

Newton Community School Board of Education

Board Work Session
E.J.H. Beard Administration Center – East Conference Room
ZOOM 942 2148 7181

May 18, 2020 – 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order – Board President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 5:32 PM

Roll Call – Christine Dawson, Recording Secretary

Present: Josh Cantu (via Zoom), Donna Cook (via Zoom), Robyn Friedman (via Zoom), Cody Muhs (via Zoom), Travis Padget (via Zoom) (5:40 PM), Graham Sullivan (via Zoom), Mark Thayer (5:35 PM), Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** None **Present via Zoom:** Jon Dunwell, Jessica Ferguson, Brenda Hodnett, Bret Miller, and Laura Selover

Iowa Code – Chapter 21 (Open Meetings Law) – *Chapter 21 states electronic meetings can be held only if meeting in person is impossible or impractical. The May 18, 2020 board work session was held electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, and the need to limit audience numbers (to <10) and to maintain 6’ social distancing recommendations.*

Consent Agenda – Robyn Friedman, Board President – **ACTION #10983**
Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to unanimously approve the consent agenda. Ayes: All Nays: None Absent: Padget, Thayer

Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning

Topic: Open Enrollment

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning, shared with the board the open enrollment data of the district as well as survey information. He noted that the district is losing students when families choose to open enroll out; however, we are gaining some students too. Board members contemplated some reasons why families would choose for their children to leave the district, and also considered what it is that draws families in. Miller reviewed open enrollment laws, the application process, and procedures. A suggested goal was made to work on “closing the gap” between those students open enrolled out and in, with specific action steps. Miller suggested involving the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and increasing community involvement. Board members Josh Cantu, Donna Cook, and Cody Muhs would be willing to serve on a sub-committee to address future open enrollment initiatives.

Adjourn – **ACTION #10984**
Muhs moved, Sullivan seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Minutes Mailed _____
Approved by Action No. _____

President _____, 2020

Secretary