

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Newton Falls Exempted Village Schools Regular Meeting
March 19, 2013 at 6:00 pm. – Jr./Sr. High School Board Room

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, and Mrs. Koontz were in attendance. Mr. Rapczak arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Move Hearing of Individuals

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion:

#41-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Mrs. Koontz, the Newton Falls Board of Education postpones the Hearing of Individuals until after its general business.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Koontz, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Ballas, Mr. Rapczak, Mr. Baker
MOTION CARRIED

Student Recognition

None

Committees and/or Delegations Related to the Agenda, Education, and Committee Reports

Student Achievement – Mrs. Debra Davis

The date for kindergarten registration was changed to August 1. OAA testing is April 22-26. The middle school is practicing for testing March 25-27. The Junior High/Senior High was named a School of Promise for closing the achievement gap. We will receive a banner, and tiger paws will be presented at that time. Recently, NHS and Buckeye State selection of delegates occurred. Congratulations to all students who were chosen. The choir concert is tonight at 7:00 p.m. Best wishes for a wonderful performance.

Legislative Liaison – Mr. Baker

None

Finance Committee – Mr. Baker

None

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Athletic Council – Mrs. Koontz and Mr. Rapczak

Three ladies and four boys are being recognized for basketball accomplishments, but the details are not yet finalized.

Trumbull County Career and Technical Center – Mrs. Debra Davis

David Parcorst was the Student of the Month for February. David is in the Air Force Jr ROTC program. I will be absent from the next board meeting because I will be in San Diego, California on behalf of TCTC. This is a great opportunity to network with other school districts.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion:

#42-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approves the minutes from the February 21, 2013 regular meeting.

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

Treasurer's Reports and Recommendations

A. Reports

Levy

Distribute draft levy flyer for feedback.

Booster Clubs/Parent Involvement Groups

The Ohio Attorney is now requiring that booster clubs and other parent organizations register with the State of Ohio. As groups are attempting to register, it has become clear that some groups do not have their own federal ID number. Each group is supposed to have its own number as it is a separate entity from the school district. The federal ID number is required for the registration process. I am attending a meeting next week to learn the process necessary for these groups to be properly established with their own credentials. I plan to help each group re-establish themselves as required by the State of Ohio.

HR Kiosk

I am in the process of setting up HR Kiosk. The kiosk is free to the District, and will enable employees to see their W-2s online, and also submit sick leave forms, personal days, and

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professional days online with supervisors and principals using online approval as well. The kiosk should make the payroll process more efficient.

B. Recommendations

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion:

#43-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approves the financial reports for the month of February 2013 and the short term investments made by the Treasurer which yielded \$15.69 for the general fund and \$3.55 for the cafeteria fund.

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

Annual Financial Report – Newton Falls Public Library

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion:

#44-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Treasurer of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the Cash Basis Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2012, for the Newton Falls Public Library.

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

Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations

A. Reports

We will have School of Promise recognition along with winter athletes' recognition at the April board meeting.

B. Recommendations

Retirement – Carol Severino

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion:

#45-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approves the retirement of Carol Severino, first grade teacher at the elementary school, effective June 1, 2013.

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The Board expressed their sentiment of Mrs. Severino being an awesome teacher, and a nice person. She will be greatly missed.

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

Severance – Carol Severino

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion: **#46-2013**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the severance pay for Carol Severino, payable upon proof of retirement.

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

Classified Volunteers

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion: **#47-2013**

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 2013 season:

Larissa Cantola	JV Softball
Todd Medallis	Baseball

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

Transfer – Renee Hall

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mrs. Davis seconded the following motion: **#48-2013**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the transfer of Renee Hall from the elementary cafeteria 2 hours per day, to the high school cafeteria 2 hours per day, effective March 8, 2013.

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

Use of School Facilities

Mrs. Koontz moved and Mr. Rapczak seconded the following motion: **#49-2013**

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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:

Girls' 8th Grade Basketball
Roy Sembach, Coach

March through May 2013, High School Gymnasium
Times scheduled around softball, track & baseball

Newton Falls Kiwanis Club

May 11, 2013

Bob Wujcik, President
Junior Olympics

May 18, 2013 (rain date) 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Stadium Track, Restrooms

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

Change in 2012/2013 School Calendar – Waiver Day

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

#50-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the change in the school calendar for the 2012/2013 school calendar, adding a waiver day, Monday, May 13, 2013.

This waiver day is for ALICE training for the school staff.

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

Items Too Late for the Agenda

None

Old Business

None

New Business

First Reading of Policy JEB

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

#51-2013

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BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Newton Falls Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy JEB as presented.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Rapczak, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Baker
MOTION CARRIED

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Baker called a recess while Mr. Woodard left to talk at the choir concert about the levy.

Mr. Baker declared that the meeting resumed in regular session at 7:05 p.m. upon Mr. Woodard's return from the choir concert.

Communication

None

Hearing of Individuals

Melissa Shuttic, Elementary Teacher, residing at 118 Dennis Drive, Cortland, OH 44410

I understand that we are possibly cutting teachers to three per grade in the elementary. The third grade reading guarantee will be very difficult under these circumstances. We won't be able to meet all the needs of the students with these larger class sizes.

Christine Stinson, Concerned parent of two First Graders, residing at 253 Arlington Boulevard, Newton Falls, OH 44444

I love Newton Falls Schools. My kids' class size is now nineteen. We already have two to five kids that have behavioral issues or learning issues. I fear my kids will fall through the cracks. Fifteen parents were supposed to be here, and will attend next month. All buildings will pay the price for large class sizes.

Jessica Rader, Elementary Teacher, residing at 3704 Newton-Tomlinson Road, Warren, OH 44481 (Newton Township)

We're getting together with ideas to keep class sizes small. The school has hired people we don't believe needed to be hired. We feel guidance and secretaries can do the work.

Sue Thompson, Fourth Grade Teacher, residing at 5923 Pat-Ann Drive, Warren, OH 44481

Class size is a big issue. It is very hard for intervention, value added, and district ratings. If I move out of fourth grade, there won't be any materials because I purchased them all myself. We will have to buy additional materials. We need to look elsewhere instead of cutting the legs of the tables. Teachers should be the last to be cut. We're cutting art and that's why most kids come to school. Hopefully, we can work together to come up with an alternative.

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Tim Stinson, Concerned parent of two First Graders with two younger children, residing at 253 Arlington Boulevard, Newton Falls, OH 44444

I don't think cutting teachers is the way to go. I would much rather see pay to play. How will lunches and recess be covered? We have higher student ratios now than most in the area. (approximately thirty per class) I only found one higher. Paying for sports is a much better option.

Megan Perrine, Fifth Grade Teacher, residing at 449 LeMae Street, Newton Falls, OH 44444

The elementary needs the most focus on reading and math, and getting the basics. Many students don't qualify for special education, but they're not at grade level. I would like to see more concentration at the elementary level because they don't have the basics when they come to the junior high.

Paul Woodard, Superintendent

None of these decisions are easy. We are deficit spending. We have lost \$1,250,000 in funding since 2009. We have lost \$3,000,000 to charter schools since 2004, and our enrollment is decreasing. We made \$600,000 in cuts last year. Many of those cuts were through attrition and budgetary cutting measures. We also eliminated technology positions, French, and general music. We have to make cuts and pass a levy. I have lived through this already at Waterloo. Thirty kids in a class is a little misleading. Most classes are in the twenties. People around us had pay and step freezes, and lost employees. They can't bring anyone back because it snowballs. This is where we are now.

Pay to play is being discussed and will happen soon. When cutting minor sports, you lose more in funding than the program costs if students leave seeking sports. We are also looking at school fees as well. Students on free and reduced lunches do not have to pay. We estimate that we will bring in approximately \$60,000 with school fees and pay to play.

The theme since I started here has centered on drug issues, bullying & harassing, truancy, and attendance. I thought and prayed about it, and decided to hire a community liaison. Our community liaison has met with over three hundred students in our district this year, and is working to create a school-community atmosphere. Her salary is paid for from a grant, not our general fund. When she worked at the Trumbull County ESC, she only saw five to six of our students throughout the year. I am trying to be out in the buildings. I have had students and parents in my office crying because they have parents or kids addicted to drugs and alcohol.

I am not a dictator. I approached both unions and asked them to take a look at what we're discussing. I didn't just say that this is what we're doing. We are fighting the Governor's desire to eliminate smaller schools. I am trying to gain trust and bring everyone together. I want this school to stay intact.

I would like to see four teachers per grade level. We had to submit a letter to the State to prevent the State from coming in and taking over. I am going to fight until the last second, and we will

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work to try to save jobs if we can, but the union has to work with us as well. If we don't pass a levy, and we don't get concessions, we will be right back here in one year.

We have to work together to keep this from happening. I am also worried about the third grade reading guarantee. We have to come up with "X" amount of dollars. Administrators are on pay freezes as well. Those who were recently hired were told that there would be no pay raises in the near future.

I did get a \$1,000 pay increase for this year. I came in making less than my predecessor. \$1,000 is a lot less than at step increase for teachers. I will take a pay freeze for the next five years if everyone else does as well.

Brenda Koontz, Board Member

The Community Liaison does much more than shuffle paper and make phone calls. She is really helping our kids get their acts together, and she is meeting with parents frequently.

Paul Woodard, Superintendent

I did tell Carey Anderson when I hired her that if the grant money goes away, she would not have a job.

Executive Session

#52-2013

Mr. Rapczak moved and Mr. Ballas seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 7:19 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. X Employment
3. _____ Dismissal
4. _____ Discipline
5. _____ Promotion
6. _____ Demotion
7. _____ Compensation
8. _____ Investigation of charges/complaints (unless public hearing requested)

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- 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.
- 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 A2, D as listed above.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Mr. Rapczak, Mr. Ballas, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Koontz, Mr. Baker
MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Baker declared the Board back in regular session at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

#53-2013

Mr. Ballas moved and Mr. Rapczak seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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

Treasurer

Board President

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