



HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting
Non-Public Session

Minutes – December 5, 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
Kimberly Organek, Assistant
Superintendent of Schools
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services
Jen Burk, Business Administrator

Brett Gagnon, Board of Selectmen Liaison

A. Call to Order [0:00:07]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gary Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mike Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Whiting was wished a happy birthday.

Ethan Beals made a motion to amend the agenda by placing New Business item 3 (NEASC report) and Old Business item 1 (A/B block schedule) to after public input to accommodate people in attendance. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

B. Public Hearing (Decision) [00:01:37]

Pursuant to RSA 198:20-b, and in accordance with Article 4 of the March 6, 1992 Town Meeting, the Hudson School Board held a public hearing to receive and authorize to expend a donation of \$15,000 by Feed New Hampshire. The Palmer Center at Alvirne Culinary program will receive \$15,000 to be used to enhance the program curriculum. There were no comments.

The public hearing closed at 6:32pm.

Ethan Beals made a motion to accept and expend an additional \$15,000 for the purpose outlined in the donation memo (\$15,000 from Feed New Hampshire to the Palmer Center Alvirne Culinary program). Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

C. Public Input [0:03:25].

There was no public input

D. New Business [0:03:36]

1. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Student Survey (Discussion)

Alvirne High School Principal Beals, Dean of Academics Sue Bureau and Superintendent Moulis shared information on the student survey as part of the high school accreditation process that occurs every 10 years. There was a change in legislation (186:11) so there is an opt-in for the survey versus an opt-out. This can present administrative challenges.

Alvirne is up for re-accreditation starting with a collaborative conference visit next September 2023, followed by one in September 2025. Principal Beals would like to offer the student survey during flex time in January and offer an opt out instead of opt in. He will reach out to NEASC to see if it is an option to remove the non-academic questions from the survey. He prefers to offer the survey before break. The high school must administer the survey by next August.

Board members expressed concern about overriding state law and changing the requirement to opt out. Superintendent Moulis will reach out to legal and the NH Department of Education to better understand the law and bring the topic back on December 19.

E. Old Business [0:44:01]

1. Update on A/B Block Schedule (Discussion)

Alvirne High School Administration provided an update on the A/B block schedule which included implementation, challenges, and successes.

Department heads were introduced: Alex Wetmore (science); Lauren Denis (English); Joyce Wise (math); and Scott Rush (for Jeff Peterson - social studies).

Overall, the schedule is going well and students are getting used to it. Flexibility now exists for activities such as science labs and for in-depth discussion, instruction, and student reflection time (active learning model). The embedded (professional learning) PLC time is helpful for teachers. One negative is that some teachers do not see students every day. Students are struggling with executive functioning skills (this is districtwide) but they are functioning well as students, and they are engaged and communicating with teachers. The longer periods also help with the Pathways Program. Occasionally attendance in first block is an issue, which can result in fewer contact days and issues with covering material on time. There was discussion about the pace of the curriculum, challenges with less staffing, and the nationwide issue of students not wanting to do homework. Schoology will be researched to see if it can help with executive functioning.

F. Good News Update (Information) [01:23:22]

Ms. Organek shared that Career Development Coordinator Rich Paiva and CTE Director Eric Frauwirth presented Peer Education: CTE Ambassadors Promoting Pathways to sixty educators from around the country at a CTE conference in Las Vegas. Our CTE ambassadors participated via Zoom and answered questions from the conference attendees. Board members commended the students for their work.

G. New Business [1:24:11]

1. Hills Garrison and Alvirne Coach Nominations (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis reviewed a nomination for Christine Kingsley to head Hills Garrison's winter ski club for FY23. An additional nomination was Thomas Beaulieu for Alvirne's assistant ice hockey coach.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the nomination of Christine Kingsley as Hills Garrison winter ski club coach and Thomas Beaulieu as Alvirne's assistant ice hockey coach. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Superintendent Evaluation (Discussion)

The board discussed the annual superintendent evaluation process. Performance standards were outlined and correlated with the policy and goals. A suggestion was to add items such as professional development and skills. Questions will be finalized at the December 19 board meeting for distribution in January. A school board evaluation will follow.

H. Old Business [1:34:01]

1. Warrant article Follow-Up (Decision)

Board member Beals meet with the facilities director and members from public works and learned that one catch basin will be removed and the other will remain in place. The paving will be for the SAU parking lot and front walkway. The quote is \$150,000. There is flexibility with the thickness of pavement if the price increases.

Ethan Beals made a motion to include Warrant Article 11 (SAU office paving) this year. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

I. Policies [1:38:40]

1. Second Reading (Decision)

Policies will be presented in a uniform layout.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the removal and updates of the following policies for second reading:

- ADD Safe Schools - withdrawn by NHSBA – November 2020, replaced by EBB
- EBB School Safety - EBB entirely replaces current policy
- EHB Data and Records Retention - revised with track changes - more specific provisions regarding destruction of records (EHB-R will be posted online)

- IFA Instructional Needs of Each Individual Student - current policy with minor tracked changes
- IMBC Alternative Credit Options - current policy with updates, awarding credits for courses at another approved school (procedures would be processed upon adoption of IMBC)
- JCA Change of Class of School or Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship - NHSBA version replaces current policy
- JEC Manifest Educational Hardship - withdrawn by NHSBA November 2020; language is updated in JCA

Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

J. Recommended Action [1:43:30]

- 1. Manifests**
- 2. Minutes - November 21, 2022, and February 5, 2022 (not formerly voted on yet)**

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2022, as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2022 (Deliberative Session) as presented. Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0:1 (abstention from M. Dionne).

K. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:44:59]

1. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Moulis reported that the administrative team is finalizing a remote instruction plan for snow days to include synchronous (online) and asynchronous (offline) learning; they also discussed action plans for student academic growth; there will be a review in January with the board. A full-time custodian was hired as well as more substitute teachers. Superintendent Moulis thanked Champions for the donation of a refrigerator at Hudson Memorial (less than \$1K so no need for a board approval). There was a security walkthrough of HO Smith and Library Schools. Last week, the district was unable to receive phone calls, but the issue has been resolved. Alternative ways were used to communicate with families. The emergency communication plan is being reviewed. The holiday concert took place last week at Library Street, and activities are continuing across the district as the holidays approach.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Organek noted that she is spent a lot of time at the middle school and focused on with behavior in the cafeteria. She thanked the staff for their efforts. She began school instructional walkthroughs at Hills Garrison, and next week there will be walkthroughs at Nottingham West.

3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge noted that on the November professional development day, a pilot assessment was completed by teachers based on observations of students in grades K, 1, 2 and 7. The assessment evaluates social, academic and emotional skills as they relate to readiness for learning. Our results indicate that students are in need of skill development in the academic and emotional domains. Staff are reviewing how both schools and families can help students. Plans will be developed and implemented. Data will be collected again in the future to a support assessment of progress.

4. Business Administrator Report

Ms. Burk mentioned that she spoke with the NH Department of Revenue regarding setting the tax rate on the school side and the rate should be published soon. A new finance director was hired at the SAU, and she will begin on January 3, 2023. An accounts payable coordinator will soon be hired as well, and the current AP coordinator will be the new accountant. Ms. Burk was commended for her work during this time.

L. Committee Reports [1:53:55]

Mr. Campbell mentioned that the Alvirne Trustees met last week. Ms. Burk was also present to answer questions. They were reviewing questions for the Hills Family Scholarship.

Ms. Whiting noted that the budget committee met on November 22 and 29 and went through budgets. The committee was surprised that the default budget was higher than the proposed budget. There will be a budget committee tour through district buildings this Saturday.

M. Board Of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:56:35]

Mr. Gagnon reported that the Lowell Road bridge is still in the design stage; issues with purchasing; Right to Know Committee will be meeting once more this week; after feedback from a public hearing, the Power Aggregation Committee is still working; he recommends passing the warrant article that does not lock the town into anything.

N. Student Representative Comments [1:59:20]

Emily Dozois was absent due to school commitment.

O. Board Member Comments [1:59:27]

Ms. Dionne mentioned that PowerSchool servers were upgraded but there are issues with syncing of the apps. Deleting and reinstalling the application will resolve the issue.

Mr. Gasdia noted that there are many holiday activities going on in the schools.

P. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c) [2:00:35]

At 8:28pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c). Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

A personnel matter was discussed.

A student matter was discussed. There will be a school board hearing on December 19th at 5:00pm.

Q. Motion to Exit Non-Public and Adjourn [2:29:35]

At 9:06 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to return to general session and adjourn. Gretchen White seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Submitted by
Susan DeFelice
Non-Public by Dan Moulis