

BROOKLINE-NEWFANE SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, May 19, 2011
6:30 PM @ *Brookline Elementary School*

Draft Minutes

Present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Seiden, Somara Zwick, Brookline; Kim Colligan, Kim Friedman, Ken McFadden, Pam Meihak, Brandy Pickering, Newfane; Shelly Bostrom, NewBrook kindergarten teacher; Amy Jo Cable, recorder; Kathie Gatto-Gurney, Timson Hill Preschool Director & teacher; Lisa Harris, Rock River School, South Newfane, teacher/owner; Steven John, WCSU Superintendent; Megan Keyes, NewBrook Special Education teacher; Mrs. Kunkle, NewBrook Elementary 1st & 2nd grade teacher; Emily Long, Leland & Gray School Board Chair; Molly Wilson, NewBrook Para-Professional aid.

Kim Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM immediately after the prior *Brookline School Board* and *Newfane School Board* meetings ended.

PRESENTATION OF NEWBROOK'S 2011-2012 ACTION PLAN

Special Educator Megan Keyes gave an overview of the 2011-2012 Action Plan for NewBrook Elementary School, which she advised was open-ended since the school would have a new Principal in the fall. Megan advised that she, Pat Branley and Kim Kunkle (NewBrook 1st & 2nd grade teachers), Shelly Bostrom (kindergarten teacher) and Principal Bruce Garrow developed the action plan presented and that revisions are still needed. The plan focuses on: (1) curriculum and instruction in the areas of social studies, science, writing and math, (2) school climate & culture. Kim Friedman moved that the Board accept the action plan presented. Lee Anne Parker gave her second. Kim Friedman amended her movement and moved that the Board accept the action plan presented pending changes discussed by Megan Keyes. Lee Anne Parker gave her second. Kim Friedman called for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.

EARLY EDUCATION: DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF ON-SITE VS. COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Goal of Discussion: Determine if we want to move from community-based partnerships to an on-site program (impacts contracts slated to be signed in June).

A limited discussion followed where Ken McFadden strongly supported having a Pre-K program restored at the NewBrook Elementary School, and Lee Anne Parker requested information re: the estimated cost of having a Pre-K program at the school vs. the cost of community-based partnership Pre-k programs currently in use. Lee Anne also expressed concerns about the affordability of the current Pre-k programs to single parent families in the community. Brandy Pickering expressed her concerns about the high cost of having a Pre-K program at the school. Several Board members pointed out

that NewBrook's previous pre-k program was very limited and would not meet the requirements of Act 62. It was determined that at this time there is not sufficient evidence to direct the Superintendent to undergo a feasibility and cost study regarding development of an on-site pre-k program at the NewBrook Elementary School that would replace the school districts' contracts with qualified area early education programs.

Kim Friedman passed on to Steven John a request from Ariani Szykier regarding a possible partnership with Winston Prouty Center.

TASK: Steven will follow up with Ariani.

TICKLER: Steven John will present an update at the Board's June meeting re: contracts to be issued for FY12 re: community-based Pre-K programs.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Goal: Use the reports to inform our efforts to support achievement of student outcomes, as identified in our "Getting It Right" document.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent/Board relationship: Steven John suggested that Board members (1) try to reduce the length of the board meetings and (2) when visiting the school as a parent to speak to the principal as a parent, not as a board member.

Superintendent's Report: There were no questions regarding Steven's written report.

Principal's Report: There was no Principal's report as Bruce was with the 6th grade in Montreal.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT: DISCUSS OPTIONS AND STEVEN'S RECOMMENDATION

Goal: Bring closure to the discussion that took place at the 2/12/11 Joint Contract Board's Annual Meeting for the Brookline and Newfane School Districts (reminder: coordinate with L&G School Board)

Steven explained the legal limitations of using an Australian Ballot since Brookline and Newfane are still two separate school districts with the *NewBrook Elementary School* serving both districts. A discussion followed. It was agreed that at this time an Australian Ballot would not be feasible.

INFORMATION-SHARING: Richard Berkfield (Farm to School Program) will do a presentation at September Board meeting.

TASK: Kim Friedman will contact Chris Pratt, NewBrook's incoming principal re: Richard Berkfield's upcoming presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVE APRIL 14TH MEETING MINUTES

A discussion developed regarding getting the board meeting minutes out to the public in a timelier manner. It was suggested that recorder Amy Jo Cable should shorten the length of the minutes by not putting so much detail about the discussions that take place at meetings since it would then make it easier for Kim to proof-read them and send the minutes out to the public. It was agreed that Amy would shorten the essence of Board discussions in her draft minutes.

Kim Friedman moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2011 with one correction: Brady (not Brandy) Anderson attended the April Board meeting. Ken McFadden, Lee Anne Parker and Dan Seiden abstained as they were not present at the April meeting. All others were in favor. Motion passed.

JUNE BOARD MEETING PLANNING: A short discussion took place regarding the last board meeting of the year before summer vacation.

JUNE TICKLER: Discuss additional information regarding after-school programs

<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE BOARD MEETING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, June 21st</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NewBrook Elementary School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30-7:00 PM—Celebration of Bruce's 14 Years at NewBrook Elementary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00-8:30 PM—Regular Meeting</p>
