



HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ♦ Hudson, New Hampshire
Hills Memorial Library, 18 Library Street

6:30 pm

Regular Meeting
Non-Public Session

Hudson School Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2022

In attendance:

Board Members

Gary Gasdia, Chairman
Diana LaMothe, Vice-chair
Ethan Beals
Mike Campbell
Gretchen Whiting

SAU Staff

Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services
Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

A. Call to Order [0:00:20]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mr. Beals led The Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Input [0:00:35]

There was no public input.

C. Announcement of New Superintendent [0:00:44]

Mr. Gasdia thanked everyone for their work on the Superintendent Search Committee. Mr. Beals appreciated all the work done and announced that the new Hudson School District Superintendent was Dr. Dan Moulis. Dr. Moulis introduced himself and thanked the Search Committee, Board, and community. He would be working with Mr. Russell and Administration on a seamless transition.

D. Presentations to the Board [0:4:06]

1. National DECA Competition

Sarah Compagna presented information regarding the Alvirne DECA chapter attending this year's upcoming International Competition in Atlanta Georgia. The organization helped with business leadership and public speaking. The Board had previously approved the trip. Also presenting were DECA President Ekaterina Erickson, Vice President Mansi Mathur and Alex Beaudoin. Other DECA members attending were Luke Byran and Shivam Mathur. The students were thanked for representing the district.

2. Student Discipline and School Safety

Hudson Memorial School Principal Keith Bowen and Alvirne Principal Steve Beals discussed student discipline and school safety.

Memorial School:

Misconduct occurred at bus stop arrivals and departures and almost 24/7 due to social media and community happenings that entered into school buildings. The pandemic and staffing had been safety obstacles also, especially with lack of crossing guards.

Safety violation highlights:

- addressed by Administration
- backed up by witnesses
- corrective actions taken
- families and Superintendent were notified

Examples included: bullying/cyber bullying (daily/weekly); aggressive physical conduct (monthly); threats of violence (weekly/monthly); abusive conduct/language (daily); vaping (periodic); hate speech (periodic); false allegations (yearly); creating false alarm (once/year); possession/use/under the influence of drugs (year to year); harassment (ethnic, sexual, racial, religious) (weekly/daily); gross misconduct: one or two times per year - collaboration with SRO, school staff and community

Alvirne High School:

- Similar to Middle School but with different frequency (e.g. less frequency of bullying/cyberbullying)
- cyclical occurrences (e.g. having a snow day before vacation)
- vaping was a continued challenge (not as much with with drugs/alcohol)
- no weapon possession
- threats to school safety - sometimes, people reported things that ended up not being a safety threat: there were two instances of this (this affected school attendance, information accuracy, etc.)
- riot behavior (quantity of parties) - had two instances in 10 years
- sale of drugs: very limited

- gross misconduct (collaboration between SAU, Principals, Assistant Principals, SRO) - provide due process

There was discussion about consequences (educational opportunities e.g., vaping cessation classes), positive support (ALT school, mental health counselors) to make students more successful, and progressive discipline. PowerSchool, video surveillance and collaboration were helpful tools. It was noted that the daily instances e.g., with disrespect had increased this year, especially with Freshmen and Sophomores as they did not have the full capacity to complete their middle school years in a normal environment. There were more behavioral concerns in the 6th and 8th grades this year as well as issues with social media.

A student support center (similar to the elementary level) at the middle school would help, as well as a BCBA. It was noted that there were a number of Paraprofessional vacancies at Alvirne, so it was uncertain that finding teacher assistants would be fruitful. Having reasonable class sizes was also helpful because, even though enrollment had decreased, student needs had increased. Ms. LaMothe suggested offering full-time Paraprofessional positions. Competition with other Districts offering Paraprofessionals with benefits and higher salaries was mentioned. It was noted that the District’s Paraprofessionals were dedicated. Freshman Seminar was helpful with transition to high school but it was voluntary for teachers. Transition help into middle school included Summer Scholars and other opportunities. There was discussion about poor behavior/patterns and bullying thresholding. There was training dealing with types of bullying. School administrators and teachers continued to develop relationships and collaborations with families to help student behavior.

E. Old Business [1:07:26]

1. 2022-2023 HSD Calendar (Decision)

The Board discussed the proposed 2022-23 HSD calendar. Voting day was on September 13, 2022: recently, the Commissioner decided that remote learning would only be used in the case of inclement weather. Therefore, Alvirne would have a full day of school that day and voting day logistics would be reviewed so students and voters would not intermingle. The use of a snow day was possible.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the 2022-23 HSD Calendar as presented. Ms. LaMothe seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Policies (2nd readings) (Decision)

Ms. Organek presented the following polices for a second reading and adoption:

- a) FF Naming, Memorializing, Recognitions and Dedication of School District Facilities**
 - new
 - some minor changes
- b) IGA Curriculum Development**
 - revised with tracked changes (gr. 1-12 curriculum changed to gr. K-12)

c) IJL Library Materials Selection and Adoption

- revision with tracked changes
- Administration and Library Staff changed to Library Media Specialist

d) KFD Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators

- revision with tracked changes
- updating data

e) LDA Student Teaching and Internship

- reviewed by Policy Committee

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the following policies as presented:

FF - Naming, Memorializing, Recognitions and Dedication of School District Facilities

IGA - Curriculum Development

IJL - Library Materials Selection and Adoption

KFD - Use and Location Of Automated External Defibrillators

LDA - Student Teaching and Internship

Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

F. Recommended Action [1:15:35]**1. Manifests****2. Minutes**

- 11/01/2021 Draft Minutes
- 02/07/2022 Draft Minutes
- 02/21/2022 Draft Minutes

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021, February 7, 2022 and February 21, 2022 as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

G. Committee Reports [1:16:39]

Ms. LaMothe noted that she presented the Warrant Articles at the Senior Center and people were engaged. They were interested in events; postings could be placed at the Center.

H. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:18:21]**1. Superintendent Report**

NHDHHS issued an advisory on February 24th that no longer recommended universal face masks. The CDC deemed it optional to wear face masks on buses. Mr. Russell recognized Ms. LaMothe for her dedication to and work on the School Board.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Organek mentioned work was being done on the March 25th Professional Development day offerings.

3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge encouraged looking at BCBA support in the context of the multi-tiered system of support that was being developed. She was working on the professional development day for paraprofessionals (interplay between communication and behavior). Four staff members completed training to be eligible to be certified as a behavior technician: Laura Gebing, Odette Seidleich, Nichole Gasper and Jackie Sarcia.

4. Business Administrator Report - February Financial Report

Ms. Burk was absent but Ms. LaMothe stated that there was nothing to report currently.

I. Board of Selectmen Liaison Comments [1:24:15]

Ms. Roy encouraged people to vote tomorrow and she wished all candidates good luck. She commended Ms. LaMothe for her work on the Board.

J. Board Member Comments [1:24:56]

Mr. Campbell encouraged people to vote tomorrow. Candidate interviews were on HCTV. He mentioned there were signs regarding both Town WA 2 and School WA2 (PSRP contract). He thanked Mr. Gasdia for his leadership and for the help given by Ms. LaMothe.

Ms. Whiting encouraged people to vote tomorrow. She thanked Ms. LaMothe for her work on the Board and in the Town. She also learned from Mr. Gasdia.

Mr. Beals enjoyed working with Ms. LaMothe and Mr. Gasdia. He wished them the best.

Ms. LaMothe spoke about wanting Hudson School District to be successful (academic achievement, graduation rates, well-rounded education, etc.) She felt that teachers needed more support in the classroom. She felt it was important to hear the good news in the district. The greatest benefit to working on this Board and in the community was the teamwork and connection; the most difficult was hearing/seeing comments that put people down. The quality of people working for Hudson was high. She encouraged people with issues to go to the source rather than social media. She quoted Robert Ingersoll: "We rise by lifting others."

Mr. Gasdia said it was a pleasure to work with Ms. LaMothe on the Board and thanked her for her dedication. He thanked Board members and the district and he mentioned that people who ran for Boards did it to make Hudson better. He thanked Mr. Russell for his service to the district.

K. Adjournment [1:36:41]

At 8:07 pm, Gretchen Whiting made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan DeFelice