



Hudson School Board

18 Library Street Hudson, NH

6:30 pm Regular Meeting
Non-Public Session

Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2023

In Attendance

Board Members

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

SAU Staff

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

Emily Dozois, Student Representative

A. Non-Public Meeting [0:00:0]

Grievance discussion

B. Call to Order [0:22:08]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gretchen Whiting called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Gary Gasdia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Input [0:22:32]

There was no public input.

D. Good News Update (Information) [0:22:40]

Ms. Organek shared a video of kindergarten students at the Early Learning Center leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the morning announcements.

E. Presentations to the Board [0:24:07]**1. Superintendent Update and Priorities for Next Year (Information)**

Superintendent Moulis reviewed the current year, and priorities for the next school year.

Superintendent priorities for 2023-24:

1. Continue to plan for safe schools
 - Continue partnership with Hudson Police & Fire Departments
 - Implement Homeland Security recommendations
 - Create a new plan for Alvirne High School
2. Reflect, learn and improve/increase academic rigor
 - Use data to drive instruction
 - Build upon the MTSS-A framework to guide instruction for students
 - Continue work with vertical content teams in math, reading, science and social studies
 - Build upon the MTSS-B framework to establish student soft skills and positive relationships in and out of the classrooms
3. Be a good employer
 - Create a positive culture for staff and students
 - Offer leadership and growth opportunities for staff at every level
 - Create relevant professional development
 - Provide constructive feedback for growth
 - Develop creative ways to recruit staff
 - Identify ways to improve staff retention
4. Plan for the long-term
 - Meet with staff, students, families and community members to identify priorities and create a new strategic plan for the next five years
 - Working with stakeholders, identify and reduce the number of transitions for our students

Mr. Beals suggested that staff bring outside of the box, long-term items for the administration and board to discuss. Ms. Dionne mentioned it is important to consider community feedback and is pleased that this helped steer priorities. Mr. Gasdia said assessment data is a key focus and the district should recognize academic achievement with the same enthusiasm we do sports.

F. New Business [0:44:28]**1. General Grant Assurances for FY24 (Decision)**

Authorization and approval for the superintendent to accept, receive and expend federal, state, and local grant funds for FY 2024-25 was discussed.

Gary Gasdia made a motion to authorize the superintendent to accept, receive and expend federal, state, and local grant funds for FY 2024-25. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Budget Committee Request (Discussion)

The board discussed a request by the Budget Committee for a joint workshop before June 30 with the Budget Committee, Board of Selectmen & the School Board. Discussion included what the goal of the workshop is, logistics, using time efficiently, and what type of questions will be addressed. It might be best to split the town and school meetings.

Ms. Whiting encouraged the Budget Committee to participate in municipal budget training prior to the workshop.

3. PD Travel Request (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented a request for Alvirne High School social studies teacher Donna Morin to travel to the 2023 Supreme Court Summer Institute from June 8-13, 2023. The total cost is \$1,050. This professional development opportunity is sponsored by Street Law.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request by Donna Morin to attend the 2023 Supreme Court Summer Institute from June 8-13, 2023, as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Food Service - Alvirne High School Dish Machine Replacement (Decision)

Ms. Burk presented a memo from the Food Services Department for approval to replace the failed Alvirne dish machine. Multiple quotes were received. The recommendation is to use Alternative Sales Corp to purchase a new machine for \$24,260.06.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request to use the quote by Alternative Sales Corp for the purchase of a new dish machine for Alvirne High School in the amount of \$24,260.06. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Hills Garrison Principal Search Process (Information)

Superintendent Moulis discussed the search process for selecting a new principal for Hills Garrison Elementary School including:

- Posting as of March 28
- Applicant screening to be completed by April 20
- Committee members will be selected
- Applicants will be reviewed on May 3
- Interviews will take place on May 4 and 5
- Semi-finalists will meet with faculty and families on May 10
- Finalists will meet with the superintendent and assistant superintendent on May 12 or 15
- The candidate will meet with the School Board on May 22 for approval
- Mr. Beals and Mr. Campbell are interested in participating, it will be decided who will be on the committee

G. Old Business [1:07:23]**1. School Board Workshop (Decision)**

A workshop for the School Board to discuss long-term planning is set for Tuesday, May 30, 2023, from 3-8pm.

2. End-of-Year Spending Proposals (Decision)

An updated list of end-of-year spending was presented, including additional information in the report on the emergency alert strobe system. The fire department will be contacted regarding the potential vehicle gates behind Hills Garrison. The total of all requests is \$146,000. The board agreed to wait on making any decisions.

3. School Board Committee Assignments (Decision)

The board reviewed and confirmed committee assignments.

H. Recommended Action [1:13:51]**1. Manifests****2. Minutes - March 27, 2023, and April 3, 2023**

A change to the April 3, 2023, minutes is Budget Committee Liaison will be changed to Budget Committee Ex-Officio Member.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2023, and April 3, 2023 (as amended). Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

I. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:14:39]**1. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Moulis reported that:

- He attended the April 4 Hudson Chamber of Commerce event at the Castleton in Windham, NH. He congratulated Mansi Mathur as Junior Citizen of the Year.
- He attended the musical Annie Jr. at Hudson Memorial School.
- Bingo Night at Nottingham Elementary School was a success. Superintendent Moulis communicated Principal Baker's appreciation to the PTO.
- He enjoyed lunch at the Barnyard Café on April 6 as the students practiced a dry run for opening to the public.
- Each school participated in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) safety drills last week. Preparedness is working and each school identified any areas for improvement.

J. Committee Reports [1:18:41]

Mr. Gasdia mentioned that the Board of Selectmen elected a new chair, Marilyn McGrath, and vice chair, Dave Morin. Ms. Whiting noted that the new Budget Committee chair is Norm Martin and Bill Cole is the vice chair.

K. Correspondence (Information) [1:19:25]**1. Discipline Report**

Superintendent Moulis reviewed the discipline report for March 2023 and March 2022. The board stated the notes and definitions were helpful in the report. There was discussion regarding the difference in data between Hills Garrison and Nottingham West and the importance of the same discipline standards. The board approved of this format moving forward.

2. Monthly Financials

Business Administrator Jen Burk briefly reviewed the monthly financials. Some anticipated expenditures are being released and the finance department is cleaning up encumbrances for the end of the year. The fund balance for next year is approximately \$3.5million before warrant article costs are applied.

3. Student Activities - Quarterly Reports

Information given clarified that graduating classes have the option to donate funding to a subsequent graduating year. Funds raised for 8th grade students moving up to 9th grade are transferred for related activities. It is unclear if the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip is part of that. There was discussion regarding a significant amount of fundraising in the district including door-to-door fundraising, and the question of whether certain costs could be covered within the budget. It was noted that teams are different than Boosters.

4. School Board Calendar

The approved calendar was included for informational purposes tonight. Ms. Dionne asked that it be updated with the May 30 meeting.

L. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:33:10]

Ms. Roy noted that the groundbreaking for the expansion and renovation of the Hudson Police Department occurred on April 10, 2023. She gave condolences to the Hudson Fire Department and the Avery family for the loss of Dave Avery, who was a dispatcher.

M. Student Representative Comments - [1:33:59]

Ms. Dozois mentioned the upcoming Jazz Night by the HMS and Alvirne jazz bands and swing choir. She wished everyone a good vacation.

N. Board Member Comments [1:34:10]

Mr. Campbell said that the Pinewood Derby over the weekend was successful. Hills Garrison School will be holding a bingo night on Thursday.

Mr. Gasdia spoke about the partnership with the Hudson Fire and Police Departments as well as the Department of Public Works. He wished Director Jess Forrence a happy retirement.

Mr. Beals mentioned that volunteers were still needed for the playground build.

Ms. Dionne noted that on Thursday, Nottingham West fifth graders are going to the CTE Center for a tour.

Ms. Whiting mentioned that graduate Kyle Lambert started his own trumpet making company. She feels it is important to highlight the good things being done by alumni of the district.

O. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II b - [1:37:57]

At 8:07 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II b. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Nominations were discussed and approved
SAU Staff was dismissed at 8:47pm

P. Adjournment

At 9:20pm, Maureen Dionne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Submitted by
Susan DeFelice
Non-public by Dan Moulis