



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 April 4, 2022

### In attendance:

#### Board Members

Gary Gasdia, Chairman  
Gretchen Whiting, Vice-chair  
Ethan Beals  
Mike Campbell  
Maureen Dionne

Board of Selectmen Liaison Kara Roy

#### SAU Staff

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

### A. Call to Order [0:00:13]

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

### B. Public Input [0:00:38]

There was no public input.

### C. Presentations to the Board [0:0:44]

#### 1. FFA State Convention - Information

Palmer students shared their experience at the FFA State Convention. Alvirne FFA President Victoria Scarboro and Vice President Matt Rice noted that they connected

with those in other chapters and won the State Degree (Victoria Scarboro, Matt Rice and Erin Stevens). Events in which students placed were:

- Agricultural Mechanics - 4th place: James Rowe; 3rd place: Donovan Greenwood; 2nd Place: Parker Berube; 1st Place: Matt Rice; First Place Team: James Rowe, Donovan Greenwood, Matt Rice and Seamus Alukonis
- Animal Welfare - Novice winners - 3rd Place: Katie Amidon; 2nd Place: Erin Stevens; and 3rd Place: Nico Carlen; Experienced Division - 1st Place: Olivia Fraser
- Chapter Display - placed 2nd overall (presented by FFA reporter Olivia Fraser and historian Seamus Alukonis).
- Creed Speaking Competition - 4th Place: Victoria Scarboro; 3rd Place: Juliana Picone; 2nd Place: Matt Rice.
- Demonstration - Sophomore Division - 2nd Place: Riley Devin; 1st Place: Donovan Greenwood; Junior Division - 2nd place: Ava Noel; and Senior Division - 3rd Place: James Rowe and 2nd Place: Seamus Alukonis.
- Employment Skills - Senior Division - 3rd Place: Matt Rice; Junior Division - 3rd Place: Elizabeth Bliss and 2nd Place: Erin Stevens.
- Extemporaneous Speaking - Winner: Matt Rice.
- Impromptu Public Speaking - 3rd Place: Carson Collins; 2nd Place: Robert Mauceri and Juliana Picone; 1st Place: Victoria Scarboro.
- Prepared Public Speaking - 4th Place: Parker Berube; 2nd Place: Victoria Scarboro.
- Floriculture - 3rd Place: Olivia Fraser; 2nd Place Team Overall: Olivia Fraser, Shyann Bergeron, Taylor Montgomery, and Ava Biskaduros.
- Forestry - 4th Place: Jacob Frieda; 3rd Place: Parker Berube; 2nd Place: Donovan Greenwood; and 1st Place: James Rowe; 1st Place Team: Jacob Frieda, Scott Skirkey, Parker Berube, Donovan Greenwood, Parker Hilton, Jacob Rhyner, and James Rowe.
- Veterinary Science - 4th Place: Ava Noel; 3rd Place: Katie Amidon ; 2nd Place: Niko Carlen; and 1st Place: Elizabeth Bliss; 1st Place Team members: Ava Noel, Katie Amidon, Nico Carlen, Elizabeth Bliss, Carson Collins, Riley Devin and Olivia Smith.

Matt Rice will serve as the 2022-23 Granite State FFA President. Teams that qualified for National Convention were: Agricultural Mechanics students James Rowe, Donovan Greenwood, Rob Mauceri, Seamus Alukonis; Forestry students Jacob Frieda, Parker Berube, Donovan Greenwood, Parker Hilton; Veterinary Science students Elizabeth Bliss, Katie Amidon, Nico Carlen, Ava Noel; and Matt Rice for Extemporaneous Speaking.

The National FFA Convention and Expo will be held in Indiana from October 26 - 29, 2022 with the theme of growing the next generation of leaders in the agricultural industry. The cost per student will be partially offset by fundraising. Three teams plus Mr. Rice will compete and study with advisors in advance of the convention. The FFA asked the Board to approve the trip.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the request of the Agricultural Mechanics, Forestry and Veterinary Science students plus Matt Rice (Extemporaneous Speaking) to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indiana in October 2022. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## 2. **Alvirne Science Trip - Discussion**

Alvirne science teachers Doug Peckham and Erica Foskitt reviewed a proposed science trip to Peru for February 2024. The same touring company will be used as previous trips. Capping the tour at 36 students with chaperones was recommended - to have one full bus as opposed to two. A report to the Board will occur after the trip.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the science trip to Peru in February 2024 for eleven days as proposed. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## D. **New Business [0:26:39]**

### 1. **Election Debrief - Information**

The Board briefly discussed delays with absentee ballots. Mr. Russell said that solutions are in place so it will not happen in the future. At the last Board of Selectmen meeting, it had been proposed to itemize the town and school warrant articles differently and to have some consistency in wording. The RSAs for warrants are very specific. School district and town representatives will work together to improve the process where possible.

### 2. **Budget Committee Vote to Change By Laws - Discussion**

The Budget Committee voted to change their bylaws so that the ex-officio representatives of the School Board and Board of Selectmen would not be voting members at Budget Committee meetings. The Board of Selectmen voted that their attorney would contact the School Board attorney to craft a joint statement opposing this change.

Mr. Beals made a motion for the School Board attorney to work with the Board of Selectmen's attorney (on a statement to change bylaws), re. RSA 32:15. Ms. Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## E. **Requests of the Board [0:29:45]**

### 1. **Travel Request - Decision**

Ms. Burk reviewed a travel request for Food Service Director Abigail Kaplan, who was one of five directors in the state recommended to participate in *Serving up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools*, a program designed for nutrition professionals in Kansas (June 20 - June 24, 2022). The request was \$450 to cover the airfare cost from Boston, MA to Manhattan, Kansas. It was suggested that in the future, individuals should present such requests to the Board in person.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the travel request from Abigail Kaplan as

presented. Ms. Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

#### **F. Recommended Action [0:32:54]**

- 1. Manifests**
- 2. Minutes**

a) March 21, 2022 - tabled for the non-public set of minutes to be added.

#### **G. Reports to the Board (Information) [0:33:54]**

##### **1. Superintendent Report**

Hudson Lions Club will recognize the Hudson School District for its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic at its dinner next week. Representing staff: Steve Beals, Patty Begonis, Keith Bowen, Kristen Croteau, Scott Baker, Laurie Picard, Bill McCarthy, Katherine Whitney, Maryellen Labrie, Lorraine Johnson, Nancy McGuire, and Diane Scotina. Mr. Russell commended the staff, including the nurses, for their work during the pandemic.

Mr. Russell has talked with Mr. Moulis (incoming superintendent) and has several meetings set with staff in the coming weeks.

##### **2. Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Organek congratulated Rich Piava for Career Day at the middle school on March 24. The District is hiring Summer Scholars program teachers and assistants. The ESSER III grant-funded position of Curriculum Coordinator will help with Covid-19 learning loss and oversee the Scholars program. This would cover the next two years.

##### **3. Director of Special Services Report**

Ms. Borge noted that it is the beginning of hiring season and planning for Extended School Year (ESY). The Paraprofessional Professional Development Day was well-received.

##### **4. Business Administrator Report**

Ms. Burk mentioned that there were positions open for the summer and fall.

#### **H. Committee Reports [0:40:01]**

Mr. Campbell noted that the Alvirne Trustees met and reviewed proposals, most of which were accepted. Essays were received for the Hills Family Scholarship and a decision would be made later this month.

#### **I. Correspondence (Information) [0:40:36]**

- School Board Calendar
- School Board Committee Assignments: Budget Committee Rep: Ms. Whiting (Mr. Campbell is the alternative? Needs to be confirmed)

#### **J. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [0:41:35]**

Ms. Roy noted that the Recreation Department is hiring counselors for the summer program.

#### **K. Board Member Comments [0:41:58]**

Mr. Campbell mentioned that Book Fairs were taking place. Shopping at [www.scholastic.com/bf/elc](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/elc) enables 25% of spending to be applied to the Early Learning Center PTO. *Cabaret* was recently performed and well-received.

Ms. Dionne noted that there were Spring events ongoing: book fairs, guidance counselor appointments for incoming Freshmen, and the HMS musical (*Seussical Jr.*).

Mr. Gasdia felt tonight's meeting went well with awards being won, school trips returning, in-person book fairs, and the only mention of Covid being the acknowledgement of how the District handled the pandemic.

**L. Non-Public Session - Per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) [0:45:09]**

At 7:18pm, Mr. Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

At 7:33pm, the non-public session started. A student matter and staff matter were discussed.

**M. Return to General Session and adjourn**

At 7:40 pm, Ms. Whiting made a motion to return to general session and adjourn. Ms. Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan DeFelice