



HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting
Public Session

Minutes – March 13, 2023

In Attendance

Board Members

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

SAU Staff

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

Kara Roy, Board of Selectmen Liaison

A. Call to Order [0:00:10]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gary Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Director of Special Services Rachel Borge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Hearing (Decision) [0:00:38]

Pursuant to RSA 198:20-b, and in accordance with Article 4 of the March 6, 1992, Town Meeting and Board Policy KCD, the Hudson School Board held a public hearing to receive a donation of property. Tim Malley of T.J Malley Electric donated and coordinated the effort, and the following organizations also assisted in the donation of \$11, 250 for wrestling mats for the middle school:

- Paul Jarry Plumbing & Heating = \$1,500
- Granite Subaru = \$1,000
- SL Chasse Steel = \$5,000
- Waterways Water Treatment = \$500
- The Bar = \$1,000
- Inside Track Cabling = \$500

- T.J. Malley Electric = \$1,000
 - Bnice Auto Detailing = \$250
 - State Farm = \$500
- Total of Donations = \$11,250

Public Hearing Closed [0:02:54]

C. Donation of Property

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to accept the donation of wrestling mats as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

D. Public Input [0:03:24]

Todd Hirst of 9 David Drive asked about the kindergarten age cutoff decision. The topic will be discussed later in the agenda.

E. Good News [0:04:30]

Ms. Organek shared good news about the schools:

- During Read Across America Week there were themed reading days.
- Winter Stroll took place at Hills Garrison School.
- Hudson Memorial Wrestling Team participants were congratulated. Noah Gendreau placed first in his division.
- The Alvirne Jazz Band and Be Naturals performed outside the NH State House in Concord as part of Music in Our Schools month sponsored by the NH Music Educators Association.

F. New Business [0:05:47]

1. DECA International Career Development Conference (Decision)

Alvirne High School teacher Sarah Compagna and Alvirne DECA students Avery, Gabriella, Matt, Mansi, and Alex spoke about the state awards they recently won and requested permission to attend the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, Florida from April 21-25, 2023. Preparation took four to five months, and to qualify, you must have placed amongst the top three in the state. Twelve Hudson students qualified, of which ten will be attending the conference.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the DECA International Career Development Conference as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Board Update

Superintendent Moulis updated the Board regarding the joint press conference with the Hudson Police Department, making the public aware of a bus driver's actions that resulted in arrest. The investigation is ongoing, and Superintendent Moulis expressed gratitude for the partnership with the HPD. Director of Special Services Rachel Borge spoke about support for the students involved, their privacy, and that this is an exception to the normal situation. Any concerns should be directed to staff, building principals, or Superintendent Moulis.

3. Alvirne High School Spring Nominations (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented nominations for the 2023 spring season.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the Alvirne High School Spring nominations as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Ethan Beals made a motion to amend the agenda by moving up the following items: Second Reading of Policy JBE - Age of Entrance and the Trustees List discussion (item 7). Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

G. Policy [0:19:24]

1. Second Reading

Policy JEB - Age of Entrance

School Board feedback was reviewed by the Policy Committee regarding Policy JEB.

The waiver request deadline will be March 1 prior to the school year in question, and April 30, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year only. There will be no fee currently. The goal is to have the waiver process in place and on the registration portion of the website by April 3, 2023.

Kindergarten is not required in New Hampshire. Ms. Borge noted that if a child is enrolled in preschool and has an IEP, parents may postpone kindergarten to maintain preschool.

Traditionally a 50/50 ratio is kept for preschool and there is a waitlist. If a child does not have an IEP, it is not automatic that they may remain in preschool an extra year. If a parent looks for early entrance for kindergarten or first grade, age parameters would need to be met if the policy remained as presented. Ms. Borge said it helps to have comparable development milestones for ages four and five. Ms. Dionne said there is a difference between a denial of a waiver and denial of the ability to apply for a waiver. Mr. Gasdia proposed putting the date as the end of the school year. It was decided to remove age parameters for now. The prior policy did not have a waiver process whereas this new policy gives families an opportunity to voice and to appeal. Parents were thanked for reaching out regarding this policy.

The following edit was made under "D. Information Considered by the School Board":

"A parent or guardian who wishes to request a waiver should be aware that the School Board may consider, but is not limited to:"

Maureen Dionne made a motion to remove the bullet points in Policy JEB - Age of Entrance under "C. Requesting a Waiver." Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion approved 5:0.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve Policy JEB - Age of Entrance as amended. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

H. New Business (Continued) [0:41:30]

1. Trustees List (Discussion)

Alvirne Principal Steve Beals shared a list of items to present to the Alvirne Trustees. There were a variety of items listed for departments at Alvirne High School as well as the CTE Center. Discussion about an activity van included noting that no bus driving certification would be required. A shed mule was requested for the CTE construction program, as this is an industry standard to move sheds safely.

The Trustees asked to work together to review dollar values and prioritize the list, which the Board expressed interest in seeing. There was discussion about the necessary annual certification to drive the Bronco bus, which had a certain body style vs. the proposed activity van. Many high schools have activity buses that allow regular driving licenses. The CTE simulator software will help with welding, construction, and heavy equipment competencies, with safe exposure to this type of work. It was suggested to continue to keep a list of needs and wants in the district. The Trustees would like to know how the proposed items will impact students.

2. Early Learning Center PTO Donation (Decision)

Business Administrator Jen Burk presented a \$3,000 donation from the ELC PTO for acceptance to be used for the HO Smith playground.

Mike Campbell made a motion to accept the \$3,000 donation as presented for the HO Smith playground. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

3. Preschool SEL Grant (Decision)

Ms. Borge presented a \$2,000 grant from the United Way to support social emotional learning at the preschool level.

Ethan Beals made a motion to accept the \$2,000 grant from the United Way as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

4. SAU Chairlift (Decision)

Ms. Burk reviewed a bid for the chair lift replacement at the SAU. One vendor out of three submitted a bid: Garaventa USA, Inc. for a project cost of \$72,919. Ms. Whiting asked if the contract stipulated that if something happened with manufacturing, they could not ask for increases to complete the project; Ms. Burk said perhaps only if something was unseen.

Ethan Beals made a motion to grant the SAU chair lift replacement bid to Garaventa USA, Inc. in the amount of \$72,919 (in accordance with Policy DJE). Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

I. Old Business [1:24:18]

1. SAU Audit (Discussion)

Ms. Burk reviewed information regarding various district audit costs and auditors. The consensus was to wait one more year to go out to bid for this service.

2. 2023-2024 Calendar (Decision)

Updates to the 2023-24 Calendar were presented to the Board for approval.

Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Calendar as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

J. Policies - Continued [1:30:00]**1. First Reading**

GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity
Withdrawn by NHSBA - November 2019; incorporated in Policy AC

GBAA - Sexual Harassment - Employees
Withdrawn by NHSBA - November 2020; replaced with Policy ACAC

JBAA - Sexual Harassment - Student
Withdrawn by NHSBA - August 2020; replaced with Policy ACAC

Ethan Beals made a motion to withdraw the following policies: GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity, GBAA - Sexual Harassment - Employees; and JBAA - Sexual Harassment - Student. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Second Reading

EEAG - Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
NHSBA revisions included language on the certificate of insurance.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve Policy EEAG - Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

K. Recommended Action [1:32:52]**1. Manifests****2. Minutes - February 20, 2023**

Ms. Dionne noted that the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip is not fully covered by fundraising and asked the minutes to be amended with that change.

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2023, as amended Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

L. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:33:50]**1. Superintendent Report**

Highlights of the Superintendent Report include:

- Visits to classrooms performing a math activity using an interactive board; an ELA assignment creating a title cover regarding a Judy Blume book and an art class where artwork was given to display in his office at the SAU.
- A meeting with community members at the Hudson Senior Community Center.
- Facilities updates: installation of HVAC systems at Nottingham West; new sound system at Alvirne; and a sink added to nurse's office at Library Street school.
- The Board will review the final school district facilities report at their next meeting.
- Read Across America Week occurred last week.
- Pedestrian traffic was reviewed at a meeting with the police department.
- There was an Emergency Management meeting last week: ALICE school drills and tabletop scenarios will be scheduled.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Organek mentioned that there was preparation for a professional development day that is postponed until March 28 due to the storm tomorrow. The February 23 remote day was successful, as eight nine percent of students were in attendance that day. There will be no Summer Scholars program this summer as it was paid for out of ESSER funds. Hudson Memorial School held STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) night tonight.

3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge visited a teacher who relocated to Life Skills; students were responding well.

4. Business Administrator Report

Ms. Burk noted that the recruiting process began for next year. The current food service student debt is \$25,176; the \$2,000 donation would be used to offset the debt for students who had since qualified for free/reduced lunch.

M. Committee Reports [1:42:01]

Mr. Campbell said that the Trustees met, and preparations are ongoing for the Hills Family Scholarship next month.

Mr. Beals said that the DIJ Committee met today and there was discussion to bring back guest speaker Tom White from Keene State College who spoke about the Holocaust. The message was about tolerance. There was a legislative bill that passed last year for upper middle school and high school education relative to the Holocaust. There was discussion to involve the community.

N. Legislative Update (Information) [1:44:38]**1. HB123**

Superintendent Moulis provided an update regarding HB123 (making Budget Committee School Board and Select Board representatives non-voting members). The Board sent a letter in January to the state. The bill came out without recommendation and was tabled with the House on February 23. A super majority is necessary, and this would not likely move forward in this legislative cycle.

O. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:45:36]

Ms. Roy said that tomorrow's election is postponed until March 28 due to the impending snowstorm. Absentee ballots will be available until March 27 at 5pm at the town hall. There will be a Board of Selectmen meeting on March 21.

P. Student Representative Comments - N/A [1:46:22]

Emily Dozois is absent this evening.

Q. Board Member Comments [1:46:24]

Mr. Campbell mentioned the postponed election on March 28. The Winter Stroll at Hills Garrison went well, and he thanked all involved.

Ms. Dionne mentioned the nationwide and state results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. There were declines in risky behavior (vaping, alcohol, drug use), and declines in youth mental health. The Commissioner of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services said that it is critical that parents, schools and community organizations work to make effective programs and services that support adolescents. She agreed that this is necessary.

Mr. Beals attended tonight's STEAM night at HMS, and he was impressed by the turnout. He gave condolences to the passing of longtime Alvirne Head Custodian Jerry Michaud.

Ms. Whiting clarified that the NHDOE stated that remote schooling is allowed for weather conditions only. The calendar was created with the understanding of voting areas in advance of that decision and the need to use snow days came after the calendar was put into place. It was a decision by the town to create two election locations. Remote learning cannot be used for the high school on election day.

Mr. Gasdia noted that there were parent-teacher conferences at Alvirne today and he spoke about the importance of staying involved. He mentioned that Cabaret would be presented on March 25 and tickets are available.

R. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a - [1:53:18]

At 8:23 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

There was a discussion on personnel and support in place for the bus incident.
SAU staff left at 10:00pm.

S. Return to General Session and Adjournment [3:58:18]

At 10:28 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to return to general session and adjourn. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

Submitted by
Susan DeFelice
Non-public by Dan Moulis, Kim Organek and Gretchen Whiting