

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 November 13, 2023
 Non-Public: 6 p.m.
 Public Session: 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Café - 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	excused absent
Joe Maloney, Bristol	present
Melissa Suckling, Danbury	present
Britta Matthews, Groton	present
Thomas Edwards, Hebron	excused absent
Nathan Saler, New Hampton	present

- IV. Non-Public Session:

Melissa motioned to enter nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(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.

RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

RSA91-A:3, II(l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Kim Bliss seconded. All present except Hebron and Bridgewater. Board returned at 6:20 p.m. Board discussed personnel changes in nonpublic.

At 6:30 p.m. Virginia Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance and the School Budget Committee members introduced themselves.

- V. Approval or Modification of Agenda – none

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- VI. FY25 Budget Presentation Steve Nilhas presented the fiscal year 2025 NASD proposed budget that is available on the sau4.org website. Discussion: Joe noted administrative cuts were not made and Steve noted increased regulations require staff. Nate asked what is driving increases in transportation. Molly clarified support staff at SAU that is tech, payroll and secretarial. Kim would like to see the enrollment data report from the past.

Virginia Parker adjourned the Budget Committee to the Library at 7:03 p.m.

- VII. Approval of Minutes
October 23, 2023 - Kim Bliss moved to approve 10-23-23 minutes. Nate seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

- VIII. Public Comment (Minimum 30 minutes)
Marie Carson, Alexandria gave handouts of the proposed revised JLCF Wellness Policy comparing the old policy with the new revised wording. Marie noted the change in language makes the school sound like a medical clinic instead of an academic institution. She noted the expanded social-emotional health aspect will require additional resources with no clear path to pay for implementation of the policy and the concern is that emphasis spent on administrative duties takes away from academics.

Kailea Ladeau, Bristol is a senior at Newfound and is concerned with the budget proposal to cut teacher positions that will impact students. Also, the cut in field trips is unfair to students.

Aubrey Freedman, Bridgewater on a positive note the middle school is raising the standard. Aubrey agrees with Marie, however, that the new revised language in the Wellness Policy is using the CDC model in our school that is not a medical center. Also, parents should receive notifications.

- IX. Correspondence Steve noted a thank you card for all who participated in the military card challenge with over 400 cards collected to mail.

Melissa read a letter of resignation/retirement from Susan Cross to take effect on the last day of this school year. The board expressed sincere appreciation for Sue's contribution to the district over 31 years. Steve recognized Sue for her sense of humor, support and being a pleasure to work with.

- X. Announcements and Recognition
- a. Superintendent Report
Steve Nilhas noted the impact the proposed budget cuts will have on students and he pledges the time to answer questions concerning the budget. He recently visited three school building events and is pleased with the programs.
 - b. Student Representative Report Mika Austin noted today began the second quarter. Last Wednesday was dedicated to competency recovery. Seniors applied to NH colleges for free day. Today's speaker at the high school related to recognizing anti-semitism. Concerning proposed teacher/staff cuts, students are not happy. Blood Drive is tomorrow 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - c. Teacher Representative Report Sarah Ohl highlighted Danbury and Bristol Elementary Schools. DES K is learning 5 senses. 1st is learning numbers. 2nd how to be safe and responsible. 3rd finishing unit on classic tales. 4th writing in different genres and excited

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to be role models and leaders. BES classes held a pancake breakfast, put a scarecrow on the square, “Fred”, hiked to Inspiration Point for science, learned multiplication and division and about Incas, Aztecs and Mayas.

XI. Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee attended tonight’s fiscal year 2025 Budget Presentation
- b. Facilities Committee upcoming report
- b. Policy Committee presents tonight’s policies for reading and rescission
- c. Wellness Committee continues to meet
- d. Building Committee, no report
- e. Curriculum Committee upcoming meeting
- f. Hill School District Committee arranged joint meeting with Newfound School Board at Jennie Blake School in Hill on Wednesday at 5 p.m.
- g. HB349 Committee met last week for informational session and are working cooperatively

XII. New Business

1. NCFY Grant – Presented by Paul Hoiriis and Jen Kastick
Jen Kastick, District wide Social Worker gave handouts stating compelling reasons for applying for a Drug -Free Communities grant. CADY is no longer the fiscal agent for the grant and the SAU4 is requested to serve as fiscal agent instead of CADY. The top amount of the grant is \$125,000 with an in kind donation as a match. Kim Bliss moved to approve the SAU4 serving as fiscal agent for the Drug- Free Communities grant. Joe seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
2. Short term solutions to Danbury Elementary School facility needs. Joe noted DES wants 5th grade back at DES. There is community support for modular classrooms and agreed to split costs so the district would pay \$150,000 out of the maintenance trust fund. Joe moved to approve using up to \$150,000 to split costs for modular classrooms at DES. Melissa seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
3. Huot Career and Technical Center Contract – Discussion and Feedback approval later
4. Field Trip(s) Middle School 8th grade trip to Washington D. C. May 21-24, 2024. Joe moved to approve the field trip to Washington D. C. Nate seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
5. Bridgewater Hebron Village District Lease currently expires June 30, 2024. The BHV District requests an extension to June 30, 2025. Melissa noted a memorandum is needed if lease is extended one year. Melissa moved to approve the lease extension one year and Kim seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***
6. Policies for First Reading
 - ACN Nursing Mother Accommodation
 - IKL Academic Honesty and Integrity
 - BEDG Meeting Minutes
 - EHAB Data Governance and Security
 - JFG Interrogations, Student Searches, and their Property
 - JLCF Wellness

Melissa moved to approve policies for 1st reading: ACN, BEDG, EHAB, JFG, and JLCF. Nate seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

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7. Policies to Rescind

- AD Philosophy of the School District
- JD School Census
- JECAA Student Admissions: Admission of Post-Secondary Students
- JFC Student Conduct (Duplicate Policy)

Kim moved to approve policies to rescind: AD, JD, JECAA and JFC. Nate seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

XIII. Old Business

1. HB349 will continue to update

XIV. Board Comments

Middle School concert Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

XV. Financial

1. Approval of Manifest(s) none
2. FDA Grant – Food Service Melissa moved to accept a \$3247.23 FDA grant from the NH Department of Agriculture. Kim seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

XVI. Adjournment

Nate moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Melissa seconded. Vote 5-0-0-2 (Hebron and Bridgewater excused absent) ***Motion Passed***

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk

District staff: Steve Nilhas, Superintendent of Schools; Robin Reinhold, Business Administrator; Nancy Coffin, Student Services Administrator; Jeannette Shedd, Curriculum Administrator; Susan Read, Videographer; Paul Hoiriis and Jen Kastick presenters; Sarah Ohl, Teacher Rep. Many building administrators were in attendance.

Budget Committee members were present for the Budget Presentation.

Public: Heather Gosson, Bristol; Paula Mancuso, Bristol; Cindy Williams, Alexandria; Steve and Judy Lacasse, Alexandria; Sandi Despina, Bristol; Marie Carson, Alexandria; Stephanie MacComas; Wayne Hemingway, Bristol; Aubrey Freedman, Bridgewater; Larry Sharp and Nancy Sharp, Alexandria; Michelle Thayer, Bristol; Tom Caldwell, Bristol; Kailea Ladeau, HS student, Bristol

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Thank you all who
participated in the
Military Card Challenge.

We collected over
400 cards to mail.

Much Appreciated



H. Merchant
+ Family

11/2023

Susan L. Cross
61 Snoburk Lane
Hebron, NH 03222

October 30, 2023

Dr. Steven Nilhas
Interim Superintendent of Schools
Newfound Area School District
20 N. Main St.
Bristol, NH 03222

Dear Dr. Nilhas:

I have decided to retire and resign as the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant. My last day of work will be the last day of this school year. I want to thank everyone for the valuable experience and support during my 31-plus years at Newfound Area School District. I am more than happy to assist in any way with the transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan L. Cross', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Susan L. Cross
Administrative Assistant

**Bridgewater Hebron Village District
297 Mayhew Turnpike
Bridgewater Nh 03222**

10/30/2023

Newfound Area School District
Attn: Melissa Suckling
School Board Chair
20 North Main Street
Bristol, NH 03222

Re: Bridgewater-Hebron Village School Lease Agreement – Expires June 30, 2024

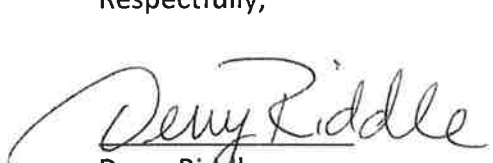
Dear Chair Suckling:

We ^{are} writing on behalf of the Bridgewater-Hebron Village District. As you are aware, Bridgewater-Hebron Village District ("Village District") and Newfound Area School District ("Newfound District") are party to a certain lease agreement originally dated April 1, 1999 whereby the Newfound District leases from the Village District the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School located at 25 School House Road, Bridgewater, New Hampshire ("Lease Agreement"). Under the terms of the Lease Agreement, the current 5-year term commenced July 1, 2019 and expires June 30, 2024.

Pursuant to Section III of the Lease Agreement, the lease term may be extended or renewed beyond June 30, 2024 subject to mutual agreement by the parties. To that effect, we are writing to provide notice that the Village District is willing to extend the term of the lease until June 30, 2025. If the provisions of HB 349 are adopted by the three towns (Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton) during their 2024 annual meetings, then the Village District will be terminating the lease effective June 30, 2025. Any subsequent arrangements will need to be negotiated with the planning committee and the newly formed Special Purpose School District and would be in the form of a tuition agreement or tailing out agreement. The planning committee is amenable to such discussions provided they are conducted in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully,


Derry Riddle
Commissioner


Terence Murphy
Commissioner


William White
Commissioner

To the SAU4 School Board
November 13, 2023

I have reviewed your proposed revised JLCF Wellness Policy and when comparing the old to the new this is what is written:

The term '**proper nutrition**' has been replaced with '**nutrition environment**'. A term derived at Nutrition Policy Institute by Sophia Navarro. It's a socialistic approach to making sure that everyone has the same potential to reach their optimal level of health.

The purpose of the policy has been changed from "as ways of promoting healthy lifestyles, minimizing childhood obesity and preventing other diet-related chronic diseases" to "**academic success of students is influenced by many factors, including the physical, social and emotional well-being.**"

The policy goal has been changed from "that the learning environment positively influences a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and physical activity". (This definition of the scope of the Wellness Policy has been removed) the goal has been expanded to "**goal of the Board is to leverage the Whole School, Whole Community and Whole Child (WSCC) Model as defined by CDC to ensure the school environment supports opportunities to improve cognitive, physical, social and emotional development....and the importance of evidence based policies and practices.**" 'Evidence based' is referring to new social and emotional screenings and assessments of all students.

The policy approach as been changed from "This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical behaviors throughout the school day to **addressing physical education and physical activity, nutrition environment, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, employee wellness, community involvement and family engagement**". The underlined portion makes the school sound like a health clinic.

Annual notification changed from one year to three years **section omitted** "The District will annually inform families and the public of basic information about this policy information, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status... in addition to how the public can get involved with the District Wellness Committee.

Under other activities the old policy called for the implementation of one wellness activity across the entire school. This is replaced with "**in furtherance...will identify and implement at least one universal, school-wide activity to take place during the year for each component (unit of 10) of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model.** Here is a list of the 10 components and an example of what is allowed as written in the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model:

1. **Health Education – education that occurs as part of a patient visit with a school nurse.** Since when is a student referred to as a "patient"?
2. Nutrition – national standards
3. Physical environment – standard definition
4. **Social and Emotional Climate – psycho-social aspects** Psycho-social development describes how a person's personality develops, it is a theory developed by Erik Erickson, a psychoanalyst known for his theory on psycho-social development of human beings. He coined the phrase 'identity crisis'. His theory is a complexed nine stage development of the ego. Who at our school is qualified to practice psychology? I have attached a 5 page

summary of this theory, it has nothing to do with academics.

5. Physical Environment – standard definition
6. Health Services – intervene with actual and potential health problems. These services are also designed to ensure access and /or referrals to the medical home or private healthcare providers (Not sure what a medical home or private healthcare providers mean? Why should the school intervene in medical issues, rather than refer the student to parents and their choice of medical providers?)
7. Counseling, Psychological and Social Services - These prevention and intervention services support the mental behavioral and social-emotional health of students. Services include psychological, psychoeducational assessments, and direct or indirect interventions; additionally, systems, level assessment, prevention, intervention and program design by school employed mental health professionals. It sounds like a health clinic and a diversion from academics.
8. Community Involvement – includes local groups, organizations and businesses There is no definition as to what groups, organizations or businesses will be invited to interact with the school.
9. Family engagement states that learning and development is a shared responsibility. There is no evidence that families are directly involved in the program, or a statement about disclosure of implementation or mention of parent permission for their child to participate in any of these activities.
10. Physical Education and Physical Activity- nation-wide CSPAP program which encourages physical activity before, during and after school.

Under record keeping section D in both versions it states Documentation confirming annual compliance with the requirement that District Wellness Policy, including updates, and the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Policy have been made available to the public; and Documentation of the efforts to review and update the District Wellness Policy; including who is/was involved in each update and methods the District uses to make stakeholders aware of opportunities to participate on the District Wellness Committee. It is, therefore, my right to know who was involved in the update of this policy and the steps taken to revise the policy.

Under Professional Learning– District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school was replaced with Health Education – When provided by qualified, trained teachers, health education helps students acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need for making healthy decisions. NASD will provide health education at all district schools in accordance with NH administrative rule ED 306.40

Added is Social and Emotional Climate – A positive social and emotional school climate is conducive to effective teaching and learning. The school climate can affect student engagement in school activities; relationships with other students, staff, family and community, health and growth; and academic performance. For further explanation go to NH MYSS-B Overview. This program is funded through Federal Grants. I would like to know how much has SAU4 received in grants to support the extended Wellness Program and what are the commitments of those grants?

Added is Physical Environment – basic safety conditions

Added is Health Services – School health services provide first aid, emergency care, and assessment of and planning for chronic conditions. In addition, services provide wellness promotion, referral to

prevention service (such as HIV testing), and student and parent education. The services also ensure access or referrals to outside health care providers. My tax dollars paid to the school are committed to academic purposes only, but for healthcare referrals, this should be a parental responsibility.

Added is Counseling, Psychological and Social Services – These prevention and intervention services support the mental and behavioral, social and emotional health of students. Services include a broad range of screenings, assessments, brief counseling and consultation, and referrals to school and community support services. This is a broad statement with no limitations.

Added Employee Wellness – Fostering the physical and mental health of school employees protects school staff and, by doing so, helps to support students' health and academic success. Healthy school employees are more productive and less likely to be absent.

Added Community Involvement – Community Groups and local businesses can create partnerships with schools, share resources, and volunteer to support student learning and health-related activities. Schools, students and their families can contribute to the community through student learning and by sharing school facilities with community members. Every three years the Wellness Committee will recommend surveys to the community. This is a broad statement and does not define what groups and purposes these partnerships would be used for.

Added Family Involvement – Families and school staff work together to support and improve students' learning, development, and health. The policy relative to partnerships among schools, families, and communities, shall comply with NASD(KA) School Family and Community Partnerships.

Comments and Questions:

There's a lot of activity, planning and resources involved in carrying out this expansive Wellness Program taking resources away from academic learning. The expanded social-emotional health aspect will require health professionals qualified to administer these assessments, referrals, consultations, etc; it will also require teachers' time to incorporate social-emotional education into their curriculum and document their assessments. All of this takes away from the focus on academics and will impact the school budget. There is nothing stated in this policy as to the cost of implementation or the number of additional labors hours required or for a recommendation for hiring additional medical professionals and support staff to sustain this policy.

This policy does not cover the sharing of student data with outside agencies, but it is part of the “Whole School (WSCC) Model. The type of screenings and assessments to be offered is not defined and there is nothing stated to assure that parents knowingly sign off on their children's participation in screening and assessments, or indication of how the confidential personal records of students will be shared with outside agencies.

There's no defined limit to which the school can make referrals and recommendations for services, or indication as to when mental and physical health issues become the sole responsibility of the parent(s) and their selection of providers and treatment. Why would the school take on the responsibility of diagnosing and treating medical and health problems, which can put the school district at risk for lawsuits?

This policy reflects all the attributes of the CASEL – SEL (Social-emotional learning) program. Why not be honest and tell it like it is, instead of embedding the program into a Wellness Policy.

Respectfully,
Marie Carson