sign the following:

- An accounts payable warrant dated 1/15/2019 for \$121,365.22. D. Corti points out that there is a total of \$77,000.00 for the OESU special education assessment included in this. The special ed. assessment is for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters and then there is a \$35,000.00 charge for 3<sup>rd</sup> Q services from OESU. D. Corti points out that it seems odd to be billed for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Q spec. ed services at the same time? B. Williams will check on it. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** E. Hausman would like to rave about what an incredible job the students and staff did in the production of "Cry Wolf". The staff were very flexible with their schedules and the students rose to the occasion in an amazing way. E. Hausman states that the visiting artists stayed with her and they were incredible! Kudos to them and a special shout out to Karen Cowles for bringing the idea and players together!

**ACT 46 update:** Meeting of the OUUSD on 1/23/2019 has been postponed due to the filing of the lawsuit. New date not yet determined.

**Negotiations update:** There is a meeting this evening for negotiations. Still negotiating salary, benefits and healthcare. Also under discussion is professional development funding and sick bank time. M. Elliott is working on information to get to D. Corti and P. Jewett.

**NES Building- Outside Lighting:** D. Tansey (a neighbor of the school) has been in touch with B. Williams re: outside lighting. He is unhappy about the new lighting and also unhappy about the process that happened to determine the new outside lighting. D. Tansey was unable to attend today's meeting. B. Williams relays that D. Tansey is also upset about not getting a response from the board. B. Williams states that the complaints should go to the principal, not be micro managed by the board. D. Corti suggests something written from D. Tansey to the board that can be put in the public record. She also states that the item of outside lighting could be added to the next agenda to give D. Tansey a chance to attend and state his opinions. D. Corti also states that she was at the school this past weekend during nighttime hours and was impressed by the lighting and thought it did exactly as it was intended to do, make the outside walkways and parking lots safer for the students, staff and anyone visiting the school when it is dark. P. Jewett states that he found the outside lighting extremely helpful to get from his parked car to the school. Discussion re: timer switch for lights. C. Lindsley will be talking to S. Young. Also talking to him re: light guards to be put on outside lighting to direct the light downwards.

**Boltonville update:** D. Longmoore has been in touch with B. Williams re: winterization. He states that it is all set. B. Williams will be visiting the building soon. Extra keys are in process of being made as there was only one key.

**Financial Review/ Budget Numbers:** P. Jewett states that he has concerns over the communication between OESU financial dept. and NES board. In years past the normal routine would have been that the NES board would have been receiving monthly updates from the financial office re: their budget and current status and also would have attended at least 2 board meetings. P. Jewett is worried because Lori Blood has not attended an NES board meeting yet this school year and they need to have the budget and annual report to the printer by March. B. Williams states that Lori Blood has been working with C. Lindsey on the budget. He is telling all local principals to build the budget as normal. P. Jewett asks B. Williams about the audit. B. Williams responds that OESU has received a draft of the audit and they are waiting on the auditor's professional response. He will check with E. Knisley re: bringing to next meeting.

**Common Insurance update/ Property boundary Review:** The NES board will be meeting attending the select board meeting on 1/30/2019. Under discussion will be maintenance, insurance and scheduling. The town is interested in a lease option. B. Williams thinks a lease would be a good idea because then the school would be in charge of maintenance to their standards. B. Williams will check with Norwich school that has a similar situation with their common/playground. B. Williams states that a child was injured on the playground within the last 2 weeks. He is currently working with Visbit and insurance to work this out. Better to have clarity on the issues of maintenance and insurance.

**Principal Search:** B. Williams has spoken to Bob Stevens re: being involved in the search. He can be on a limited basis. B. Williams suggestion is to have the members of the board and someone from the school staff and himself to serve on a search committee to establish values and goals. B. Stevens would receive applications and sort/weed. Then bring certain candidates to the board and create an interview committee that would consist of one board member, school staff and community. Could also do public meetings when get down to 2-3 candidates. B. Williams has also been in touch with Nan Parsons from the Upper Valley Teacher's Institute re: serving as a facilitator in the search. She has told B. Williams that she has some interested

candidates from UVTI. Cost of having a facilitator usually runs between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Short cutting the process would cost less than this. D.Corti states that in the last search the school was really wanting someone to help forge a new path and help a struggling school. She feels that the school currently has great vision and mission and is working smoothly so the candidate search would look different. B. Williams will invite B. Stevens to the next meeting.

**Principal update:** C. Lindsley is amazed at how the students performed during "Cry Wolf"! He gives credit to the staff for being flexible and he gives a great shout out to the 2 artists that came and worked with the students! P. Jewett also noticed a change in the students who participated in a very positive way. C. Lindsley states that the in house work on the play created many conversations around the importance of theatre in education. He saw differentiated learning in practice. He also gives a huge thank you to Karen Cowles for instigating and following through on the idea.

C. Lindsley also points out the PBL projects that are posted on the wall for all to see. It is a visual way to keep track and see how the projects are directly connected to the vision and mission of the school. B. Williams states that he thinks NES' mission statement is elegant and simple and one of the best he has seen.

1:25pm P. Jewett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed.

2:25pm The board exited executive session. No action taken. P. Jewett made a motion to adjourn. D. Corti second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Fredella -minutes clerk