

Notice: These minutes are in D R A F T format, and shall remain as such as the legal record in compliance with RSA 91:A in their written archival form. They are likely to contain errors and may be in need of correction which can only be done in public in a properly-posted, subsequent meeting of the School Board. Accordingly, you are referred to the minutes of a subsequent (i.e. future -- but not necessarily the next sequential) meeting of the Board to identify what may have been changed as an approved and properly modified record in compliance with law.

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**School Board Minutes**  
 For  
 Monday, March 27, 2023  
 Non-Public: 6 p.m.  
 Public Session: Following Public Hearing  
 Location: LMC - Newfound Regional High School

- I. Call to Order by Superintendent of Schools Pierre Couture at 6:03 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Nomination of Chair of the Newfound Area School Board  
 Kim Bliss nominated Melissa Suckling for chair of the school board. Dominic Halle seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
- IV. Nomination of Vice Chair of the Newfound Area School Board  
 Dominic Halle nominated Kim Bliss as vice chair. Britta Matthews seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
- V. Record Roll:
 

Kimberly Bliss, Alexandria	present
Dominic Halle, Bridgewater	present
Joe Maloney, Bristol	present
Melissa Suckling, Danbury	present
Britta Matthews, Groton	present
Thomas Edwards, Hebron	present
Michael Delaney, New Hampton	present
- VI. Melissa Suckling recommended the board enter Non-Public Session: 91-A:3(a): The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employer or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Kim Bliss seconded. Roll call vote all present said yes. Board left for nonpublic at 6:07 p.m. and returned at 6:30 p.m.
- VII. Approval or Modification of Agenda  
 Melissa added 7. Professional Transfers under New Business
- VIII. HB 349 Discussion  
 Melissa motioned to open discussion to the large audience present. Britta Matthews seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

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Robin Reinhold, Business Administrator, presented “Projected Cost for Bridgewater/Hebron/Groton forming SAU: Info Based on FY22 Budget and FY22 Actual Exps” and then answered questions from the public.

Melissa Suckling read two emails she received from residents in favor of House Bill 349.

Carroll Brown inquired for the financial impact. Bryan Richardson noted two Alexandria selectmen were present tonight. John Sellers provided a history of House Bill 349 to note the amendment needs to be made now to the Senate. Ruby Hill added to the discussion.

Representative Alvin See noted a letter from an SAU will carry more weight than individuals. HB 349 passed the House of Representatives and moves on to the Senate. We will receive notification of the date if we want to testify. There is talk of an amendment to push for a quicker timeline instead of up to four years or longer.

Pierre noted he can draft a letter or amendment to define the timeframe. Tom Edwards moved to request Pierre Couture to work with the local representatives and use RSA 195 language to draft an amendment to the Senate Education Committee as soon as possible. Joseph Maloney seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

IX. Approval of Minutes

a. March 13, 2023

Kim Bliss moved to approve 3-13-23 minutes. Dominic Halle seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

b. March 20, 2023

Melissa moved to approve 3-20-23 nonpublic minutes. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 6-0-1-0 (Hebron abstained) ***Motion Passed***

X. Public Comment (Minimum 30 minutes)

Bryan Richardson, Alexandria noted House Bill 349 did not consult with NH State Representatives, families need encouragement and opportunity to locate in NH, and we need to speak at the hearing in Concord. Bryan also noted the wells in the athletic fields are in good shape.

Ruby Hill, Danbury noted each school is a part of the community and she supports a local school in a local community to encourage parent involvement and parental, community support.

Kim MacLean, Danbury prefers DES and not a regional elementary school. She proposes that the board consider a modular solution to DES. Kim has done a lot of research on the proposal. Melissa suggested Kim email Melissa to put Kim’s proposal on next meeting agenda.

Kelly MacLean, B-HVS noted a professional transfer from B-HVS to BES needs more discussion and conversation with administrators.

XI. Correspondence

Pierre Couture gave the board a document regarding water testing for lead and the remediation process that is in place.

XII. Announcements and Recognition

a. Superintendent Report

Pierre Couture welcomed two new board members, Joseph Maloney from Bristol and Michael Delaney from New Hampton. Pierre congratulated the robotics team for their win at UNH and now on to Springfield Massachusetts with generous funding from

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Freudenberg-NOK. Pierre will invite coaches Don White and Lori Mayo to attend next meeting with the robotics students.

Last day of school is June 16, 2023 if no more snow days.

Pierre met with Plymouth State University graduate students in an effort to recruit good teachers. He will return with Mel Shokal for a Job Fair. Hiring season is now ongoing for next season.

b. Student Representative Report

Mika Austin expressed student concern with potential lead in the water system as stated in the recent report. Monday is course selection for next year. Wednesday is the SAT. The anonymous Youth Behavior Survey will inform CADY with data utilized to improve student health and behavior. Track and baseball have started with a positive attitude. Last year softball had a great season and this year is better. Top 13 dinner will be at the Common Man. Friday Student Council hosts a blood drive with pancake breakfast too.

c. Teacher Representative Report

Sarah Ohl noted the Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator, Amy Yeakel is providing multiple real world career opportunities.

One book, one school promotes a reading culture. This year staff and student input selected "To Catch a Killer." Science and forensics were the main interests. The author will visit and give a workshop.

Math Team performed very well. Spring musical, "Cinderella" is May 12, 13 at 7 p.m. Prom is May 20 and there are prom dresses available.

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee- no report
- b. Facilities Committee- next meeting April 12 4 p.m. NRHS
- c. Policy Committee- next meeting April 13
- d. Wellness Committee- next meeting April 19
- e. Building Committee- large turnout at the listening session March 23. Survey results are in. Meet Wednesday this week to decide on configurations we consider and what costs to add onto DES, or cost of a regional school. More funds needed for the architect because the first 30 thousand expended. The committee is working on informed options for three or four configurations then we can send out another survey concerning the costs.
- f. Curriculum Committee- next meeting April 17 5:30 p.m. NRHS
- g. Hill School District Committee- met on April 7 and Hill provides good feedback

XIV. New Business

1. Restoring ELA Position at NMMS  
Pierre noted the budget passed at the first deliberative session with an amendment to restore the ELA position at NMMS. Tom Edwards made a motion to restore the ELA position at the middle school. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***
2. Professional Staff Nominations  
Melissa Suckling made a motion to accept the professional staff nominations as presented by the superintendent. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 5-0-2-0 (Hebron and Bristol abstained) ***Motion Passed***
3. New Teacher Nominations  
Melissa Suckling moved to approve the new math and science teacher nominations as presented. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***  
Resignation:

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Kim Bliss moved to accept resignation as presented. Tom seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

4. Meeting Schedule

Board discussed whether to keep two meetings a month or reduce it to one meeting a month since so much work done in committees. Tom and Kim support status quo because twice a month gives us time to address something in a timely manner. Tom moved to accept the board meeting schedule as presented. Joseph Maloney seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

5. Committee Assignments

Members should email Melissa their committee assignment preferences as soon as possible and will vote on approval next meeting.

6. Field Trip (s)

Amy Doolin and Mr. Champagne request trip next April 20 to visit historical sites on the Freedom Trail in Boston. Tom Edwards moved to approve the trip. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Dori Higgins and BES Fifth grade request a trip to the Boston Science Museum June 1.

Kim moved to approve the trip. Dominic seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Sarah Cormiea requests to take 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade B-HVS Trip to the Montshire Museum June 2 in Norwich, VT. Dominic moved to approve the trip. Tom seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Sheila Miller and Paul Hoiriis request a trip to Morocco April 18, 2025 to April 26, 2025. Tom moved to approve the trip. Britta seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Updated senior class trip request to Hampton Beach and Canobie Lake Park June 7, 8. Melissa moved to approve the trip and Michael Delaney seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Robotics team requests travel to West Springfield, MA for a district competition April 5-8. Joseph Maloney moved to approve the trip and Britta seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

7. Professional Transfers

Pierre Couture recommended the board approve transfer of Maureen McAuliffe to literacy specialist at BES and Kelly MacLean from B-HVS to BES.

Britta opposes the transfers. Tom Edwards moved to approve the transfers. Joseph Maloney seconded. Vote 3-4-0-0 (Groton, Bridgewater, Danbury and Alexandria voted no) ***Motion Failed***

Dominic moved to separate the two transfers. Tom seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

Dominic moved to transfer Maureen McAuliffe to BES. Tom seconded. Vote 6-1-0-0 (Groton voted no) ***Motion Passed***

Britta Matthews made a motion to put a hold on the transfer until more information from building principals. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 7-0-0-0 ***Motion Passed***

XV. Board Comments

Kim Bliss praised the performance of Alice in Wonderland at the middle school.

Britta Matthews referenced misleading news articles. Pierre invited the author to visit the middle school and/or attend meetings.

Tom Edwards praised the work that Robin put into her presentation tonight and urged caution in order to not fuel rumors with misleading information.

Michael Delaney commented on the state standards for water change. He inquired of the trend in student population and Melissa noted the numbers be given to him.

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- XVI. Financial-no manifest  
Melissa asked what the unassigned fund balance is now. Robin will tell us next meeting.
- XVII. Adjournment  
Tom motioned to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Melissa seconded. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

District staff: Pierre Couture, Superintendent of Schools; Robin Reinhold, Business Administrator; Nancy Coffin, Student Services Administrator; Jeannette Shedd, Curriculum Administrator; Susan Read, Videographer; Sarah Ohl, Faculty representative; Mika Austin, Student representative

Public: Ruby Hill, Danbury; Kathleen Connor, Hebron; Jennifer Larochelle, Hebron; Vanessa Robert, Hebron; Lindsie Santamaria, Hebron; Kelly MacLean, B-HVS; Susan DeGrace, B-HVS; Erica Cook, Bristol; Kim MacLean, Danbury; Brian Lewis, Alexandria; John Sellers, Bristol; Carroll Brown, Bristol; Bryan L. Richardson, Sr.; George Tuthill, Alexandria; Bob Piehler, Alexandria; Representative Alvin See, Merrimack District 26 (includes Danbury and Hill); Starr Middleton, Danbury; Susan Colby, Bristol and others.

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*Newfound Area School District*

**03.27.2023**

*Professional Staff Hiring*

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Jazmyn Carr	NRHS	Science Teacher BA Step 3	8/28/2023 Replacing Anna Fetter
Kurt McCandless	NRHS	Math	8/28/2023 Replacing Jessica Wallace

*Professional Staff Resignation*

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Marisa Zuppa	NRHS	Special Education	6/30/2023 Staff member is only able to work part time. The position is full time.

*Professional Staff Transfers*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Transfer to</b>	<b>Position</b>
Maureen McAuliffe	BES	Literacy Specialist Replacing Lynn Goodnough
Kelly MacLean	BES	Grade 3 Teacher On Hold