

**Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Diana LaMothe
Mr. Ethan Beals
Ms. Fabiana Fickett
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Ms. Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator
Ms. Hannah LoVerdi, Student Representative

- A. **Call to Order:** Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. Ms. LoVerdi led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Public Input:** None.
- C. **Good News:** Ms. Organek mentioned that the health science students that are working toward their LNA certificates can continue their program because of Ms. Young who is coming to the school to teach these students.
- D. **Presentations to the Board:**
1. **Lions Field Update:** Mr. Nichols surveyed the Lions Field and concluded that the baseball field is larger than the property owned. The Board is interested in exploring the next steps in this process to create a new lot line.
- E. **Requests of the Board:** None.
- F. **Old Business:**
1. **2021-2022 School Calendar:** There has been questions about the 2021-2022 school calendar that was approved by the Board due to issues that could arise with February break being a different week than other districts. Mr. Russell is suggesting that the 2022 February break would start on February 28th.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to change the 2022 winter break to be starting on February 28th instead of February 21st, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Hourly Pay Rates: Ms. Burk reviewed payrates of staff who are receiving hourly rates. Ms. Burk mentioned that these payrates are competitive with other districts/companies as well and feels that these rates do not need to be changed.

G. New Business:

1. Enrollment of Employees' Children: Mr. Russell mentioned that this year teachers had the option for their children to enroll in the Hudson School District at no enrollment fee. Mr. Russell asked the Board to have a conversation about furthering this as this did benefit a few teachers.
2. Alvirne Warrant Article: Mr. Russell brought up the background, regulations, and process of the Alvirne Warrant Article. The Board and budget committee gave their opinions on the process for this article.

Ms. Fickett made a motion to have the last budget committee vote of not recommended 5-4 on article one on the ballot and the board will work together on this so this discussion does not go away, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests- Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes- Recommended action: Review and Approve.
 - a) 1/4/21 Draft Minutes:
Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the 1/4/21 draft minutes, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

b) 1/25/21 Draft Minutes:

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the 1/25/21 draft minutes, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, abstained. Motion passes 4-0-1.

I. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report: Mr. Russell mentioned that the weather is going to be rough the next couple of days and to always check WMUR in case power is down. Mr. Russell also talked about the new feature on the website called careers. Next week he will be conducting a presentation on working together for Hudson.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Organek mentioned that when students return from break it will be Read Across America week. She also mentioned that there was a food drive, and donations that have happened.
3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Burk mentioned that they are looking to extend the campaign for free meals that is through the food service program. Ms. Burk also talked about the roof replacements that will be coming up in conversation soon. Lastly, she asked the board to make a motion to accept a donation of 280 face shields.

Mr. Beals made a motion to accept the donation from the local company, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

4. Director of Special Education: Ms. Borge brought up the status of the HB-20 which is the education freedom account bill and other bills that are trying to be passed. She also mentioned that seven administrators attended a virtual training event.

J. **Legislative Updates**: Mr. Russell discussed the SB135, SB145, SB130, HB20, HB206 bill/vouchers and the importance they have in the district/community.

K. **Committee Reports**: None.

L. **Correspondence**:

M. **Board Member Comments**:

1. Ms. Hannah LoVerdi: Discussed how well the plunge for the Special Olympics went and how proud she is with all the money that was raised.
2. Ms. Kara Roy: Encouraged everyone to register to vote and to attend the session on March 9th.
3. Mr. Ethan Beals: No comment tonight.
4. Ms. Fabiana Fickett: Ms. Fickett brought up a comment that was made at the deliberative session that elderly people did not care about education. She mentioned that this is not the case at all. She stated that we need to start looking at our education in the town as a whole and to not see it as being divided.
5. Ms. Diana LaMothe: Seconded Fabiana's comment. She also hopes that they have a good turnout to vote at the Hudson Community Center.
6. Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thanked the budget committee for coming tonight. Mr. Gasdia also thanked Mr. Russell for dealing with the issue that arose. He is happy that everyone came and worked together to overcome this issue.
7. Dr. Darcy Orellana: Mentioned that these decisions are critical. She also talked about candidate and election night that will be happening.

N. **Upcoming Meetings**:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Purpose
School Board	3/1/2021	6:30 pm	Hudson Community Center	Regular Meeting
School Board	3/15/2021	6:30 pm	Hudson Community Center	Regular Meeting

O. **Non-public**:

Mr. Beals made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(C) at 7:38 pm, second by Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Historically, we hire a teacher as long-term sub for remainder of the year at this point. We want a change in practice to hire with benefits, permanently, not as sub. Board approves.

Carla Anger, Food Service Director is retiring this year.

IT Director is leaving.

Intent to retire – Nancy Catano

Ms. Fickett motioned to allow student request to stay in Hudson, second by Mr. Beals. Motion passes 3-2.

P. Adjourn:

Mr. Beals moved to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Ms. Fickett. Motion passes 5-0 with Mr. Gasdia and Dr. Orellana voting nay.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)

Kim Organek (non-public)