



HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ♦ Hudson, New Hampshire  
Hills Memorial Library 18 Library Street

6:30 pm Budget Meeting  
Non-Public Session

## School Board Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024

### In Attendance

#### Board Members

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

#### SAU Staff

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

#### A. Call to Order [0:00:15]

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

#### B. Public Input [0:00:40]

There was no public input.

*Ethan Beals made a motion to amend the agenda to switch the order of presentations. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### C. Presentations to the Board [0:01:12]

##### 1. AHS Palmer CTE Ambassadors

Rich Paiva and several AHS Palmer CTE Ambassadors presented information on the roles and responsibilities of the Ambassadors:

- Student Leadership
- Public Relations & Marketing
- Professional & Interpersonal Skills

- Criteria of selection: They are chosen by CTE teachers re. leadership qualities, etc.; need approval of parents and teachers
- They do outreach programs.
- Represent CTE/Alvirne
- Participate in Career Day/Fairs, Exploring Your Future (peer education), tours, and events such as the State of the District
- Learn leadership, professionalism, and communication/public speaking skills
- There will be a tour of the CTE on January 31 at 5:30pm.
- The Ambassadors feel that adding semester/elective classes is beneficial for Alvirne students; CTE courses helped set students up for the future.
- Ambassador suggestions are welcomed.

## 2. JROTC Program

Colonel Cole shared some updates on the JROTC aviation efforts, and positive feedback regarding the program's benefits to our students. Overview highlights included:

- JROTC is a Title X citizenship program funded by Congress that helps students develop soft-skills to use after high-school.
- Cadets (75 from Hudson and area schools) learn leadership, aerospace science and health/wellness.
- Air Force retirees Colonel Cole and Lt. Colonel Cheetham teach the program.
- Competition for scholarships: Flight Academy/Aim High.
- It is a combination of academics and practical leadership experience.
- Encourages participation in co-curricular/community service events.
- Participation in something bigger than oneself.
- Aviation elements: ROTC 1+ (Aviation Experiences) to ROTC 3+ (TBD - Aviation Honors Ground School) - including flight simulations and drones/CAP flights.

The School Board assisted in presenting ten certificates to several cadets listed below and photos were taken. Colonel Cole's leadership was commended.

- Ryan Burke - Alvirne Junior: Remote Pilot Badge
- Brandon Adamson- Londonderry Senior: - Remote Pilot badge, Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy scholarship select, Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship alternate
- Jack Owens- Londonderry Senior: Remote Pilot Badge
- James Martell - Alvirne Junior: Remote Pilot badge, Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy scholarship select, Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship alternate
- Sophia Berube - Alvirne Junior: Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship select
- Calli Hrycuna - Souhegan Junior: Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship alternate

## D. Policies - Second Reading [0:10:45]

### BEDG - Meeting Minutes

New NHSBA proposed. The 2021 amendment did not specify whether it was to apply retrospectively or prospectively only. Unless otherwise specified, a statutory change with substantive requirements applied to perspective only; the statutory list mandate only applied to sessions occurring after January 1, 2022. 2023 had amendments to RSA 91 a:3 requiring Boards to review all sealed minutes every 10 years and determine whether to unseal them or unseal them if not reviewed in 10 years. Minutes sealed after 10/3/2023: Boards had 10 years to review minutes sealed prior to 10/3/2023. It would be best to review historical minutes and create a list for future sealed minutes as well.

**BEDH - Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings**

NHSBA version proposed. It was noted that in #3 on page 1, the paragraph should end with "...the board will table the remainder of the time until the end of the public meeting. If insufficient speakers remain to fill the 30 minutes, the board will close public comment."

**DK - Payment Procedures**

NHSBA version with tracked changes

**EBBC - Emergency Care and First Aid**

This policy is a duplicate of updated and current JLCE, therefore it was suggested by NHSBA that this version be withdrawn.

EBBC for withdrawal

**EBBD - Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality**

Current policy with tracked changes.

RSA 485:17-a Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Licensed Childcare Facilities.

**EHAB - Data Governance and Security**

Current policy with tracked changes.

**KF - Use of School Buildings and Facilities**

Current policy with tracked changes.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the second reading of the following policies as amended:***

***BEDG - Meeting Minutes***

***BEDH - Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings***

***DK - Payment Procedures***

***EBBC - Emergency Care and First Aid***

***EBBD - Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality***

***EHAB - Data Governance and Security***

***KF - Use of School Buildings and Facilities***

***Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

**E. New Business [1:20:55]**

**1. School Calendar**

There was review of the draft 2024-2025 school calendar.

Highlights included:

- August 26: first day of school
- August 30: no school
- September 10: workshop day for State Primary election
- December 23, 2024 - January 1, 2025: holiday break
- March 11: workshop day
- June 20: Last day of school (with 5 built-in snow days)

This was sent out to surrounding districts. It will be given to the Hudson Federation of Teachers (HFT) for review and brought back to the Board for a vote.

## **2. Audit Services RFP Results (Decision)**

Six companies were invited to participate in the bid; only one response was received from Plodzik & Sanderson, P.A.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to award the audit services contract to Plodzik & Sanderson, P.A. for the fiscal years 2024 through 2026, with two one-year extension options for fiscal years 2027 and 2028, in accordance with policy DJE. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

## **3. Payment Procedures (Decision)**

With the Board approval of Policy DK - Payment Procedures, the designation of signers and backups were chosen for review of manifests: Mike Campbell and Gary Gasdia with alternates Gretchen Whiting and Maureen Dionne.

## **F. Old Business [1:32:16]**

### **1. FY 25 Budget Update/Final Vote on Warrants (Decision)**

There was review of the FY25 School District Warrant Articles for a final vote before the Public Hearing on January 11, 2024.

The Budget Committee took action on Warrant Article 1 - Operating Budget to reduce it an additional \$1,081,000. They were looking for an updated list. It was proposed to not move forward with new full-time positions or part-time to full-time positions. It was noted that the dollar figure did not match the motion. The Article reflected an operating budget of \$66,451,923 with a default of \$67,596,534. There might be adjustments at the Public Hearing. Discussion topics included: the intent of the additional reduction by the Budget Committee to get it to a more palatable dollar figure that would be passed by the voters; class sizes; workload for existing counselors with decreased enrollment; tentative recommendations by the Budget Committee (some wanted to wait for public input first); etc. There was concern that the amended operating budget was too low and did not cover certain obligations; HFT and Teamster CBA costs would put the amount higher than the Budget's recommended amount. There was discussion about tabling the vote until public input was received.

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to not recommend Warrant Article 1 - Operating Budget. Ethan Beals seconded the motion.***

The Board took a straw poll and no Board member recommended to recommend the Budget Committee's proposed operating budget amount.

Warrant Article 9: to include or change the voting date from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in April. Leadership reviewed this and the group feel that some factors are: issuing of contracts, impact on hiring, job posting (attrition-based, etc.), and most SB2 Districts vote in March. This vote was tabled and it would be referred to counsel if a vote was necessary.

#### **G. Recommended Action [2:12:33]**

- 1. Manifests**
- 2. Minutes: December 20, 2023**

It was noted that Mike Campbell's name needed correction.

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

#### **H. Reports to the Board (Information)**

##### **1. Superintendent Report - Dan Moulis**

- iReady mid-year assessments- reading and math.
- Instructional rounds at Memorial.
- Completion of Capstone projects.
- Chaperone 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the Palace Theater to see A Christmas Carol that aligned with reading of the book.
- Alvirne boys basketball game vs. Merrimack (Alvirne won)
- Alvirne unified basketball game today vs. Pinkerton Astros (Alvirne won)
- Senate Finance Committee meeting in Concord next week re. SB 396-FN-A related to appropriations of funds (\$672,672.99 to the DOE) for the Wilbur Palmer CTE Center (culinary arts classroom).

##### **2. Assistant Superintendent Report - Kimberly Organek**

The Professional Development Committee will meet tomorrow to finalize preparations for the January 23 teacher workshop day and March 12 teacher-lead professional development day. It is also working on revising the PD plan to be sent to the state in the spring. SASS modulars in grades 3-8 are beginning next week. There is no school on January 15<sup>th</sup> for MLK Day.

##### **3. Director of Special Services - Rachel Borge**

Current happenings include: review of basic practices, patterns of need, staff allocation/distribution, data collection methods, entrance and exit criteria for special programs.

#### **4. Business Administrator - Jen Burk**

Ms. Burk visited classrooms at Memorial and she thanked the teachers and students for viewing the spaces, learning, perspective, etc.

#### **I. Committee Reports [2:24:19]**

There were no committee reports.

#### **J. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [2:24:23] - N/A**

#### **K. Student Representative Comments [2:24:24] - N/A**

#### **L. Board Member Comments [2:24:30]**

Mr. Campbell wished everyone a Happy New Year, mentioned the upcoming meetings and elections and he encouraged voters to turn out.

Mr. Gasdia also encouraged a large voter turnout. He commended tonight's presenters as well as the Model UN class at Alvirne who was featured on NH Public Radio. The department teachers were thanked.

Ms. Dionne had attended the Alvirne swim and dive meet where AHS athletes showed great representation and sportsmanship.

Ms. Whiting mentioned that students presented Capstone projects on topics such as beehives, personal training, how to repair a RAM truck, etc. Paraeducator presence and support was noted as well. Everyone was congratulated.

#### **M. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, and c. [2:31:05]**

*At 9 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a, b and c. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Hiring approval

Personnel matter

Contract of instructors

SAU was dismissed at 9:28pm

#### **R. Return to General Session and Adjourn**

At 9:58pm, 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 was submitted by Dan Moulis, Kim Organek and Gretchen Whiting