

September 24, 2018

A Special Joint meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton and the Newton Board of Education was held on the above date at 6:00 pm. Present were Mr. Dickson, Mr. Schlaffer (arrived @ 6:04pm), Deputy Mayor Flynn, Mayor Le Frois, Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager, Dawn Babcock, CFO and Lorraine A. Read, Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Diglio was excused.

Present for the Newton Board of Education were Stella Dunn, President, Jessica Egner, Vice-President, Ed Caffrey, Joan Faye, John Jackson, Ray Morris, Anthony Neggars, Ann Marie Cooke, Dr. Alfred Savio, Business Administrator and Dr. Ken Greene, Superintendent.

Mayor Le Frois made the following declaration that "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this special meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on September 5, 2018."

Mayor Le Frois welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance for this Annual Joint meeting between the Newton Board of Education and the Newton Town Council.

Mr. Russo gave opening comments and thanked Dr. Greene for their quarterly meetings. Mr. Russo asked Dr. Greene to outline the School Board funding and other updates.

Dr. Greene, Superintendent, advised there has been great strides with school funding, noting a return of \$500,000 to the taxpayers over the past two school budgets. This return of funds is a result of State Aid imbalances. Dr. Greene indicated it was a tremendous victory to ascertain additional funds from the State which has allowed a pathway to exist. At this time, Dr. Greene feels the petition filed with the Commissioner by both Boards can be removed temporarily due to the additional funding received.

Dr. Greene outlined three goals set by the Board of Education for this year:

- 1) Student Centered Learning – addressed differentiated instruction, math resources, professional development paths, curriculum development, mindfulness.
- 2) Equity for Vulnerable Children (Community Schools) – updated on Federal grant received:
 - a. Opened new afterschool program "Choose to Connect" (C2C) for grades 3-8. Enrolled 248 students (134 Halsted, 114 Merriam).
 - b. Mental & Behavioral Health Services - currently through Youth Advocate Programs, Center for Prevention & Counseling, Pass It Along; discussions with Newton Medical Center and private providers.
 - c. 2018-19 WSCC School Health NJ Project funded by the NJ Department of Health.

d. Preschool expansion:

i. Submitted to NJDOE on Friday for \$867,954; joined by PSS Little Sprouts and First Impressions.

ii. 5 full-day classes (3 in-district, 1 each by the local providers) with a max of 15 students each serving a total of 75 students. This in addition to our existing 2 in-district preschool disabilities classes.

iii. Expect NJDOE response by Oct 1 with a requirement to begin by Jan 2.

3) Safety, Security & Sustainability - walkthroughs, team meeting, plan review, digital apps, reunification drills, Energy Savings Improvement Program.

4) Other Updates:

a. Dr. Greene also thanked Newton DPW for their help with Merriam Ave. school playground.

b. Passed QSAC - NJDOE designated us as a "high performing" school district.

c. Kate DelVecchio, Halsted Art Teacher - Sussex County Teacher of the Year (2nd straight year for our district). The Board is very proud of Ms. DelVecchio.

Mr. Russo outlined some of the key projects going on in Newton and provided a brief synopsis of each one.

Mr. Russo advised the annual W/S connection fee schedule is currently being reviewed. The renewal of the cable franchise is being reviewed the Clerk's office and Town Attorney. He noted the schedule for Department Heads to update Governing Body is set with the following dates: September 12 - Community Development (completed); October 22 - DPW; November 26 - Newton Police.

Mr. Russo noted the following dates for Special Events: Fall Festival - Sunday, October 7, 2018; Holiday Parade/Spells on Spring Street - Saturday, November 24, 2018; Tree Lighting Ceremony - Friday, December 7, 2018.

He noted the upcoming Planning/Zoning projects: Armory Bldg.; Bula Bldg. Commercial/Retail space; G&H property; Town Planner will make presentation on Master Plan revisions at Council mtg. on 10/10/2018; McGuire's property for SCCC; Thorlabs project at former Camp Iliff property.

Mr. Russo noted PBA negotiations are underway. The new Firehouse #2 has begun and will be completed in 12-18 months. He indicated a sewer line inspection project has been completed and will be reported this evening by the Sewer Engineer.

Mr. Russo introduced Lt. Mark Zappa, Newton Police and Adam Vough, Assistant DPW Director, to outline areas of shared service with the Newton Board of Education.

Lt. Zappa outlined some shared services projects and indicated the radio and

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camera system with the Newton BOE is working well. He did note improvement is need with the portable radios. Lt. Zappa also thanked DPW for painting all the crosswalks prior to school opening.

Mr. Vough outlined the various projects his DPW department assists with throughout the year. Dr. Greene thanked DPW for their assistance to the maintenance team, in the beginning of the school year, in preparing for opening day.

Dr. Greene and Ray Morris briefly outlined the school consolidation and showed a 9-minute video explaining the brief history of school district regionalization in New Jersey.

Mayor Le Frois updated the PILOT's discussion and advised the Town of Newton does not have any current requests from Developers for PILOT payments. Ms. Dunn and Councilman Schlaffer noted they are not in favor of PILOT programs.

Dr. Greene noting the school's recreational fields are over utilized, asked Council to work together with the BOE to address other potential areas for adolescents and teens to use. Newton Town Council will continue to review this issue in Town and advised of the newly created Rain Garden located at Memory Park.

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

Mike Malone, 57 Trinity St, asked is busing is provided with the new after school programs and was advised by Dr. Greene that busing is provided and paid for with the grant received.

Maureen Snellen, Plainfield Avenue, had questions related to the preschool program and student therapy available at the schools which was addressed by Dr. Greene.

Luz Maria Villanueva, 117 High Street, addressed concerns with no buses being provided to residents of Newton and feels it is not fair. She would like this issue to be revisited.

Mayor Le Frois closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor Le Frois thanked the Newton Board of Education for this annual joint meeting and all their updates.

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Flynn, seconded by Mr. Dickson and carried, the Council adjourned at 7:06 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine A. Read". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "d".

Lorraine A. Read, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk