

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

Monday, May 22, 2023

Non-Public: 6 p.m.

Public Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Public Session: Following Non-Public

Location: LMC - Newfound Regional High School

- I. Call to Order by the School Board Chair Melissa Suckling at 6 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Record Roll:

Kimberly Bliss, Alexandria	present
Dominic Halle, Bridgewater	present
Joe Maloney, Bristol	present
Melissa Suckling, Danbury	present
Britta Matthews, Groton	excused absent
Thomas Edwards, Hebron	present
Nathan Saler, New Hampton	present
- IV. Melissa Suckling moved to 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. Joe Maloney seconded. Board left for nonpublic and returned at 6:30. Board discussed personnel during nonpublic.
- V. Public Hearing to accept and expend funds, from the Beyond School Enrichment grant, for \$23,038.35.
There was no public comment. This outdoor program is summer enrichment for high school students. Kim Bliss moved to accept and expend funds from the Beyond School Enrichment grant for \$23,038.35. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
- VI. Hill School Board/Newfound School Board Discussion
Michele Munson, Carol Asher, (Charles Estes excused absent) are Hill School Board members. Brian Connelly, Hill Principal and Superintendent participated in a discussion concerning the tuition agreement that requires a joint meeting with the Newfound Board. Kim Bliss has been meeting monthly with Hill concerning the current agreement that expires 2025. Brian Connelly noted the optimal relationship in place and if joining the cooperative is not chosen perhaps lengthening the tuition agreement to 13 years instead of ten may work. Clarity is desired by June 30, 2023. Michele noted the many opportunities available to Hill students and they are receiving a quality education at Newfound.

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- Melissa questioned the reasons for Hill wanting to join the cooperative. Brian noted collective bargaining and a level of protection for employees. Michele noted the community wants to keep their own school including a preschool and K-6 enrollment 65 students. Brian noted there is room for Danbury students as well. An invitation was extended to the Newfound board to visit Jenny Blake next fall.
- Melissa Suckling suggested a Hill School Board member sit in on the Building Committee to keep informed. Carol Asher agreed this is a good idea. Kim Bliss made a motion to add ex officio from the Hill District to the Building Committee. Tom Edwards seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
- VII. Approval or Modification of Agenda
Add 8. School Lunch Bad Debt under New Business
- VIII. Approval of Minutes
a. May 8, 2023
Kim Bliss moved to approve amended minutes 5-8-23. Dominic Halle seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
- IX. Public Comment (Minimum 30 minutes)
Aubrey Freedman, Bridgewater disagreed with several policies, for example, annual notifications to opt in or out, sex education in schools and questioned if all books are catalogued in school libraries.
- X. Correspondence
None
- XI. Announcements and Recognition
a. Superintendent Report
Pierre Couture gave recognition to Sue Severans for her long service to Project Promise who is retiring. Pierre has been busy filling positions and still needs a Spanish Teacher and Speech Therapist among others.
b. Student Representative Report
Mika Austin reviewed sports records being broken, prom last Saturday at the Laconia Opera House (great DJ), US History went to Boston, Cinderella was fun, and Spring Fling is Thursday.
c. Teacher Representative Report
Sarah Ohl noted the successful program for guardians and grandparents that just finished. Sarah praised boys track and Taylor Mooney broke our school record. Voting for class officers is coming up at the high school.
- XII. Committee Reports
a. Budget Committee
The next meeting is Thursday August 17 at 6 p.m. room 106 NRHS.
b. Facilities Committee-no report
c. Policy Committee
Pierre noted our policies comply with the NHSBA required policies.
d. Wellness Committee
Wellness policy is under revision.
e. Building Committee

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Meetings are paused due to the work of the architect.

- f. Curriculum Committee

There was a meeting May 15 and the next meeting is in the fall to review the curriculum cycle and final draft vision/mission statement.
 - g. Hill School District Committee

Kim Bliss has been meeting with the committee and Michele Munson, Carol Asher and Brian Connelly attended tonight's meeting to discuss options.
- XIII. New Business
1. Recommendation(s)

Jennifer Pinkney to new Kindergarten Teacher BHVS
 Raymond Curren to Guidance Counselor NRHS
 Eliza Boswell to 5th grade Teacher BHVS
 Melissa moved to approve the superintendent's recommendations for hiring. Joe Maloney seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 2. Resignation(s)

Meredyth Kjellander DES Guidance Counselor
 Maureen McAuliffe NRHS/NMMS Literacy Specialist
 Sam Tracy NRHS Guidance
 Melissa moved to accept resignations as presented. Kim Bliss seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 3. Policies for First Reading
 - a. IGE Exceptions to Use of Specific Course Materials
 - b. IGE-F Parent Guardian Objection to Specific Material
 - c. JFCN Use of Student Work-Student Photograph
 - d. EEAEA Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Bus Drivers and Contracted Carriers

Kim Bliss moved to approve policies for first reading: IGE, IGE-F, JFCN, and EEAEA. Dominic seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 4. Policies for Second Reading
 - a. IHAM Health Education
 - b. IHAM-F Health and Sex Ed Opt-out
 - c. KLB Public Complaints about the curriculum or Instructional Materials
 - d. IGD Co-Curricular Programs
 - e. IGDJ Interscholastic Athletics
 - f. Confidentiality Agreement Form

Melissa moved to approve policies for second reading: IHAM, IHAM-F, KLB, IGD, IDGJ, and Confidentiality Agreement Form. Nate Saler seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 5. District Handbooks
 - a. NMMS Student Handbook Changes
 - b. NRHS Student Handbook Changes

Kim Bliss moved to approve District Handbooks for NMMS and NRHS students. Joe Maloney seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 6. Job Description
 - a. Math Interventionist

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Pierre noted this is a one-year position grant funded from ESSER. Melissa moved to approve the job description for Math Interventionist. Dominic seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

7. Field Trips

NMMS TSA Alicia Lynn to Kentucky International Convention Center for TSA National Conference. 6-28-23 to 7-3-23. Dominic moved to approve the field trip to Kentucky. Tom seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
 NRHS Jim LeBaron requests to take French Club to France 4-18-24 to 4-26-24. Kim moved to approve trip to France. Tom seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

NRHS Laura Hutchins requests to take art students to Iceland for world travel experience in 2025 TBD to the end of April vacation. Joe Maloney moved to approve trip to Iceland. Dominic seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

8. School Lunch Bad Debt

This balance needs paid off because it cannot roll over to next year. Pierre has been highly encouraging families please to call Robin to work out a payment plan to work on the overdue balance. The current total overdue balance is over \$14,000 and was \$20,000.

XIV. Old Business

a. Interim Superintendent

The committee of seven people chose Steven Nilhas for Interim Superintendent and he will be invited to our next meeting June 12. Melissa moved to approve the new candidate Steven Nilhas for Interim Superintendent. Dominic seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

Melissa noted there will be a search committee formed by July 1, 2024 for a long term superintendent.

XV. Board Comments

Several events received recognition like Senior Prom and Cinderella musical.

XVI. Financial

a. Manifest(s)

Melissa moved to approve April 2023 manifest. Tom seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

XVII. Adjournment

Melissa moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Kim seconded. Vote 6-0-0-1 (Groton excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

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, Teacher
 Public: Aubrey Freedman, Bridgewater, Tom Caldwell, Bristol, Hill School District Michele Munson, Carol Asher, and Brian Connelly.

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New Hampshire

Department of Education

Beyond School Enrichment Opportunities Grant Request for Applications 2022-2023

School: Newfound Regional High School

Grant Applicant: Sarah Cutting, English Teacher

Principal: Paul Hoiriis

Superintendent: Pierre Couture

Section 1: Eligibility

Absolute Priority 1

This Outdoor Club program will meet academic, social and emotional needs of our students in many ways.

According to the article [“When the Wilderness Becomes a Classroom,”](#) published by Educational Leadership, programs like Outward Bound found effective ways to engage students with real-world learning and meaning-making by introducing them to activities like rock climbing, while reading classic literature, discussing socio-emotional challenges and solutions. The program found that, “Instead of reading about other people’s adventures, our students were reading and writing about their own.” We hope to build an afterschool program such as this, where students are both challenging themselves physically & academically, building their self-esteem, as well as their sense of place for the resource that is our New Hampshire environment. Paul Herdman writes that the evidence points to the effectiveness of Outward Bound - experience-based programs create safe places for students to take academic, social, and physical risks, and to learn to collaborate with others in real, hands-on situations, all of which are skills that we hope to help our students hone, but which are often hindered, for some students, by traditional classroom walls.

Competitive Preference Priority 1

According to SAU 4 Danica Spain, the district Data Coordinator, Newfound High School’s free/reduced lunch percentage is currently 27%; however, Newfound Middle School’s eligibility is 31%, so NRHS anticipates an increase next fall.

Competitive Preference Priority 2

Newfound Regional High School has an program called Project Promise that offers tutoring and in-house clubs for students to attend after school. There is no program to take students off-campus for outdoor experiences such as hiking, camping, etc. Many students do not have the opportunity to experience intensive, hands-on experiential learning in our school or in other beyond-school programming.

Section 2: School Information

Please complete all information. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Newfound Regional High School is a part of Newfound School District, SAU 4. Paul Hoiriis is the current high school principal, and Pierre Couture is the current district superintendent. The business administrator is Robin Reinhold. Prior permission from both the principal and superintendent has been granted to me to write this grant.

Section 3: Proposed Program Information

The Outdoor Club advisor will be the same as the grant applicant, Sarah Cutting. This program is intended to serve at least 40 students, 20 per club advisor, at grades 9-12. These trip will be offered to students in the summer of 2023. As many of the materials included in this budget should last for several years, we intend to continue to use these items as part of a year-round, on-campus or in-district afterschool program.

Section 5: Summary of Proposal

Our school serves a population of rural students in the Lakes Region who come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds - we have some students who travel the world with

their families during school vacations, and we have others who have never been up Mt. Washington, or in a boat. While these students live in an area that is famous for hiking and outdoor activities, but many of them are missing a sense of place - this Outdoor Club summer enrichment program will serve to fill that gap. As a series of summer trips off-campus, we hope to include as many different students as possible in an outdoor experience. As a continued year-long club, this program will provide a regular experience for a population of students who are not drawn to typical intramural and extracurricular programming. Throughout the year, we will continue to plan local day trips after school or on weekends that will allow students to experience exploration and learning beyond the classroom walls. The current afterschool offerings at NRHS, such as traditional extracurricular sports, drama, chess club, D&D club, robotics club, etc do not extend into experiential outdoor adventures, or get students off-campus and into the nearby wilderness. This Summer Outdoor Club seeks to change that. Along with coordinating and facilitating outdoor activities during both the summer and school year, club advisors would arrange for engaging / applicable literature and non-fiction reading activities, local speaker visits, such as NH Fish & Game officers, and encourage students to engage in reflective discussions and journaling.

Beyond School Enrichment Grant Budget Template 2022-2023

Please create a separate budget for each project. Define the project utilizing the tabs at the bottom (Project #1, Project #2, etc.). For a project at a different school within the same District, a separate application and associated documents shall be filled out.

School Name:	Newfound Regional High School
District Name:	Newfound
SAU #:	4
Program Contact Name:	Sarah
Program Contact Email:	scutting@sau4.org
Project Name:	Outdoor Education Club
Project Description (brief):	This summer enrichment program will support our high school students in the development of skills in various outdoor activities, such as hiking and camping within the environments of New Hampshire's natural resources, such as the alpine climate and coastal whale watching. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills, as well as applicable SEL skills will also be priority. As a continuation of this summer program, our year long club will meet monthly for additional related experiences. A focus on the development of connections to local community resources and state conservation groups will be established as the group continues to meet throughout the year.
Amount Requested:	\$23,038.35

Type of Cost	Description of Cost	Cost
Hiking Supplies	Sleeping bags (\$83.82 x 22 = \$1844.04) Hiking poles (\$37 x 22 = \$814) Whistles & bivy sacks (6 x \$21.90 = \$131.40) 1 person tents (\$59.99 x 22 = \$1319.78) Microspikes (\$17.99 x 22 = \$395.78) First Aid kits (\$13.88 x 10 = \$138.80) Sawyer Water Filter kits (11 x \$29.08 = \$319.88) Camp stove set (10 x \$26.99 = \$269.99) Snowshoes (22 x \$149.95 = 3298.90) Walkie talkies (\$98.99 x 3 = \$296.97) Headlamps (22 x \$24.95 = \$548.90)	\$9378.35
Stipend	Pay for two program advisors SAU 4 collective bargaining agreement Class F stipend (currently \$730 x 2) each for Outdoor Adventures program	\$1460
Transportation to locations via school bus during the summer of 2023	5 trips - 2 overnight camping trips (1 beginner/1 intermediate) - 2 day hikes (1 beginner/1 intermediate) - 1 whale watching trip	\$10,000

	estimated cost per trip via bus = \$2000	
Tickets & Fees	Whale Watching (\$45 tickets x 22 = \$990) Hike Safe Cards = (\$25 x 22 = \$550) AMC Campsite fee = (\$15 x 22 = \$330) x 2 trips = \$660	\$2200
Total Cost of Project:		\$23,038.35

Newfound Area School District

05.22.2023

Professional Staff Hiring

Name	School	Position	Effective Date		
Jennifer Pinckney	BHVS	Kindergarten	8/28/2023	MA	New Kindergarten
Raymond Curren	NRHS	Guidance Counselor	8/28/2023	MA +30	Sam Tracy
Eliza Boswell	BHVS	5 th Grade	8/28/2023	MA	Rebecca MacPherson

Professional Staff Resignation

Name	School	Position	Effective Date
Meredyth Kjellander	DES	Guidance Counselor	6/30/2023
Maureen McAuliffe	NRHS/NMMS	Literacy Specialist	6/30/2023
Sam Tracy	NRHS	Guidance	6/30/2023

Professional Staff Transfers

Name	School	Position