



## HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

Hills Memorial Library 18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting  
Non-Public Session

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### Minutes - August 22, 2022

#### In Attendance

##### Board Members

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

##### SAU Staff

Dan Moulis, Superintendent of Schools  
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services  
Jen Burk, Business Administrator

Brett Gagnon - Board of Selectmen Liaison

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

##### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Brett Gagnon led the Pledge of Allegiance. Revisions to the agenda include:

- Nominations
- Good News will be shared by Superintendent Moulis in Ms. Organek's absence
- A report by the Superintendent, only

#### B. Public Input [0:01:00]

There was no public input.

#### C. Good News Update [00:01:13]

Superintendent Moulis mentioned that Hudson Old Home Days went well and he spoke with many community members and visited Hills House. The retention and referral bonus program information was sent out to staff today. Superintendent Moulis participated in the HCTV show last week discussing district goals and priorities. He thanked Diane Kavana of HCTV for allowing him to be part of the process. He also took part in an interview with the NH Bulletin regarding CTE programs in NH and the article should be published tomorrow. New teacher orientation day was

last week where there was a review of multi-tiered support for academics, social-emotional learning, PowerSchool training and other pertinent information.

#### **D. New Business [0:04:18]**

##### **1. Free and Reduced Lunch (Information)**

Abigail Kaplan, Director of Food Services and Terry Wolf, Director of Strategic Engagement and Communication, shared the communication plan for the free and reduced meals application process. For the past two years, breakfast and lunch were free for all students. The program ended in NH at the end of this school year. The number of applications received is tied to Title I funding. Free/reduced packets will be sent to families and include a cover letter, instructions, meal charging policy, special dietary needs form and K12 payment information. An additional information sheet is included, which will indicate if a family does not wish their information shared. Only the first side of the application needs to be completed. Families and the district save money by being part of the program and all information is on the website. Families can apply year-round and information is confidential.

##### **2. Request to Purchase (Decision)**

Abigail Kaplan, Director of Food Services, presented information and a request to purchase a replacement steamer at Hills Garrison as the current steamer is at the end of life. The steamer is used to prepare a number of the meal components in bulk for the students, and it is an important piece of equipment in the kitchen.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve Alternative Sales for the purchase of a steamer for \$24,185.35 at Hills Garrison as presented. Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.***

##### **3. October Meetings (Discussion)**

Superintendent Moulis discussed adding dates to the schedule for budget presentations in October: October 17 (first budget meeting), October 20 at 6:30pm (budget meeting), October 26 at 6:30pm (budget meeting), and November 7 (regular Board meeting). There was discussion about having Budget Committee members attend or not. It was favored to have a joint budget meeting this year but will instead discuss it for next year.

##### **4. Retained Fund Balance (Decision)**

Ms. Burk presented information on the retained fund balance and sought reapproval of the \$1.1M amount. This amount is retained from the prior two years and has no impact on the prior year's budget.

***Ethan Beals made a motion "in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II, and voter-approved warrant article #5 from March 2020, I make a motion to retain \$1.1 million in the retained fund balance account from fiscal year 2022 for fiscal year 2023." Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.***

## 5. Nominations

*Ethan Beals made a motion to nominate the following coaches: Varsity Volleyball Coach, Freshman Volleyball Coach and Jr. Varsity Cheerleading Coach. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

## E. Old Business [0:38:04]

### 1. HO Smith Playground (Information)

Superintendent Moulis shared an update on the Dr. HO Smith playground installation which will take place on October 14-16, 2022. The Hudson Fire Department will be helping October 15. Communication about the schedule and a volunteer Google form sign-up will be made available. This may help align skill levels for certain tasks as well.

### 2. Alvirne Renovation (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis shared an update on the Alvirne Renovation. Project priorities, based on Homeland Security recommendations, such as safe and secure building entrances, sight lines and drop off sequence were discussed. Improved security for the high school cafeteria and enhanced co-curricular and community spaces are also highlights of the project. Funding allocations previously at \$17.5 million in 2020, now total \$27 million, could be offset by a potential \$8.1 million of building aid from the Department of Education. The site walk-through will take place on September 28 and qualification will be known around January 2023. At the Capital Improvement Committee meeting, there was discussion about asking the Board to decide now about putting this project on the warrant in March 2023. There was discussion on long-range planning, elementary school project studies, and building space. There was concern about accessibility issues at Alvirne. This could be reviewed at the CIP committee. More details need to be provided about the work on the gymnasium, since the floor, bleachers and scoreboard have already been done. The HVAC mechanical system would be upgraded. There was discussion about bond appropriation and warrant article possibility. \$30 million for 30 years at 5% interest, there would be an estimated tax impact for year one of \$0.77, and the total project cost would be \$53,253,00. There was concern about the cost and timing, as teacher retention/cost is a major priority. Also important is having a safe and secure environment for education. Messaging will be sent to the community. It was noted that consideration was given towards the other town projects and timing of warrant articles.

*Ethan Beals made a motion to make a warrant article for the Alvirne Renovation project during the next voting season. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1 (nay, G. Gasdia).*

### 3. Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen (Information)

The Board discussed the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on September 1, 2022, beginning at 5pm, with the joint meeting at 6:30pm. Included would be a Meet & Greet and topics both on the School and Town sides. Members of the public would need to be present to ask questions.

### 4. NESDEC Enrollment Projection Study (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented sample NESDEC reports to the Board including from Bedford, MA, Quabbin, MA, and East Granby, CT. Reporting was based on birth rates and demographic data

and current and projected school enrollments. Reporting from superintendents begins in October and the turnaround is about 2-3 weeks. This information is helpful for long-range planning. Typically, the cost is \$4,780. The initial quote is half price at \$2390. It was noted that the cost for the comprehensive report is \$8,150. There was a question if this information will be helpful for the Master Plan which is theoretical guidance, not specifics. Superintendent Moulis will get more information on the comprehensive report and if it can also be done within the 2-3 week timeframe. There was a question about the projection methodology and if the sample reporting is the comprehensive kind (e.g., building permits issued would not be part of the typical report.) There was discussion about having appropriate data before making decisions.

***Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the \$2,390 cost for the NESDEC enrollment projection study. Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Mike Campbell retracted his motion.***

**5. Policies - Second Reading**

DFA - Investments	Policy review, no changes
JFABD - Admission of Homeless Students	New, NHSBA policy
JLC - Student Health Services	New, NHSBA policy
KEE - Website Accessibility and Grievance	New, NHSBA policy with tracked changes, updated

***Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve policies DFA - Investments, JFABD - Admission of Homeless Students, JLC - Student Health Services, and KEE - Website Accessibility and Grievance as provided in the agenda. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.***

**F. Recommended Action [1:44:07]**

- 1. Manifests**
- 2. Minutes: August 8, 2022**

***Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2022, as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.***

**G. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:44:43]**

**1. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Moulis noted:

The following recent hires included: two science teachers, one special education teacher, one strategies for success teacher, one part-time math tutor at Alvirne High School (one with ESSER III funds and one budgeted with vacant teacher funds), one assistant principal at Hudson Memorial School, one physical education teacher, one part time health science teacher for CTE Center, one science teacher for Hudson Memorial School, one grade 7/8 social studies teacher and a nurse at Nottingham West.

Open positions included:

Alvirne: science teacher (recommendation not to fill now - difficulty finding third certified teacher), English teacher, part-time heavy duty diesel mechanic, part-time welding teacher, careers in education teacher (not filling this position but looking to partner with Nashua as part of two pathways for existing students - to be revisited at next meeting; there was also a question about lowered enrollment)

Hudson Memorial: one reading interventionist, one mental health counselor, one math tutor.

Early Learning Center at HO Smith - one half year teacher, one part-time math tutor and one special education teacher

Early Learning Center at Library Street School: one part-time math tutor and at Hills Garrison one school counselor.

Open staffing positions: one full-time paraprofessional at HO Smith, one special education administrative assistant at Nottingham West, one IT technician, one technology integration specialist, fourteen paraprofessionals at Alvirne (more at other schools), one ESOL tutor and at least six food service staff.

The administrative retreat was held last week. Highlights included: work with a Demonstrated Success consultant to develop multi-tiered systems of support for academics and social emotional learning. There was a review about the District plan and priorities as well as a new teacher orientation. AB block scheduling information meetings were held. There will be professional development on this subject. The FAQ was updated. There will be follow up presentations.

Bus routes were posted. The Board was invited to attend breakfast at Alvirne welcoming staff back. August 29 will be the first day for all students.

## **H. Committee Reports [2:00:50]**

Ms. Whiting noted there was discussion about the 9/11 observance at the Board of Selectmen meeting. It would be held at Benson Park at 9:30am on 9/11.

## **I. Correspondence (Information) [2:01:40]**

### **1. Court Decision on Budget Committee Matter**

Mr. Beals requested the total amount of money that was spent on this matter (decision by the court that the petition submitted by the Town and School District was upheld where both ex-officio members from the School and Select Boards do participate as voting members not members at-large.) Mr. Gagnon noted that any votes taken between when the judgment came out and when the motion happened would be null and void so that the Selectboard will have a discussion on how to handle this.

## **J. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [2:03:55]**

Mr. Gagnon gave the following updates:

- Straightening Bush Hill Road for safety
- Purchasing 103 Wason Road as a new conservation parcel
- Due to the fire department's work on increasing Hudson's safety rating regarding fire response, residents could ask their homeowner insurance companies about quoting their policies for possible savings as Hudson is now safer.

- Meeting tomorrow: talk about the state primary, budget season and about Police Department expansions to the renovation contract
- Public complaint about feces at Town pond: (from geese)

#### **K. School Board Member Comments [2:07:42]**

Mr. Campbell mentioned the Hudson Olde Home Days and thanked people for attending and coming to the booths. He welcomed returning school staff and students. He noted that Hudson provided much of the supplies needed for school and he said it was a privilege.

Ms. Dionne mentioned that there were many events this week as school began - she encouraged people to attend. She encouraged families to fill out the free/reduced lunch paperwork.

Ms. Whiting noted that Seniors were receiving their Senior shirts and assisting with Freshman orientation. Athletics and Marching Band activities were beginning also.

Mr. Gasdia noted that the band and tryouts were starting up. He congratulated Hudson Fire Chief Buxton who was appointed to be the Director Of Homeland Security for NH.

#### **L. Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II a., b., and k. Staff Resignation, Staff Hire, Student Tuition, [2:12:22] (Note: The video stopped before this motion was made)**

*At 8:43 pm, Mr. Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a., b., and k. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.*

Resignation letters were accepted. A personnel matter was discussed. A student tuition matter was also discussed. No votes were taken. and Superintendent Moulis will follow up with the family.

#### **M. Return to General Session and Adjournment**

*At 9:45pm, Ms. Whiting made a motion to return to general session. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.*

Submitted by Susan DeFelice

Non-Public by Superintendent Moulis