

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
Minutes of Newton Falls Exempted Village Schools Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm. – Jr./Sr. High School Board Room

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President, Mr. Don Baker, called the regular meeting of the Newton Falls Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Baker, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Koontz, and Mr. Powell were in attendance.

**Executive Session**

**# 32-2014**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 6:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, as a public board of education may hold an executive session only after a majority of the quorum of this board determines by a roll call vote to hold such a session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the following matters:

- A. To consider **one or more, as applicable**, of the check marked items with respect to a public employee or official:
1. \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ Employment
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ Dismissal
  4.   X   Discipline
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ Promotion
  6. \_\_\_\_\_ Demotion
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ Compensation
  8. \_\_\_\_\_ Investigation of charges/complaints (unless public hearing requested)
- B. To consider the purchase of property for the public purposed or for the sale of property at competitive bidding.
- C. Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- D. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.**
- E. Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes**

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- F. Specialized details of security arrangements where disclosure of the matters discussed might reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing or avoid prosecution for a violation of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newton Falls Exempted Village Schools District Board of Education, by a majority of the quorum present at this meeting, does hereby declare its intention to hold an executive session on items A4, D, E as listed above.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Woodard made a statement about the bomb threat.

The bomb threat message was discovered the morning of Wednesday, February 26, 2014 by a student who told a junior high school teacher. The teacher then told the assistant principal. The message was extremely small, written in the crack of the blocks in the junior high restroom. It read "Bomb 1:23". The assistant principal did not find the message the first time he looked and the student who had reported it had to show him where it was located.

Once the message was located, the building principal texted the superintendent who was in Columbus and called the resource officer. The resource officer was not at work that day and no one on campus was aware of her being home sick.

It was determined by the maintenance staff that the message could have been on the wall for days or weeks. There was no way of knowing.

The principal was contacted by the superintendent and they discussed getting the police on campus to assess the situation and reviewing the crisis manual.

The assistant principal took a picture of the message with his phone and the message was then cleaned in order to not induce panic.

The superintendent's secretary spoke with the resource officer and asked for a police officer immediately due to the message on the wall.

Once the police officer and sheriff arrived they discussed the situation with the administration. They recommended evacuating. Around this time a second message was discovered in the other junior high boy's restroom. It read "bomb today". It was written small in between the blocks just like the other one. Maintenance removed the message so that no one panicked. The principal waited for the chief who arrived ten to fifteen minutes later. It was then determined to lockdown the building and evacuate to the elementary school and the middle school. Students were instructed to leave their belongings and not go to their lockers.

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Within twenty minutes of evacuating the building, a student was being questioned about the writings. The student did not confess until later that evening at the police station.

A voice message was sent out to parents and they were told of the evacuation, the bomb threat and that they could sign out their child. Other messages were sent out during the course of the day.

Bomb sniffing dogs were brought in and searched the building. Nothing was found. The building was cleared between 2:30 and 3:00pm.

Items that we have reviewed with the police and agreed to modify and change in the crisis manual:

1. Call 911 on a bomb threat call in or writing. Still assess the situation with the police before evacuating. Unless a specific immediate threat is made clear. This is due to other possible threats.
2. DO NOT remove the writing so the police can check for prints and examine the writing.
3. Make sure students are only signed out by parents, guardians, or people on emergency medical forms. Check Id's and keep the sign out line outside and have parents sign out in an orderly fashion.

**Hearing of Individuals**

None

**Committees and/or Delegations – Related to the Agenda, Education, and Committee Report**

Student Achievement – Mrs. Debra Davis

Elementary: Kindergarten registration is this week. Also, the Father/Daughter Dance was a great success. The ABC Club will be having a Mother/Son Dance in the future. We have received a lot of positive feedback on the dance. Our appreciation goes out to the ABC Club.

Middle School: March is "Music in Our Schools" month. There will be a choir concert on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium featuring the middle school, junior high, and high school choirs. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade bands will be performing on March 27, 2014, in the Middle School Cafetorium. There will also be a talent show on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Auditions will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>.

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Two 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes taught by Mrs. Layshock and Mrs. Giuliano are participating in practice standardized PARCC assessments during this week. This practice testing will determine the District's capability to do online testing for next school year.

The Challenge 24 Tournament was held at Warren G. Harding High School in late February. Libby Barreca, Brant Bungard, and Luke Butler participated in the tournament. Libby Barreca advanced to the semi-final round. Congratulations!

High School: Stephanie Barringer, a senior at the high school, wrote an awesome public service announcement about Millcreek Park which won her first runner up for the Tom Holden Memorial Scholarship.

OGT testing was the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>.

National Honor Society inductions were held on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The following students were inducted:

Seniors: Brook Barreca, Devan Houshour, and Chasity Oakes

Juniors: Brooklyn Bungard, Noah Chapman, Sean Croell, Kristin Davis, Sarah Honeycutt, Chiara Matranga, Amanda Myers, Madison Spahlinger, and Jessica Wheat

Buckeye Boys' and Girls' State delegates were also selected, and are as follows:

Delegates: Kristin Davis, Tia Harris, Chiara Matranga, Amanda Myers, Madison Spahlinger, Austin Brown, Marcus Lard, Bucyrus Palo, and Jonathan Stratakis

Alternates: Taylor Dlugos, Alaina Ferry, Pace Carroll, Lindsey Purnell, and Zackery Berry

Trumbull County Civic Day is quickly approaching. Emmalee Antill, Chasity Oakes, Harrison Woodward, and Hannah Zelle are seniors who are participating this year.

Congratulations to all these students!

Legislative Liaison – Mr. Don Baker

The Governor gave his State of the State Address, and several issues pertaining to education were discussed. He proposed several strategies to draw adults back into diploma programs, and helping at-risk children to stay in school through identification, community based mentoring, and early access to career technical education. Every Ohioan deserves flexibility in obtaining a high school diploma in a way that meets their unique circumstance, strength, and interest. New alternative diploma pathways that would result from the Governor's strategies can help make that happen. The Governor recommended new efforts to prevent students from dropping out of

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school, membership strategies to boost community support for schools and motivate students for careers, to give more students early college credits while in high school, to focus colleges on successful student outcomes rather than on enrollment figures, and to give veterans an easier transition to home by giving academic credit for military training and experience.

There were three alternative assessments for students who do not meet or exceed the promotion scores on the Ohio Achievement Assessment as required by the third grade reading guarantee. They are the Iowa Assessments, Northwest Evaluation Association, and the Terra Nova Three. Alternative assessments may only be used for promotion purposes if the student does not reach the promotion score. Students now have four opportunities to demonstrate their readiness.

There are some regional seminars planned that focus on value-added.

In 2012, a law was implemented which recognized March 30<sup>th</sup> as Vietnam Veterans Day here in Ohio. I'm sure our Board certainly endorses that.

Our State Senator, Sean O'Brien, is having a dinner fundraiser on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Roby Lees. If interested in attending, please see Mr. Dave Wilson.

Finance Committee - Brent Powell

There was no meeting.

Athletic Council – Mrs. Brenda Koontz and Mr. Brent Powell

There was no meeting. The athletic winter banquet will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Boys' Basketball advanced to the second round of the playoffs, but unfortunately lost. Girls' Basketball advanced to the second round of the playoffs as well. Congratulations on an excellent season.

Trumbull County Career & Technical Center – Mrs. Debra Davis

Two Newton Falls' students placed first in TCTC's regional competition. Benjamin Nichols won for presentation management, and Kendall Hall won for interactive multimedia and small business management. They will be advancing to the state competition.

TCTC has a renewal levy coming up. TCTC is instrumental to all the schools in Trumbull County. The levy is necessary for them to exist. If TCTC no longer existed, each Trumbull County school would have to provide vocational programs to their students. TCTC has been providing quality vocational education to children and adults since 1978.

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**Minutes**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#33-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 20, 2014, regular meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Amendment of Minutes**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#34-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newton Falls Board of Education amend resolution #23-2014 to read March 18, 2014 in the minutes from the February 20, 2014, regular meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Treasurer's Report and Recommendations**

**A. Report**

**Audit**

As I stated in my update, the FY13 audit is complete and clean. I would like to congratulate my staff for all their hard work. It's no small feat to begin a new job without any school fiscal experience and come out with a clean audit your first year. Thank you for all your hard work!

**Cash Flow**

Upon closing February, the general fund balance was \$404,658.21, and the emergency levy fund balance was -\$89,613.67. We started receiving tax advances in February which rebuilt the general fund. By April, the emergency levy fund will be back in the black.

**OASBO Annual Treasurer's Conference**

With your approval, I'm planning to attend the OASBO Annual Treasurer's Conference in April. I would be in Columbus April 8-11. This is the cheapest option for me to obtain investment credit required by the Auditor of State. The conference is \$375.00 plus lodging.

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**Title I Conference**

I'm also planning to attend the fiscal portion of the Title I Conference this year in Columbus. I would be there only for the one day that relates to finances on April 2, 2014. In light of our difficulties getting our CCIP approved this year, I believe this seminar would be beneficial to us. The fee is \$145.00.

**B. Recommendations**

**Financial Reports**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#35-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the financial reports for the month of February 2014, and the short term investments made by the Treasurer which yielded \$46.68 for the general fund and \$1.30 for the cafeteria fund.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Disposal of Obsolete Equipment**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#36-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education authorize permission to dispose of equipment and materials no longer needed for school purposes and less than \$10,000.00 in compliance with Section 3313.41 of the ORC as presented:

Scott Foresman Middle School Math Course 2 (7<sup>th</sup> grade) 118 Student - 2 Teacher Books  
Scott Foresman Middle School Math Course 3 (8<sup>th</sup> grade) 132 Student - 2 Teacher Books

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Newton Falls Public Library Trustee**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#37-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education appoint Carolyn Sue Johnson, as a trustee of the Newton Falls Public Library for the upcoming seven year term (May 1, 2014 – May 1, 2021).

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Mr. Baker stated that he knows Mrs. Johnson, and that she's very competent. He has no trouble recommending her for the position.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Rate Resolution**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion: **#38-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the FY 2015 Rate Resolution as presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Certificate of Estimated Resources**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion: **#39-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the Certificate of Estimated Resources for FY 2015 as presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Postage Meter Lease**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion: **#40-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the postage meter lease with Pitney Bowes, as presented.

Mr. Baker stated that he believed this lease would save the District money. Mrs. Meeks confirmed his statement.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**



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**Superintendent's Report and Recommendations**

**A. Report**

Our blizzard bag make-up work has been moved to March 31 and April 1 due to schedule conflicts. We have missed seven days, so we can use blizzard bags for days 6, 7, and 8. Students without internet access will be given the blizzard bag of assignments. Students with internet access will complete the assignments online. They will have two weeks to complete assignments. The grades will go on the fourth grading period.

The track was heaving a few weeks ago for about a 100 yard stretch. It went down again Friday when the weather warmed up. There are still some depressions in lanes one and two, but it looks 95% better than it did a few weeks ago. A company looked at it today, and another company is coming soon. We are looking for quotes for repair and resurfacing. We will get three quotes. We should be okay for the remainder of this track season, but we need to fix it sooner rather than later if we want to continue using the track.

We need to look at possible permanent improvement money over the next few years. Our current facility money is for limited use, and runs out in 2023.

We received a quote from Charles Murphy, a local farmer, for excavating our fields. He is willing to do a lot of work for a very cheap price. The quote is for \$978.00 to work on fifteen acres of land. This could be the beginning of us taking a look at our field situation. So far this winter, weather has prevented us from walking the fields, but we plan to do it when the fields dry out.

**B. Recommendations**

**Certificated**

**Employment – Supplemental Contract**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#41-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education employ the following supplemental contract for the 2014 season:

Mark Baker-Assistant Track Coach

Mrs. Koontz asked if we had the numbers to support this position. Mr. Woodard replied that we do have the numbers.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

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**Classified**

**Volunteers**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#42-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the following as volunteers for the 2014 season:

Nikki Murphy-Track  
James Wainwright-Softball

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Use of School Facilities**

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Powell seconded the following motion:

**#43-2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the use of school facilities consistent with adopted policies and procedures for the following:

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Spring Basketball  
Roy Sembach, Coach  
Practice

High School Gymnasium  
3/19/14 – 5/14/14  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Trumbull County Basketball AAU  
Tony Houshour, Coach  
Practice

High School Gymnasium  
3/21/14 – 5-30-14  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays &  
Fridays; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Koontz asked if baseball and softball can bump basketball if necessary. Mr. Woodard replied that yes they can bump basketball if needed.

Mr. Powell asked the age group of the AAU. Mr. Woodard replied that it ranges from junior high to young high school.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Items too late for the agenda**

None

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**Old Business**

Mrs. Davis

I checked out the appeal procedure for suspensions with some other schools. So far I have feedback from three districts. Mathews, Weathersfield, and Liberty responded, and they all three have policies like our policy.

Mrs. Koontz asked Mrs. Davis if she checked with other schools about their policy for employees to bring their children to the district. Mrs. Davis said that they all follow their open enrollment policy. The Board concurred that they were not going to change the policy.

**New Business**

Mrs. Koontz

The baseball team summer youth league is asking if they can start using the Middle School or Elementary Gym for baseball when it's bad weather. She told them to come in and complete a facility usage form. Mrs. Dunlap said that a representative from the organization did come in today. Mr. Woodard said that it would be approved if they have the proper insurance and we have the availability.

**Communications**

None

**Adjournment**

**#44-2014**

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Powell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Mrs. Davis, Mr. Powell, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Baker  
**MOTION CARRIED**

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Treasurer

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Board President

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