

1 **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

2 **TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD JOINT MEETING**

3 April 13, 2022 7:00 PM

4 Auditorium

5 Draft Minutes

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8  
9 **Councilors Present:** Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott  
10 Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe Lamattina and  
11 Councilor Colin White, Sr.

12  
13 **School Board Members Present:** Gary Swanson, Heather Durant, Andrew Haemaker, Phil  
14 Nazzaro and Amy Tilton

15  
16 **Staff Present:** Town Manager Stephen Fournier and School Superintendent Susan Givens.

17  
18 Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

19  
20 Each person present introduced themselves.

21  
22 Council Chair Weinstein mentioned that she attended the open house at the Jr./Sr. High School  
23 and congratulated the School Board, Dr. Givens, prior School Board Members and the  
24 Community on the new High School. She said it was amazing to see the transformation of the  
25 building. She also mentioned that the Junior and Senior Representatives did an outstanding job.

26  
27 Town Manager Fournier presented and overview of the different forms of Government.

28  
29 1. Strong Mayor/Board of Aldermen. Nashua and Manchester

30  
31 2. Council/Management (RSA 49). Voters elect a legislative body (Councilors). The head of the  
32 Council runs the council meetings. The Council hires a professional CEO to run the daily  
33 operations of the town. 11 cities and 7 towns have this form of government. Area cities are  
34 Dover, Rochester, Somersworth and Portsmouth; area towns are Durham and Newmarket.  
35 Newmarket has a budgetary town meeting with 2 items (besides election of officers) the budget  
36 and bonds. The Town Council votes on everything else.

37  
38 3. Select Board SB2. The School Board is similar to this form of Government. The voters elect  
39 School Board Members to serve as the governing body; they may hire a manager or  
40 administrator. A Manager has duties set forth by State Statute and an Administrator receives  
41 authority by the Board. The Town Meeting serves as the legislative body. There are 2 sessions,  
42 the deliberative session meeting to debate the warrant articles and the town meeting to vote on  
43 the warrant articles and budget. Area towns are Exeter, Hampton, Rye and Epping.

45 4. Traditional Town Meeting. The voters elect Board members to ser as the governing body;  
46 they do not have to appoint an administrative officer The Town Meeting serves as the legislative  
47 body. They meet annually at the town Meeting to vote on Warrant Articles and the Budget. Area  
48 towns are Stratham and Newington.

49  
50 Town Manager Fournier stated that under the town’s form of government we are not allowed to  
51 accept petitioned warrant articles unless when raising funds.

52  
53 Members of the Council and School Board have discussed briefly changing the town meeting  
54 date from March to May. If the meeting were in May, it would give more time to prepare the  
55 budget.

56  
57 Council Chair Weinstein said that they should discuss creating a Charter Commission; it’s been  
58 10 years since the last Commission and it’s a good idea to review to see if things need to be  
59 updated.

60  
61 Current Projects:

62  
63 Superintendent Givens thanked everyone for supporting the budget and special meeting held in  
64 November 2021. Current projects at the school – upgrading the electrical, ventilation and  
65 updating the windows in the older section of the elementary school; finish the landscaping in the  
66 courtyard at the Jr./Sr. High School for students to use as a learning space; security upgrades to  
67 the third floor of the town hall. Education-wise implanting a core math program at the  
68 elementary school and middle school. The PTA is fundraising for a new playground at the  
69 elementary school.

70  
71 Town Manager Fournier – The Town hired a new Community Development Director, Bart  
72 McDonough. Other job openings include a Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator and  
73 Town Engineer. Current projects include:

- 74 • New Road complete reconstruction, replacing water and sewer lines and stormwater  
75 improvements and paving
- 76 • Tucker Well construction
- 77 • Conduct salary survey – hire an outside consultant to conduct it.
- 78 • Town Gateway improvements. North Main Street extend the downtown to North Main  
79 Street; Route 108 - create a recreational zone – possible bike park with shops and  
80 restaurants. Take advantage of the rail trail, and Route 152 – self contained development  
81 such as town houses and banks.

82  
83 Superintendent Givens asked the Town Manager to include some of the school’s positions in the  
84 salary survey and to give her a copy of the State’s paving of route 152 schedule to her.

85  
86 Town Hall Facilities:

87  
88 Town Manager Fournier said that the CIP Committee have been discussing upgrades to the town  
89 hall at their last year’s meeting. The town offices are running out of room. There are space needs  
90 at the Police Department and the Recreation Department. He said they will use money from the

91 Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund to conduct a facilities study and plan to include the  
92 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the town hall (school side) in the study.

93  
94 Superintendent Givens said that the school side is in good shape. They were able to renovate the  
95 annex across from the Jr./Sr. High School for some office space.

96  
97 Both the Town Manager and Superintendent agree that there are some issues with the building.  
98 The windows don't work and there isn't adequate egress in the offices; there are wiring issues  
99 and no room for expansion.

100  
101 Town/School Collaboration:

102  
103 Superintendent Givens said that she has worked with the Recreation Department to organize a  
104 before and after school care at the school. The school has also worked with the library on the  
105 "community read" project. They have also shared resources such as the recreation van to  
106 transport athletes to events.

107  
108 Town Manager we will assist the school district in however we can. During the pandemic we  
109 shared a lot of resources, and we were able to give GOFERR money to the school when they  
110 needed it.

111  
112 Discussion ensued on the shared positions in the past. The finance director and facilities director  
113 positions were not equal positions on each side resulting in the failure of those shared positions.

114  
115 School Board Member Nazzaro asked how the town and school could work toward a shared  
116 vision.

117  
118 Town Manager Fournier said that it would involve working with the Planning Board on the  
119 Master Plan and holding visioning sessions. The last visioning session was held 6 or 7 years ago.

120  
121 Councilor Conley made a Motion to go into non-public session at 8:00 PM pursuant to RSA 91-  
122 A:3,II(i) – Security, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

123  
124 The Motion passed 7-0.

125  
126 Respectfully submitted,

127  
128 Wendy V. Chase  
129 Recording Secretary