

July 20, 2020

Public Session: 6:30pm

**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. Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectman
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Susan Hickey, Business Administrator
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services

A. Call to Order: Board Chairman Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and accordance with the Governor’s emergency order, the board meeting is being held remotely via Zoom. She read a prepared statement regarding our electronic meeting which included how the Town of Hudson could participate/watch this meeting. Roll call attendance was taken. Dr. Orellana, present; Mr. Gasdia, present; Ms. LaMothe, present; Mr. Beals, present; Ms. Roy, present; Mr. Russell, present; Ms. Organek, present; Ms. Hickey, present; Ms. Borge, present.

B. Public Input: We received 5 emails for this week’s public input.

Sharon Angotti; 8 Kara crossing drive. Ms. Angotti is asking if it would be possible for the school year to start after Labor Day. Ms. Angotti states that the Governor was looking into this before the pandemic, for our neighboring communities and that there are other schools in New Hampshire and Massachusetts that are starting after Labor Day. She said that starting after Labor Day would give us a chance to react to the new opening guidelines for our schools. She thanked the board for taking her public comment.

Peggy Huard; 13 David Drive. Ms. Huard wants to know why the board is still holding zoom meetings claiming that they are result of the Governor’s stay at home order, when the Governor has replaced the stay at home order with a safer at home order. Ms. Huard stated that everything is opening back up and that she is concerned with the School Board’s lack of coverage to lead in a normal capacity. Ms. Huard had noted that the town has been holding in person meetings this whole time and wonders how we expect to open up the schools, if the Board is not holding in person meetings.

Linda Hagen; 13 A Twin Meadow Drive. Ms. Hagen wonders what remote learning will be like. She is asking if it will be live streamed with teachers, and if there will be improvements since the spring online learning. Ms. Hagen mentioned that it was a challenge for many parents because they didn’t know if their child is on track. She also raised concerns that if a teacher or student test positive for the coronavirus what are the plans we put forth to shut down the classrooms and/or school if necessary. She wonders how long will the quarantine periods will be and how will it be communicated and handled if we have to go into quarantine during the school year. Ms. Hagen thanks the School Board.

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Mathew Wu; 105 Lowell Rd. Mr. Wu writes that we need to keep this simple so that we can bring our children back to normal. Mr. Wu states his opinion that students should not have to wear masks and asked the Board to look at the United States by how many people have got the coronavirus while wearing a mask and social distancing. He also raised a concern that it's not healthy for kids to be using hand sanitizer several times a day. Mr. Wu reminded us of why we live in New Hampshire, live free or die. Mr. Wu thanked the Board.

Jennifer; 6 Hickory St. Ms. Jennifer stated in her email that things are worse today than they were at the beginning of the school closures. She questions that if the meeting about reopening of the schools is done remotely its insane to then reopen the schools and have the teachers and students all in close proximity. Ms. Jennifer raises a concern that it's unrealistic to think that kids will be following all the precautions that are necessary to keep everyone safe. She then said that until there is a vaccine and the CDC say that schools can reopen, she will be homeschooling her child because her child's health is more important to her.

C. Requests of the Board Ms. Hickey presented a packet that contained a facility use and rental application form to the board.

1. She stated the place that is being asked to be used is the hills house and the hills house fields. This would be a private event held at the end of September. Ms. Hickey said that at this point we are not letting school facilities be used to outsiders due to the coronavirus. She then went on to say that this would be cleaned and managed by the historical society who runs this facility. Ms. Hickey said the historical society has voted to allow this event to take place. There was a discussion about the maintenance and cleaning. Ms. Hickey reassured that the maintenance and cleaning will be done by the historical society, and not by the school staff. The Board has also made sure students will not be using this facility in September.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the request to use the Hills House and the Hills House fields, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Beals, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Mr. Russell said that a second request was brought to the board after the final agenda had been made. He stated this would require acceptance of the board and that a motion would need to be done for the speaker to present to the board.

Mr. Russell explained to the board, that an Eagle Scout just got permission to present his project that deals with school property.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to allow the Eagle Scout to present, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Beals abstained; Mr. Gasdia, Aye; Ms. Lamothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 3-0-1.

Evan Beals presented his Eagle Scout project to the board. His request is to renovate the home and away dug outs on the boys' varsity baseball field at Alvirne High School. The renovations he would make would be a new roof, new siding, new paint job, new supports, and a new bench in both dug outs. Evan went on to describe that the dug outs currently have water leaking through and that a dug out is missing a support. His end goal is to have a safer area and well-maintained dug outs. Evan is requesting approval from the board to start the project on the school grounds. Mr. Gasdia congratulated Evan on getting this far and then asked how he was going to handle social distancing while completing this project. Evan said

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that Boy Scouts of America put together guidelines to follow and that he would be wearing masks the whole time and social distancing with the other limited volunteers.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout project, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Lamothe, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Mr. Beals, abstained; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion Passes 3-0-1.

D. Old Business

1. Policies: Ms. Organek presented the 2nd reading of the following 9 policies with minor changes.

- a) JBAA Sexual Harassment/Students- Reviewed by Policy Committee
- b) JCA Change of School or Assignment- Replacing outdated policy w/NHSBA sample with tracked changes
- c) JEA Compulsory Attendance Age- New, NHSBA Sample Verbatim
- d) JEB Age of Entrance- grade 1- Reviewed by Policy Committee
- e) JEBK Age of Entrance-Kindergarten- Reviewed by Policy Committee
- f) JF Enrollment- New, NHSBA Sample w/ tracked changes
- g) JFA Residency- New, NHSBA policy Verbatim
- h) JFAA Admission of Resident Students- New, NHSBA policy verbatim
- i) JFAB Admission and Tuition and Non-Resident Students- Minor tracked changes

Three policies were reviewed JBAA, JEB and JEBK; there were no changes to these policies. There are four new policies that were put in place that were changed due to the NHSBA sample. The changes that were made in policy JF was the removal of private instruction. In policy JCA, JEC and JFAB the word pupil was replaced with student. Ms. LaMothe noted that certain related policies were missing under the policy codes.

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve the policies in the second readings, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Dr. Orellana. Motion passes: 4-0.

2. Alvirne Renovations: Ms. LaMothe recommended that it would be great if the board could set a schedule so that they could receive input from the staff, the architect, and the public as this is all very important. Ms. LaMothe also suggested that after input is received, we should plan a date to vote on what we will move forward with and how. There was also a discussion that was brought up on improving academic performance. Ms. LaMothe referenced that there are studies on improvements with students who have extracurricular activities, which include improve test scores, graduation rates, attendance, etc. Mr. Gasdia has stated he believes extracurricular activities would be great but at this time there is a lot on their plate that needs to be done first. There was then a conversation about creating a decision timeline for the board. Dr. Orellana had mentioned that if the committee and staff are passionate about this, then they need to let the board know. She also went on to say that her focus is on the safety of the schools right now, but she would like to get a start on this eventually down the road. The board decided to hold off on this until their present issues are settled first.

E. New Business

1. Bid Award – Copiers: Ms. Hickey went over the five new copiers that will be housed in various locations in the schools. The lowest bid was Canon Solutions which came to \$14,028 with maintenance included.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to authorize district administration to award Canon Solutions with the contract for the fiscal year 2021, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes: 4-0.

2. Policies: Ms. Organek presented the 1st reading of the 5 policies, 4 of which are new.
 - a) JFABE Education of Children in Foster Care- New, NHSBA policy verbatim

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- b) JH Attendance, Tardiness, and Truancy- reviewed by policy committee
- c) JHC Student Early Release Precautions- New, NHSBA sample w/tracked changes
- d) JI Student Rights and Responsibilities- new, NHSBA policy verbatim
- e) JIA Student Due Process- New, NHSBA policy verbatim

Ms. Organek went on to tell us that there was a typo with the JHC student early release. There was also a disclaimer added to the bottom of the policy talking about student early release from a school day and what is required for a student to leave early from school. She noted that this does not apply to offsite work experiences or other approved educational opportunities.

3. Budget Committee Presentation Planning: Mr. Russell stated that the budget committee was due to present to the board by Wednesday, August 5th. However, Mr. Russell said that it would be a better presentation if they could present the first week in September. Due to a lot of information that committee would want to know, is the cost that are incurring in regard to COVID planning. Ms. LaMothe said she will find out and get back to Mr. Russell.
4. Remote vs In-person Meetings: Dr. Orellana stated that she would like to move the remote school board meetings back to in person meetings. She said that it's important for us to model what we are asking others to do. Dr. Orellana has asked the board their thoughts on moving the meetings to the community center on August 3rd. There was a discussion on safety and safety of others that would want to present to the board. The board had also mentioned zoom would still be available for people who did not want to come to the in-person meetings but there would be table for people who wanted to present to the board if they would like to come in person. The board has confirmed other meetings are being held already and safety precautions are already put in place at the community center.

No motion was needed to change the location of the meetings because no motion was passed to move to remote meetings in the first place. The next meeting will be held at the Community Center.

F. Recommended Action

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign. Ms. Hickey said all manifests are signed and received.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review the following draft minutes and approve.
 - a) 07/06/2020 Draft Minutes: Minutes were tabled and will be reviewed next meeting.

G. Reports to the Board

1. Superintendent Report
 - a) Reopening Taskforce: Mr. Russell presented to the board the reopening task force this was done with the help of parents, community members and staff. Mr. Russell stated that this was not going to be the final plan as this is just the different things that were brought up. Mr. Russell would like to have this plan out by August 3rd. He presented this as a PowerPoint presentation. He said that he received input from teachers and parents in the surveys and a lot of this PowerPoint is represented by what they said in the surveys that were submitted, along with what surrounding districts and other countries are doing to reopen schools. Mr. Russell said that the highest priority is the safety and wellbeing of students and staff but believes the best place for students is in school as being out of school has a huge impact on learning and social connections. There were 3 scenarios that were brought up.

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The first scenario was students at school; all students would go to school with the option of still doing remote learning. The Schedule and classes will be adjusted to allow for the appropriate space between students. Students and staff will wear a mask as appropriate and necessary. There will be enhanced cleaning in the buildings. Students will be grouped in the same cohort as much as possible. Lunches will also be modified and classes will be held outside as much as possible. Second Scenario is 50% students in school & 50% student's remote learning. In this scenario he mentions that the schedule will vary by school level. Elementary and Middle school students would be alternating weeks- two days in school, three days remote; and then three days in school and two days remote the following week. High School schedule is to be determined. The last scenario was that all students would be remote learning with the exceptions for some special services and CTE classes. Mr. Russell listed pros and cons for each scenario in the PowerPoint. He also said that there will be a remote learning academy for any parent who wants to do strictly remote learning and that remote learning will not be the same as last spring and that they have been working diligently on making improvements this summer. There will be more details on August 3rd about the remote learning academy. Mr. Russell said that they are looking to keep the remote learning available even once we are passed the pandemic because there were many students who did really well with remote learning and would be beneficial to many families. Mr. Russell noted that transportation is a big challenge as the most you could put on a bus is 13 students and would not be beneficial as it would take a long time to get all the students to school. The next steps for the reopening task force include a survey to parents on remote learning and transportation. Continuance of planning for transportation, food service and traffic flow through schools along with health and safety protocols. He also mentioned that he wants to develop a planning map for instruction that work with, in person and remote learning. Mr. Russell wants to create consistent protocols across all grades for technology and develop expectations for staff, students and families in remote learning.

- b) Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee: Mr. Russell has met with this committee to go over the importance that people understand what diversity, equity and inclusion look like and why it should be in place. Mr. Russell presented a book called 'Not Light, But Fire' that they will be using as one of the guided documents. The goal is to have a cultural aspect among everyone that is involved in the school district. He also said that there is a lot to be learned for many people and it's going to be the schools mission to enhance everyone's knowledge. Mr. Russell mentioned that this committee is very excited to have a board member join and be a part of this going forward. Mr. Russell would like two board members to be on this committee if they wish to be a part. Dr. Orellana would be happy to serve this committee and believes she has the experience. Ms. LaMothe said she is very interested in this and would be passionate about the mission that a DEI would serve. There was then a conversation with other board members about their interest in this. An agreement was made to have Dr. Orellana and Ms. LaMothe to be a part of this growing committee.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Organek reported that she has been meeting with administrators and visiting schools and finally seeing people in person which she was excited about. Ms. Organek has been working hard with making improvements and making it the best it can be for everyone. She also mentioned that the course at Harvard that 30 participants were a part of is now coming to an end and she received a lot of great feedback from the staff. She then went on to talk about a new upcoming course at Harvard. The course is titled "Online Learning Strategies"; two teachers from each building will be taking this course. She also pointed out that the custodial staffs are working hard and the buildings are looking beautiful.
3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Hickey reported that she has been going through the schools and seeing people and seeing some obstacles that we could be challenged with.

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4. Director of Special Services Report: Ms. Borge reported that she got a chance to sit in on some ESY remote learning classrooms. She also mentioned that last week they had a chance to do training with the high school special education staff to focus on the concept of specially designed instruction. She explained what specially designed instruction is and how important it is for high school students. There was a consultant that came in for this training to help with this and she will be coming in throughout the school year.

H. Board Member Comments:

Ms. Diana LaMothe: She loves that we are getting more public input and she hopes that continues.

Mr. Ethan Beals: Agrees with Ms. LaMothe that it was good to hear from the public and wishes to hear more from the teachers on any insight they might have as well.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thanked Mr. Russell on hosting a zoom meeting last Thursday night that included over 200 people. He pointed out that he answered every question that was asked and that he did a fantastic job.

Ms. Kara Roy: Agreed with Diane and Ethan that she would like to keep receiving public input. She also wanted to recognize the two civil rights legends that were lost this week and that they will be missed.

Ms. Darcy Orellana: Brought up that there is so much work to be done but when you hear people that are working speak from their heart it's great. She said Larry leads by example, and that's what makes this educational system remarkable and that it's open to improvement and different voices. She said we are going to continue to keep learning and growing and seeking to do the best that we can. She advises the public to keep emailing public comments or you can come to the community center with your mask on August 3rd.

I. Upcoming Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Purpose
School Board	08/03/2020	6:30 pm	Hudson Community Center	Regular Meeting
School Board	08/17/2020	6:30 pm	TBD	Regular Meeting

J. Non-Public Session:

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(b) at 8:28pm, second by Ms. LaMothe. Roll call vote, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.

There was discussion on August 3rd board meeting and School Reopening Plan presentation.

Ms. LaMothe moved to approve all nominations (below), second by Mr. Gasdia. Roll call vote: Roll call vote, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.

Connors, Maggie	HGS	Grade 4	\$41,000
Gannon, Olivia	HMS	Grade 6 Math	\$37,000
Klimowicz, Amanda	HMS	Reading Specialist	\$60,750
Rowell, Melissa	HMS	Grade 7 SpEd Case Mgr	\$45,500

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Sloat, Beth	HMS	Library Media Specialist	\$43,200
Wise, Deidre	ELC	K	\$49,500

K. Adjourn:

Ms. LaMothe moved to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Mr. Beals. Roll call vote: Roll call vote, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)
Kim Organek (non-public)