

Newton Community School Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

E. J. H. Beard Administration Center

East Conference Room

February 27, 2017 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Travis Padget convened the board to order at 6:30 PM

Roll Call

Present: Sheri Benson, Josh Cantu, Donna Cook (6:31 PM), Andrew Elbert, Robyn Friedman, Ann Leonard, Travis Padget, Bob Callaghan, Gayle Isaac, and Christine Dawson

Others Present: Ruth DenHartog, Brenda Hodnett, JoEllen Linn, Ann Nelson, Sarah Prendergast, Pat Riley, Shirley Rinehart, Deborah Rose, Melissa Sommars, Justin Jagler (Newton Daily News) and Randy Van (KCOB)

Communications – Board Members Josh Cantu and Andy Elbert shared that the Preserve the Pride Bond Committee was recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Key Award. The committee received an engraved clock which will be displayed in the new middle school. Cantu and Elbert publicly thanked all who were involved in the bond referendum effort.

Ryan Comer (WEST Academy), JoEllen Linn (BMS), Pat Riley (NHS), Susan Sheeks (AH), and Melissa Sommars (TJ) were recognized as the 2016 – 2017 NCEF Excellence in Education recipients. Ann Nelson (NHS) received the “Above and Beyond” recognition.

Ruth DenHartog (NHS Art Teacher) was present to recognize Sarah Prendergast for her display of artwork at the E.J.H. Beard Administration Center.

Consent Agenda – ACTION #10102

Leonard moved, Friedman seconded to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Human Resources Update – Laura Selover presented the Human Resources Update

Certified Personnel – ACTION #10103

Kayla Juni – (Contract) – Drill Team Sponsor – effective 07/01/17

Friedman moved, Cantu seconded to approve the Certified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Classified Personnel – ACTION #10104

Katie Smith – (Agreement) – Crossing Guard – effective 02/17/17

Sandy Scotton – (Reassignment) – from Copy Center Specialist to Human Resources Assistant – effective March 27, 2017

Leonard moved, Cantu seconded to approve the Classified Personnel Human Resources Update. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Open Forum – None

Superintendent’s Report – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Principal’s Report

Principals Jim Gilbert (AH) and Todd Schuster (WW) spoke on the topic of Professional Development and progress on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), curriculum, common core standards, and state assessments. Principals Jolene Comer (EH) and Tom Bartello (TJ) shared their sub-committee work with Kindergarten teachers on the topic of Transitional Kindergarten. Principal Bill Peters (NHS) spoke about various student activities at the high school and staff Professional Development.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Bob Callaghan gave an update on the legislature, noting that the governor has signed 1.11% State Supplemental Aid (SSA); historically one of the lowest ever. Other topics of discussion included changes in Iowa Code – including Chapters 20, 279, 284.

Current Student Enrollment – Callaghan reported total student enrollment as of February 23, 2017 at 3,006.

Attendance Data – Callaghan shared student attendance percentages at each campus, with the total average student attendance (PreK – 12) as of February 22, 2017 at 94.33%.

Transiency Report – Callaghan presented a student transiency report for those students who have either left the district, or entered the district since the October 1, 2016 certified enrollment count date. The report showed a net increase of 28 students.

Discipline Data

Berg Middle School

First semester discipline data for BMS was reported by category/event: Total In-School Suspension events (17), Total Out-of-School Suspension events (10), Total Learning Opportunity Center (LOC) placements (5).

Newton High School

Principal Bill Peters shared NHS discipline data by category/event. A total of 278 attendance related events were reported: Total In-School Suspension (150), Total Out-of-School Suspension (108), Total Learning Opportunity (LOC) placements (20). There were a total of 57 behavior related events.

Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent and Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services
Board to Consider Adopting a Resolution Directing the Advertisement for Sale of not to Exceed \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2017, Approving Electronic Bidding Procedures and Approving Official Statement – ACTION #10105

Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services, explained this next step and legal requirement for the sale of General Obligation school bonds. Elbert moved, Cantu seconded to approve the resolution directing the advertisement for sale of not to exceed \$10,000,000 General Obligation school bonds, series 2017, approving electronic bidding procedures and approving official statement. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Special Education Follow Up Plans

Tina Ross, Director of Special Programs, provided a handout outlining where all in-district special education students (Level I, II, III) will be served in the 2017 – 2018 school year. The information will also be beneficial to planning for staffing. Ross also shared with the board that “listening posts” have been set up at each campus to facilitate communication in regards to special education.

Denison Culture Survey Update

Board President Travis Padget and Vice-President Robyn Friedman gave an update on the most recent Denison Culture steering committee meeting held February 22, 2017. The committee itself is developing their culture and in the process of setting goals. Also, the committee is in the process of forming focus groups.

Business Service Report – Gayle Isaac, Director of Business Services

Approval of Bills – ACTION #10106

Elbert moved, Leonard seconded to approve the bills. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Budget Preparation Update

Isaac shared that he will come to the board on March 13, 2017 with a discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget and tax rate. A public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 certified budget will be scheduled for April 10, 2017.

Upcoming Bond Sale Timeline

Isaac reviewed the upcoming bond sale timeline, which is for a second installment of \$10,000,000 towards construction of the new 5 – 8 middle school. March 13, 2017 – bids received and board asked to approve sale. He noted some positives having an impact on interest rates.

New Business – Old Business – Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Future Meeting Dates

Board Work Session – 5:30 PM March 13, 2017 – (E.J.H. Beard Administration Center)

Topic: Budget

Regular Board Meeting – 6:30 PM March 13, 2017 – (E.J.H. Beard Administration Center)

Superintendent Callaghan would like the board to consider April 2017 board meeting dates and times due to potential scheduling conflicts.

Board Member Donna Cook shared thoughts about potential changes for redesigning the board agendas, such as including information on goals and policies, and descriptions of agenda items.

Closed Session – Superintendent Evaluation – ACTION #10107

Leonard moved, Elbert seconded to go into Closed Session to conduct an evaluation of the Superintendent. Ayes: Benson, Cantu, Cook, Elbert, Friedman, Leonard, Padget

Adjourn – ACTION #10108

Cook moved, Cantu seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Minutes Mailed
Approved by Action No. _____

President

_____, 2017

Secretary