

**Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Diane LaMothe, Board Member
Mr. Ethan Beals, Board Member
Ms. Fabiana Fickett, Board Member
Ms. Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectman
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Ms. Karen Burnell, Interim Business Administrator

A. Call to Order: Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. Ms. LaMothe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Non-Public Session:

1. Business Administrator Interview

C. Public Input:

Dr. Orellana read an email addressing the use of Zoom rather than Microsoft Teams. It stated that Zoom might not be free in the future and issues are already arising with the use of Microsoft Teams. This decision should be up to the teachers on what platform they would like to use.

D. Presentations to the Board:

1. Teams/Zoom Discussion:

The district is looking at the best applications for remote learning and this was not a money issue. There was discussion about the pros and cons with Zoom vs Teams. Mr. Russell said many people have transferred to Teams and its going smoothly. Mr. Russell said as of right now the teachers can use whatever platform is best for them. Beyond teaching, the district will be communicating through Teams because of the telephone feature. The Board agrees with this decision.

2. FY22 Budget: Intro, Revenue, SAU, Facilities, IT:

Overview: Ms. Burnell said the budget is minimally going up by 1.58% and the general fund for this year is going up less than 1%. Most of the increase is in salaries and benefits. This year we will be negotiating with the teachers and there will be no salary adjustments in this budget. That will be a separate warrant article. The major increases this year are in NH retirement and healthcare which are out of our control. COVID had a big impact on the supplies budget.

The tax rate has not been set for Hudson in October yet, these numbers may change. The revenue is based on what was received in the past and what the budgeted numbers are. The district is not receiving the Medicaid funds that they normally would receive due to the State changing the rules on how schools can submit for reimbursement to Medicaid which is now a challenge. Ms. Burnell went over the increases and decreases of anticipated revenue and proposed district-wide expenditures.

Facilities: John Pratte addressed the Board. Additional staff were added for custodial work they needed to have outside for COVID. The proposed facilities budget reflects a decrease of 6.4% for FY22, a lot of this is due to elimination of funds for the roof at Hudson Memorial. A few additional things are due to repairs and projects. The budget also contains Nottingham's gym floor and bleachers, air conditioning systems, and window replacement. Mr. Pratte went over what the details included in the budget. The facilities are in good shape as of right now due to all the improvements that were made over the years. There was a conversation about collaboration with the Town on projects.

IT: Kyle Hancock addressed the Board. There was an increase in the budget by 14% this year which was due to device growth and they are getting to a point where they cannot support the amount of devices they have. This includes the 150 devices for staff and student 1:1 devices which were due to COVID. The proposed budget includes 6-11th grade 1:1 student computers, providing laptops to teachers, and additional staff members to support devices along with all the normal costs. The budget was also broken down into categories. The LMS in the budget would replace Google Classroom but they have not established what it would be. Mr. Gasdia recommended that the district should get everyone's perspective on what they choose for the LMS. Ms. LaMothe recently heard that they would get more state funding related to technology. Mr. Hancock said that if there was more room in the budget for technology it should be used to get additional personnel to support the teachers and to help with equipment. There was no motion made.

E. New Business:

1. Extracurricular Nominations:

These nominations are for Hudson Memorial. Ms. LaMothe is interested in hearing the music director's plan for this year to ensure safety for students.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the Hudson Memorial extracurricular nominations for 2020-2021 school year on the same assumption (as with sports) that if there is no season then there will be an assessment piece, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Transportation Contract:

This is a request of the Board to let Ms. Burnell to negotiate a continuance of the contract so that there wouldn't be additional changes to the year because both contracts expire June 2021.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to look at the bidding process, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

F. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests- Recommended Action: Make necessary corrections and sign
2. Minutes: No minutes were reviewed today.

G. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Russell updated the Board about the dashboards for each school's status. Mr. Russell said that through the survey that went out, they think there are about 300 students who don't have a device to participate in remote learning. United Way is running a campaign called Learn United and this is similar to a food pantry but with technology. More information about this will be provided on Facebook. Mr. Russell reported that there are no COVID cases in the district. Mr. Russell stressed the importance of not sending a student to school if they are sick and to keep practicing social distancing as much as possible.

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report:

There will be a few Administrators attending a two-part series entitled Leading through Chaos. This is led by a Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the focus will be on engaging parents as partners in education, individualized learning, and adapting with changes throughout the year. Ms. Organek congratulated a kindergarten remote teacher on an email a parent wrote praising her hard work.

3. Interim Business Administrator's Report:

Ms. Burnell is working on the budget and hiring of the Finance Director and the Business Administrator.

4. Director of Special Services' Report:

Ms. Borge is working on the situations that could arise and how they will go through each situation. They are looking at the social impact of being a remote learner who is not good at maintaining a social connection especially for middle school and high school.

H. Legislative Updates:

Mr. Russell shared that there is a lot of work going on in the state related to adequacy. Superintendents are going up to the House and Senate to testify. They are also going to talk about the cost of business and the support that is needed. Mr. Russell thanked the town because they donated \$18,000 to the district from the GOFERR funds.

I. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Mentioned that the amount of creativity with everyone trying to have a normal way of life is inspiring and hopes everyone still has that same creativity once this is all over.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Ms. LaMothe acknowledged the incredible amount of work that everyone is doing behind the scenes in the school district and the Town.

Mr. Ethan Beals: Mentioned that with budget season around it will be pretty clear of the challenges that COVID presented as we look at the current and projected budget.

Ms. Fabiana Fickett: Thanked everyone who is working in the district because she knows how hard it is to keep everyone safe, physically, and emotionally.

Ms. Kara Roy: Ms. Roy recognized HCTV because they have been incredible with not saying no ever to the Town or the district. Last Saturday there was a drive-thru absentee ballot/voter registration and there will be another drive-thru on October 24th 10:00 am-1:00 pm, at the Hudson Community Center just for absentee ballots.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Mentioned that National Coming Out Day was October 11th. It's just not one day a year that people in the LGBTQ community come out, but it is a day that is highlighted. She hopes the Town and school district can examine ways to continue to be welcoming to the LGBTQ community.

J. Upcoming Meetings:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Purpose
School Board	10/26/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	FY22 Budget
School Board	10/27/2020	6:30 pm	SAU Building	Board Member Orientation

K. Non-Public Session:

Ms. Fickett made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(b, c) at 8:37 pm, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

The board discussed hiring Jennifer Burk as Business Administrator. **Ms. Fickett moved to hire Ms. Burk, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 5-0.**

Ms. LaMothe moved to approve the nomination of Susan Lewis, second by Mr. Beals. Motion passes 5-0.
Susan Lewis Language Arts Teacher \$49,250

District Leadership (Larry Russell, Kim Organek, Karen Burnell and Rachel Borge) were dismissed at 9:09 pm. Attendance – Darcy Orellana (Chair); Gary Gasdia (Vice-Chair); Ethan Beals, Diana LaMothe, Fabiana Fickett

Discussed personnel issue regarding former district employee.

Motion by Diana Lamothe to add an additional \$2500 for a total of \$7500 for legal fees – adding to the \$5000 originally approved on 9/28/20. Second by Ethan Beals. Motion approved 5-0.

Motion by Ethan Beals to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Fabiana Fickett. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)
Kimberly Orgonek (8:37 non-public)
Gary Gasdia (9:09 non-public)