

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWINGTON, CT 06111**

Newington Town Hall  
Helen W. Nelson Meeting Room  
Monday, June 25, 2018  
8:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Chairperson Joshua Shulman, Michael Branda,  
Dr. Sharon Braverman, Emily Guion, Steven Silvia, Cindy Stamm,  
Robert Tofeldt, Paul Vessella

ABSENT: Danielle Drozd

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Joshua Shulman called the Special Meeting of the Newington Board of Education to order at 8:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities

D. New Business

1. Action – Education Specifications Transition Academy and Central Offices

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Newington Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the Special Education Transition Academy located at Newington Town Hall. Steven Silvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Newington Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the Special Education Transition Academy located at an Alternate Site. Emily Guion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Steven Silvia moved the Newington Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the Board of Education Administrative Offices located at a School Site in Newington. Robert Tofeldt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Newington Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the Board of Education Administrative Offices located at Newington Town Hall. Dr. Sharon Braverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION - NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Special Session

June 25, 2018

Page 2

## **2. Action – Resignation and Agreement**

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Newington Board of Education accept the resignation of Dr. William C. Collins and authorize the Chairperson to enter into the negotiated agreement with him. Paul Vessella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **3. Action – Appointment of Acting Superintendent**

MOTION: Paul Vessella moved the Newington Board of Education appoint Pamela Muraca to serve as the Acting Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2018 pending Department of Education approval. Michael Branda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **4. Action – Designation of Personnel Search Committee**

MOTION: Emily Guion moved the Newington Board of Education appoint all members of the Board to serve as the Superintendent of Schools Search Committee in accordance with CGS 1-200(7). Michael Branda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **E. Public Participation on Any Matter Related to Board Responsibilities**

## **F. Remarks by Board Members**

## **G. Adjournment**

MOTION: Dr. Sharon Braverman moved to adjourn. Emily Guion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sharon Braverman, Secretary

Debra O. Craig, Board Clerk

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rose Lyons  
46 Elton Drive

Mrs. Lyons is sad to see the resignation of the superintendent and hopes it is for some other reason than the diesel spill and education grant. She finds it very disturbing as a resident and tax payer.

John Bachand  
56 Maple Hill Avenue

Mr. Bachand questioned the length remaining on the superintendent's contract. He agrees with Mrs. Lyons that the diesel spill is not a reason for his resignation. Superintendent is not personally responsible. He feels the

## BOARD OF EDUCATION - NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Session

June 25, 2018

Page 3

Maddie Kenny  
53 Crestview Drive

investigation report had evidence of that. He would like to hear the Board's reason.

Mrs. Kenny said ditto to what Mrs. Lyons said.

She also said she was ashamed at what transpired at a Town Council meeting this year vilifying Dr. Collins without him being at the meeting. She stated that Dr. Collins is the Board's employee. Isn't that where the buck stops?

Mrs. Kenny believes Dr. Collins worked for the children.

Joe Duggan  
17 Dover Road

Mr. Duggan wanted to publicly thank and acknowledge Dr. Collins for everything he has done for the school district. He is a visionary and every effort has been phenomenal. His family appreciates everything and acknowledges his improvement to the town.

Jen Rodriguez  
71 Northwood Road

Mrs. Rodriguez dittos Mr. Duggan. Her family has been part of the system for over 30 years. By far, Dr. Collins has been the best superintendent with his vision. She hopes his work is going to continue even though he has been pushed out by the public. She finds it disgusting. She feels they have been after him for a long time. It is upsetting as a parent and educator.

Rose Lyons  
46 Elton Drive

Mrs. Lyons respects the confidentiality of executive sessions but questions comments made at tonight's meeting. How can you have an executive session but public in town know what is discussed.

John Bachand  
56 Maple Hill Avenue

Mr. Bachand feels the Transition Academy should have been discussed the beginning. Trailers are already ordered and on the way. Separate building for the Transition Academy is absurd.

Resignation is terminating a contract. Not telling the public the details is hurting the

## BOARD OF EDUCATION - NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Session

June 25, 2018

Page 4

Jen Rodriguez  
71 Northwood Road

Board. The public needs understanding of the mechanics that went into the negotiations. Mrs. Rodriguez feels the idea of moving the Central Office personnel to a building connected to a school brings up security concerns.

Another concern is the size of one of next year's third grade classes at Anna Reynolds.

She also feels privately deliberating Board of Education members need to be accountable to code of conduct on social media.

She hopes the search for new superintendent's panel will include parents and educators.

Dana Havens  
113 Stoddard Avenue

Mrs. Havens thinks moving the Transaction Academy to a nearby house is a good idea.

She also cautioned the public to not believe all the rumors and innuendo on social media. You need to look for documentation.

John Bachand  
56 Maple Hill Avenue

Mr. Bachand clarified statement of lifetime insurance to mean until someone reaches Medicare.

He hopes superintendent search would result in someone "home grown".

Judy Igielski via telephone  
23 Old Musket Drive

As a former Board member in the 90's, Mrs. Igielski finds this extraordinary. She thanks Dr. Collins for his vision and for all the work he had done. She wishes good luck to the search committee. Comments have been rude and unkind.

Wayne Alexander  
28 Burdon Lane

Mr. Alexander feels everyone on the Board knows the code of school administration provision. It is their responsibility to abide by the law. He feels it is the superintendent's responsibility for the diesel spill. He also feels it is wrong of the Board in not telling the public everything. He warns that people will remember.

Steven Parker

Mr. Parker feels there has been a group

**BOARD OF EDUCATION - NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Special Session

June 25, 2018

Page 5

180 Indian Hill Road

gunning for the superintendent for a few years and finally got him. He stated they should be ashamed. Just ask the kids and teachers how much he did for the schools and for the town. He had a good run.