

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held at Newfield Central School on October 2, 2014.

Members Present: S. Allinger, R. Borgella, H. Cooper, P. Miller, J. Pawlewicz, M. Rynone, G. Wiltsie

Members Absent:

Also Present: C. Thomas, Superintendent; J. James, Business Administrator; V. Volpicelli, Elem. Principal; C. Shipos, District Clerk

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The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by S. Allinger, President.

Privilege of the Floor was offered to all in attendance.

There were no Board of Education comments.

M. McSherry of Port, Kashdin & McSherry was present to discuss the independent audit of the district's financial records for the 2013-14 fiscal year. He gave an unmodified opinion (previously known as an unqualified opinion), and stated that the district was in a strong, financially stable position. He did, however, point out that the district expenses have exceeded revenues for the past several years, which cannot continue indefinitely. Discussion followed as to the factors bearing on the district's future, including the tax cap, gap elimination adjustment (GEA), employee benefit costs and post-employment obligations. G. Wiltsie equated NYS's failure to fund education at levels mandated by the courts with "deadbeat dads" who fail to pay child support. S. Allinger asked how the district compared with other similar districts statewide. M. McSherry responded that Newfield was in relatively good shape; however, the district is reaching a point where it will be forced to use fund balance and reserves. R. Borgella asked about methods of funding post-employment obligations. M. McSherry replied that there really is no way to set money aside for this allowable by law. It is a statewide issue for all municipalities.

C. O'Rourke, S. Martin and J. Zifchock presented Hangar Theatre's Project 4. This is the ninth year that Newfield fourth graders have been working with the theatre to write and perform a play. This year's production is based on the district's theme of "Learning Matters! No Excuses." Music from past productions was shared and invitations to the performances were distributed.

T. Beam shared information on the fitness program for teachers that she developed for a recent graduate course. She piloted the "Insanity" program in the elementary school this fall.

P. Leonardi reported on summer projects completed by the technology department. He also shared information on the Smart School Bond Act which will be put to vote statewide in November. Discussion followed as to the possible uses for the money if the referendum passes, the intent of the act and the long-term implications. P. Leonardi expressed concern over purchasing equipment with non-renewable funds. What happens when it needs to be replaced? S. Allinger asked about putting money in reserves and spending over multiple years. C. Thomas said her best guess is that NYS would hold the funds and either purchase equipment for the district or reimburse the district for purchases made. P. Leonardi also commented on the PARCC assessments, stating that they will eventually be mandated and the district needs to be ready for them with larger WAN access and a new firewall.

October 2, 2014  
Page Two

(H. Cooper left the room at 7:45 p.m.)

Motion was made by M. Rynone, seconded by G. Wiltsie, to approve the updated districtwide substitute lists (Attachment 14-15-21). Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by J. Pawlewicz, to accept the independent audit of the school district financial records for the school year ending June 30, 2014 (Attachment 14-15-22). Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

(H. Cooper returned to the meeting at 7:48 p.m.)

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to adopt the 2014-15 District Goals as discussed at the meeting of September 18, 2014 (Attachment 14-15-23). Motion carried 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

H. Cooper commented that she would like to add a goal next year regarding "attracting and retaining quality educators and staff."

Motion was made by G. Wiltsie, seconded by H. Cooper, to accept a \$2000 cash donation from Mildred Horak for the Mildred Blovsky Boronkay Horak Award. Motion carried 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by G. Wiltsie, to accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 4, 2014. Motion carried 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained (H. Cooper, J. Pawlewicz, M. Rynone).

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by M. Rynone, to accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 18, 2014. Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (G. Wiltsie).

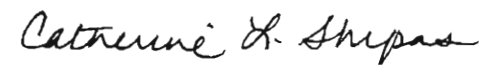
Privilege of the Floor was offered to all in attendance.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to enter Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss collective negotiations with the Civil Service Employees Association and matters leading to the discipline of a particular person(s)/other student matter. Motion carried 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Catherine L. Shipos  
District Clerk