

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWINGTON, CT 06111**

Newington Town Hall
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room
Wednesday, March 26, 2014
7:00 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

PRESENT: Chairperson Dr. Marc Finkelstein, Sharon Braverman, Elizabeth McDonald, Nancy Petronio, Joshua Shulman, Jane Siegel, Scott Soares, Robert Tofeldt, Paul Vessella

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. William Collins, Mrs. Pamela Muraca, Dr. Christine Carver, Mr. Lou Jachimowicz

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Dr. Marc Finkelstein called the Regular Session of the Newington Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Finkelstein called for a motion to suspend the rules to add an Item to section H. New Business.

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved to suspend the rules to add Item 21. Discussion – 2014-2015 Budget to section H. New Business. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation of Awards/Proclamations

C. Public Participation on Presentations

D. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting - January 22, 2014
2. Approval of Minutes – Special Budget Meeting – January 29, 2014
3. Approval of Minutes – Special/Informational Meeting - March 12, 2014

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Joshua Shulman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- E. Superintendent of Schools' Report
- F. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities
- G. Old Business
- H. New Business

1. Action – Resolution Honoring School Secretaries (April 9, 2014)

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved the Newington Board of Education proclaim Wednesday, April 9, 2014 as Professional Secretaries' Day to honor the school and central office secretaries' commitment to the students of the Newington Public Schools. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action – Resolution Honoring Teachers (May 7, 2014)

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved the Board of Education proclaim, Wednesday, May 7, 2014 as Newington Teacher Appreciation Day to honor Newington teachers for their commitment to the children of Newington. Paul Vessella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action – Resolution Honoring Tutors/Assistors (May 7, 2014)

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education proclaim Wednesday, May 7, 2014 as Newington Tutor/Assistor Appreciation Day to honor Newington tutors/assistors for their commitment to the children of Newington. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Action – Resolution Honoring School Nurses (May 14, 2014)

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Board of Education proclaim Wednesday, May 14, 2014 as Newington School Nurses' Day to honor Newington nurses for their commitment to the health and well-being of our school age children. Robert Tofeldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Action – Health Benefits Fund Performance

MOTION: Joshua Shulman moved the Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to notify the Town in writing no later than April 8, 2014 of the Board's intent **to reduce** planned contributions to the Health Benefits Fund over the remainder of the current fiscal year by **\$0**, and that any credit that is ultimately realized from the September 30th "settlement" calculation be utilized to reduce Health Benefits Fund contributions for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. This settlement credit will be used in full, if possible, commencing with the Health Benefits Fund contributions due for October. Any residual credit will be fully used in the succeeding months until exhausted. Paul Vessella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Action – Proposed New Policy #3516(a) – Business/Non-Instructional Operations: Safety

MOTION: Scott Soares moved the Board of Education approve the new Policy 3516(a) – Business/Non-Instructional Operations: Safety as recommended. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Action – Proposed New Policy #4112.6 – Personnel Records

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education approve the new Policy 4112.6 – Personnel Records as recommended. Sharon Braverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #4148(a) – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified: Employee Safety

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 4148(a) – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified: Employee Safety as recommended. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #5000 – Student Discipline (*Replaces 5114 and 5144*)

MOTION: Joshua Shulman moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 5000 – Student Discipline as recommended. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #5131.911(a) – Hazing

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 5131.911(a) – Hazing as recommended. Robert Tofeldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #5141.6(a) – Crisis Management Plan

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 5141.6(a) – Crisis Response as recommended. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #6114(a) – Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness

MOTION: Scott Soares moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 6114(a) – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness as recommended. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #6114.1 – Fire Emergency (Drills)/Emergency Response Drills

MOTION: Joshua Shulman moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 6114.1 – Fire Emergency (Drills)/Emergency Response Drills as recommended. Robert Tofeldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #6114.7 – Safe Schools

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 6114.7 – Safe Schools as recommended. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #6142.101 – Wellness Education

MOTION: Sharon Braverman moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 6142.101 – Instruction: Wellness as recommended. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Action – Proposed New Policy #6142.63(a) – Aquatic Activity (Pool) Safety

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Board of Education approve the new Policy 6142.63(a) – Physical Education – Pool Safety as recommended. Robert Tofeldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Action – Proposed Revision Policy #6146(a) – Graduation Requirements

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy 6146(a) – Graduation Requirements as recommended. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Action – Proposed New Policy #6172.6(a) – Interactive Distance/Online Learning

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved the Board of Education approve the new Policy 6172.6(a) – Interactive Distance/Online Learning as recommended. Paul Vessella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Action – Privacy Laws Authorization

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education to authorize the following individuals to act on the Board of Education's behalf with ING regarding the annuity opened in 1982 for William P. Ward. Authorized individuals include:

- ❖ Superintendent of Schools, William Collins or successor,
- ❖ Chief Financial & Operations Officers, Lou Jachimowicz or successor,
- ❖ Benefits Account Clerk, Kathy DeBoer or successor and
- ❖ Annuitant, William P. Ward.

Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

20. Action – Childrearing Leave of Absence (Executive Session Possible)

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Board of Education approve the request for a Childrearing Leave of Absence for Laila Falkenberg from May 22, 2014 through the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Elizabeth McDonald moved the Board of Education approve the request for a Childrearing Leave of Absence for Samantha Grady an extension to her Childrearing Leave of Absence from April 30, 2014 through May 29, 2014. Jane Siegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Nancy Petronio arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION: Joshua Shulman moved the Board of Education approve the request for a Childrearing Leave of Absence for Linda Wagner for the 2014-2015 school year. Scott Soares seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

21. Discussion – 2014-2015 Budget

Board member Nancy Petronio left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

I. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

J. Remarks by Board Members

K. Adjournment

MOTION: Jane Siegel moved to adjourn. Elizabeth McDonald seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Braverman, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bruce Valade
31 Mount View Drive

He was unhappy about the handling of the recognition of his daughter's art award. He would like to see improved communication between the Superintendent, schools, students, and parents.