

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

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman  
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair  
Ms. Diane LaMothe  
Mr. Ethan Beals  
Ms. Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services

- A. Call to Order:** Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. Ms. Borge led the pledge of allegiance.
- B. Non-public Session:**  
A non-public session was called to order by Dr. Orellana at 6:00 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). A student matter was not addressed as the parent that requested the meeting did not appear.  
**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to exit non-public at 6:18 pm, second by Mr. Beals. Motion passes 4-0.**
- C. Public Hearing**
1. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant Funding Acceptance: Mr. Russell said the public hearing is to accept the elementary and secondary school emergency relief (ESSER) grant funding. Mr. Russell said he would need a motion to accept \$404,365.35; there was a total of \$50,418.67 that went to Presentation of Mary Academy.  
**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept this emergency relief grand funding, second by Mr. Gasdia. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**
- D. Public Input:** There was no public input this evening.
- E. Old Business**
1. DEI Nomination: Mr. Russell said the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee would like to nominate a school Board member. Mr. Russell said he would like to have two seats as they only have one seat currently filled. Mr. Russell said if there would be a volunteer for someone to fill the second seat it would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Beals volunteered for this position. Dr. Orellana said it meets once a month, in the afternoon on a Friday. The Board thanked Mr. Beals.
  2. Voting Location Confirmation: Mr. Russell questioned if the middle school would be an appropriate place to hold the voting for November 3<sup>rd</sup> and said it was found to be a suitable place. Mr. Inderbitzen, Town Moderator, said they explored the need to move the last presidential election to a facility that has more parking and access. Mr. Inderbitzen said at the last presidential election they had 13,503 people and was a 73% turnout which was difficult at the Community Center. He said at that time they did not have a chance to have it at multiple locations. He said this requires a town meeting vote and then once that is complete the Board of Selectman can create two districts and then notify everyone on who is in

each district because you cannot just go out and vote, you must go to the district you are in. Mr. Inderbitzen said they did a review of all the facilities in Hudson and Hudson Memorial School came out to be the most viable solution. However, it might have some logistical problems that would need to be dealt with. Some logistics are that the gym would be tied up for multiple days as equipment and supplies need to be delivered on Monday and set up on Monday night and then would take everything down on Wednesday morning. He said after that they would have to decontaminate all of the gyms areas that were open to the public. Mr. Russell said they will ask their cleaning crew if they can come in early on Wednesday to do some deep cleaning. Mr. Inderbitzen said that in the town of Hudson they have 19,236 registered voters and if they have a 77% turnout rate then they would have close to 10,000 in person voters. Mr. Inderbitzen said that they would have to work out circulation in the buildings and outside of the buildings. They are looking at having the traffic in the building, one way in and one way out. The Board of selectman will also take over the coordination of the deep cleaning that needs to be done after the voting.

The way they would set up the buildings to get ready to vote would be that they would come in the morning and drop everything off on Monday and then would come back after school is out and set up everything. The Board's main concern is having everything sanitized and safe before the students return back to school. They are looking to have everything sanitized late at night or early morning. There was also a conversation about how there would have to be a lot of publicity on this and let everyone know which building they can attend on voting day. If this was approved, then the Chief of Police would also be on board and start planning this as well.

**Mr. Gasdia made a motion to allow the voting to take place at Hudson Memorial on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, second by Mr. Beals. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

**F. New Business**

1. Extracurricular Nomination: Mr. Russell said they have one nomination for Girls Varsity Basketball at Alvirne High School with the rate in the bargaining agreement.

**Mr. Beals made a motion to move this into non-public since teacher nominations are done in non-public, second by Ms. LaMothe. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

2. Budget Transfers SB #21-01, #21-02: Ms. Borge said the first budget transfer is that they had a teacher in person to start at the beginning of the school year; however in July she notified the school that she would not be joining them. They have posted the position again but were unable to find a suitable candidate. Ms. Borge reached out to a staffing agency and was able to attain a contract teacher to work at Alvirne high school. So this is just a transfer to move from salary to contract services. They are not going to be posting this position as they are contracted for the whole year but will be posting again at the end of the year.

**Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve the transfer of \$78,357, second by Ms. LaMothe. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

The next budget transfer is each year when they budget for extended school year, we know that some of our services are going to be provided by our employees and some of them will be provided by contractors. Ms. Borge said right now we don't know who is going to be available to work next summer.

So, what happens is they estimate the budget and track it throughout the year to make sure each line is correct in the budget.

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$8,434, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

3. On Saturday Ms. Langlais tendered her resignation with the Board. Now there is a vacancy on the Board and they have a policy and state law the Board follows when somebody leaves. The Board follows RSA 197:26 and 671:33 which means they have an obligation to put out announcements and let everyone know that this position is available; it would be available for someone to sit in until the next election which is in March. The Board is asking that the Superintendent and his team to create an announcement to link people who are considering on applying. Applicants should know about the School Board and the job requirements because this work is more than just Monday nights.

**Mr. Beals would like to make a motion to accept Ms. Langlais resignation to the school Board, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

Mr. Gasdia wants to thank Patty for being a staple on the Board for many years and wishes her well. Ms. LaMothe and Dr. Orellana wished Patty the best.

Mr. Beals mentioned how critical it is that we need to fill a spot on the board as soon as possible as an empty chair doesn't help them at all. He then asked Mr. Russell if this could be posted tomorrow and if they could get this moving right away. Dr. Orellana mentioned there will be a special meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the deadline to get applications in would be end of business day on 4:00 pm Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **G. Recommended Action**

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review and approve. (LR)
  - a) 08.03.2020 Draft Minutes  
On page 10 regarding the last item there are some blanks that need to be removed. We need a time that the Board entered non-public which was determined to be 10:30 pm.

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the 8/3/2020 minutes as amended, second by Mr. Beals. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

#### **H. Reports to the Board**

1. Superintendent Report : Mr. Russell said last meeting they had voted to proceed with full-in sports. He mentioned that the sports are going well and everyone is following the safety precautions. He mentioned Windham games have been postponed as they are not practicing at the moment. This first week they have rearranged to have a football game to face Salem High School.

Mr. Russell was said he was pleasantly surprised by the reopening of the schools. The students were all excited about returning and are following safety protocols. He also mentioned that everything is going very well but there are some bumps that they are working through but for the most part it is going smoothly. Mr. Russell mentions that traffic has been pretty heavy during the morning, but everyone is being patient.

Mr. Gasdia asked how attendance is going and if we are losing any kids. Mr. Russell said for the most part everyone seems to be attending in-person and said they would look into attendance for remote instruction. Ms. LaMothe asked if they are using Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom. Mr. Russell said right now they are trying to transition off of Zoom into Teams because they own Teams; they don't own Zoom. It is free right now but that could end, and it is very expensive to buy Zoom. He said that they are being fiscally responsible and looking at the viability of using Teams for school. Ms. LaMothe asked if it would be possible to do a trial run with a group. Mr. Russell said there have been trainings and so far, the people who have used it seem to be proficient in it and would like to move forward with this eventually. Mr. Gasdia added a comment that as we start to get data and use pacing guides to make sure that remote learners and in-person are the same, and with the vision of remote learning academy being a long-term and not just a COVID solution, he suggested that we start thinking about measuring the effectiveness of both. Mr. Russell said that they are looking at that.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Organek said they had a great start to the school year even though it wasn't a traditional start. She was also very impressed with all the parents with transportation. They are now looking at budgets for next year to see what they need and what's going to change. Ms. Organek also met up with the remote teachers to show them they are supported even though they might feel a little isolated. She also meets up with the remote teachers to see where improvements can be made.
3. Director of Special Services Report: Ms. Borge had a wonderful day on the first day of school and she loved to see the excitement that the kids had coming back. She also gave a shout-out to one of the staff who noticed the caseloads in special education in first grade were much less than expected and in kindergarten the caseloads were much higher than expected. There was a special educator named Chelsea Ouellette who offered to jump down to kindergarten and help them out. Ms. Borge also mentioned that since the last meeting the staff has been working with the families to work through all the meetings, they have to accomplish within the first 30 days of school. The last thing Ms. Borge has been working on is her two committees which are at the state level. One of the committees started today which is a legislative committee which is through the special education directors association and this will give her the opportunity to bring to the Board the commentary that is happening in the legislative circle as it pertains to special education and what are the potential consequences. The other committee she is on is with representation of the Department of Education.

**I. Legislative Updates**

**J. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Ethan Beals: Thanked Rachel for pointing out Ms. Chelsea Ouellette who went above and beyond her expectations. Ethan also would like it if we could do more of this going forward, giving credit to people where credit is due. Mr. Beals also mentioned how he is glad we are back in school.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Second what Ethan said and loves when people are highlighted for going above and beyond and there is a lot of that going on in Hudson. She also wants to acknowledge the Budget Committee for extending the budget submission date to November 20<sup>th</sup> and thanked them for being flexible with all of this.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Mentioned that there is an incredible amount of work that is being done by everyone but asked the public if they have a question on what is happening at the school to reach out to the school, a teacher,

principal, or administrator. Go straight to the source instead of Facebook. Anyone will be happy to give you the information you might need.

Ms. Kara Roy: Wishes Patty Langlais well and thanked her for her service throughout the whole committee. She also thanked the Board for allowing us to find another place to vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Echoed what everyone said and that these are challenging times and we need to learn, grow, and adapt and repeat the cycle. She also mentioned if you want to be on the School Board you should apply.

**K. Upcoming Meetings**

Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Purpose
School Board	09/24/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	Regular Meeting
School Board	9/28/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	Regular Meeting

**L. Non-Public Session**

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(b) at 7:49 pm, second by Mr. Beals. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 4-0.**

Mr. Russell will email the DEI committee to let them know Mr. Beals will be joining the committee. Meeting is this Friday 9/18 at 2:30 pm in the library at AHS.

Ethan wanted to discuss the candidate for the girls' basketball coach. Larry will find out more background on candidate – question whether or not he is already committed to Campbell High in Litchfield.

At 8:17 pm, administrators were dismissed while the board remained in non-public.

The Board discussed an employee's request for a modification to their contract.

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to honor the request, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.**

The Board then discussed the annual evaluation cycle of the Superintendent.

**M. Adjourn**

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to exit non-public and adjourn at 9:16 pm, second by Mr. Beals. Motion passes 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)

Ms. Organek (7:49 non-public)

Ms. LaMothe (6:00 non-public and 8:17 non-public)