

~Approved Minutes~

Newbury Town School District  
Newbury Elementary School Board  
Tuesday, May 7, 2019

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**Present**

Board Members: Paul Jewett, Emmy Hausman, Danielle Corti  
Administrators: Chance Lindsley, principal NES; Emilie Knisley, Superintendent OESU; Lori Blood,  
Finance Director OESU; Bruce Williams, Assistant superintendent OESU  
Visitors: Mary Collins

**Call to order:** P. Jewett called the meeting to order at 12:11 pm

Agenda review: Add discussion of questions re: Newbury budget

Capitol Improvement update:

- B. Williams gives an update on a meeting that Bob Bealieu, Arthur Mudge, Emmy Hausman and himself attended. There was a walk around the building and problems were identified (ex. drainage issues) and possible solutions were discussed. Arthur Mudge was there to facilitate a proposal by an engineering firm. B. Williams is waiting on this. Discussion re: timeline for signing contract. Needs to be signed before 6/30/2019 for the new district to honor the agreement. Discussion re : \$ in capitol reserve fund. Potential amount of \$234,000.00. E. Knisley states that it is her understanding that the money in specifically designated funds will stay in that fund for that purpose when the merger happens.
- Other projects being discussed are: Drainage ( back/front), paving of handicap access and horseshoe circle, replace windows, diminish noise from classroom heaters. B. Williams is waiting on engineering firm proposal re: drainage and paving. Window discussion: cost per window has increased dramatically for replacement and not fixing. Windows need to be able to open and close easily. B. Williams has a call in to ARC re: heaters.
- Discussion re: cash flow issues at end of year. Because of mistakes made last year in the revenues portion of the budget, there is not as much money to cover for the end of the year. Decision to borrow or cash in cd early and take the \$300 penalty. L. Blood will look into bank for tax and note details and bring up to date financials to the next meeting 5/28.
- B. Williams recommends trusting the new merged board to make good decisions re: schools with capitol improvement funds earmarked for certain projects.

Boltonville update: B. Williams checked with Paul Guliani re: selling property. He indicated that there would not be a problem if sold before 6/30/2019. Chris Leopold has a conflicting view that anything done after the state board order cannot happen without legal problems arising. Discussion re: selling building to Town of Newbury for \$1.00. E. Knisely paraphrases from the articles of agreement that if building is not used for direct instruction, newly merged district can sell to town of location for \$1.00, but the town needs to use the building for community purposes for at least 5 years after sale. If the town decides to sell the building within 5 yrs, new district will get the money. E. Hausman states that the Newbury Historical society has plans to include the building on this summer's tour.

Discussion re: an email that was received by Paul Jewett from Margaret Maclean. In it she recommends that Newbury voters vote on an individual budget that will be in place if the lawsuit is granted. E. Knisley states that if the lawsuit is successful and Newbury has not voted on a budget, then the default budget would be \*&% of this past year's budget. This would be in effect until a new budget is voted on. The issue with creating a new budget in this scenario would be coming up with the equalized pupil count. The state has not provided this information to schools. Discussion re: how much Newbury taxpayers are going to be

paying to bring down BES 1 million debt? E. Knisley states that the district has a tax rate that is the same for both towns and is adjusted by CLA making it impossible to determine individual towns burden. M. Collins states that Newbury taxpayers are making out better with the merged budget than with their individual budget. ( Up 3.5% vs. 13.55% ). Supreme court will ultimately make the decision Re; constitutionality of towns taking on other town's debt.

Budget update: P. Jewett has emailed questions to L. Blood re: budget. 1.) Why HSA line 0 for last year and \$24,000.00 for this year? L. Blood explains that last year was the first year implemented so no figure was known at that time. This year know the numbers. 2.) special ed revenue ?. L. Blood explains that last year someone took the entire medicaid fund balance and put it here. The correct way is to calculate costs and expenses and take away from whole amount and put in that line. Grants and expense cancels out revenue. 3.) What are Newbury taxpayers going to have to pay to bring down BES debt? L. Blood states that it would be a process where debt and bond are added then Newbury's portion of the new district budget has been determined to be 37%. Whatever Newbury's base tax rate is, 1.2 cents would be added to that. 4.) Difference for Newbury taxpayers between 3.5 % on %16,271,010.00 and 13.55% of \$2,503,175.00? This would be a complicated computation because the equalized pupil spending number that past budgets have all been based on has not been provided by the state. The state wants districts to create budgets based on a different formulation because of forced mergers. An NES budget alone would have to be based on a best guess for equalized per pupil number.

1:41 C. Lindsley enters

1:50 E. Knisley exits

L. Blood explains that a mistake made last year in calculating revenues has led to a \$100,00.00 shortfall that could impact the cash flow before the end of the fiscal year, 6/30/2019. L. Blood projects a deficit for the end of this year. D. Corti asks if it is realistic for someone to speak to the employees responsible for the mistakes? B Williams will speak to E. Knisley about it.

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

- An accounts payable warrant dated 5/1/2019 in the amount of \$9,740.85
- An accounts payable warrant dated 5/6/2019 in the amount of \$1,073.01 P. Jewett seconds.  
Motion passed.

C. Lindsley will do a robocall reminding voters of the May 7 OUUSD meeting.

2:11 pm D. Corti made a motion to adjourn. P. Jewett seconds. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Fredella -minutes clerk