

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

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Diana LaMothe
Mr. Ethan Beals
Ms. Fabiana Fickett
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Karen Burnell, Interim Business Administrator
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Ms. Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator
Ms. Hannah LoVerdi, Student Representative

- A. Call to Order:** Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. Ms. LaMothe led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Public Input:**
1. Moderator Paul Inderbitzen: Mr. Inderbitzen thanked the board and school for allowing the town to use Hudson Memorial School for voting to take place, everyone was very accommodating. He would like to have a discussion in the future about having multiple polling locations.
 2. Mr. Gasdia stated there was public input submitted by email that said it was unfair to shut down the schools just because people wanted to travel.
- C. Presentations to the Board:**
1. Budget Wrap-Up: Ms. Burnell summarized everything that the Board has reviewed. The Board addressed some questions that they had throughout reviewing the budget. Mr. Gasdia asked if the district had received any information on additional after-school programming at the elementary level. The Board reviewed all the additional costs that would have to be incurred for this to happen. Mr. Beals thinks this should be in the budget this year because this is going to have a direct impact on the whole district, and everyone would benefit from this in the long run.
- Mr. Gasdia made a motion to make a line item showing negative \$50,000 for attrition and we will repurpose that \$50,000 for the creation of the elementary and ELC enrichment program making it a zero-net impact to the budget, second by Mr. Beals.**

Mr. Beals asked if the elementary schools were confident they could produce a program with the money they are given. They stated that they would need to have a conversation about all of

this and see what is needed due to COVID-19 because this could raise a lot of problems this year.

Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

There was another topic on whether or not teachers should be provided laptops, making them able to work at home if they need too. Many teachers have been using student laptops which was not ideal especially if the need to work from home is frequent or long-term.

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve the total budget in the amount of \$58,260,827 of which \$54,717,400 is the general fund, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Warrant Article for Roof Replacement: The district is running into a problem with Hills Garrison because it was built around the same time as Hudson Memorial renovation. They are proposing two roof replacements, finish up Hudson Memorial and replace Hills Garrison's as problems keep arising and repairs keep needing to be done. Roughly \$330,000 would be needed for each of these replacements, totaling approximately \$660,000.
3. Computers from another district: Mr. Russell brought up that we have an option of attaining 350 computers at \$150 each from another district as their lease is now up. Hudson School District would have these computers for an estimate of two years due to the batteries being nonreplaceable. This would be a transfer of money from the operating budget that the Board would have to approve. The Board would like to know if they can deduct 350 computers from the 900 computers that are on backorder. IT does not believe that they can do this without cancelling the whole order.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the transfer of \$52,500 from salaries and benefits to purchase the 350 computers, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

D. New Business:

1. Holiday Schedule: Mr. Russell brought up a notion that was talked about which was a two-week quarantine after Thanksgiving and Christmas so that people could travel. Another option that was brought up was going remote until after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There are many scenarios that the district must look at with the holidays coming up. Mr. Russell is going to get more information as to what other districts around us are doing and look at the survey results and present to the Board on Monday. Ms. LoVerdi mentioned that her and many other students love going to school but that the holidays did raise a concern for the safety of them as well as their families. The principals and Board members all gave their own feedback on this matter as well. This conversation will be continued next board meeting.

2. Student Attendance: For the most part, attendance has been steady in most schools. However, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Tesini reported that they are recently seeing a spike in students not coming to school within the past week, more so in a remote setting. They both went over how they are handling an intervention for attendance if a student misses several days of school. There was a conversation about intervention for students who are required to quarantine as well.

E. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thanked Ms. Burnell for all her hard work and stepping up when they needed it.

Ms. Hannah LoVerdi: Mentioned that the college application season is coming up and pointed out a few learning days coming up.

Ms. Fabiana Fickett: Noted that tomorrow is World Kindness Day and mentioned that our students need a lot of care and support right now.

Mr. Ethan Beals: No comment.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Ms. LaMothe is impressed with the quality of people working in the district. She also mentioned a documentary called The Social Dilemma and recommended people to watch it.

Ms. Darcy Orellana: Thanked Ms. Burnell and everyone in the district.

F. Non-public Session:

Mr. Beals made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(C) at 9:15 pm, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

G. Adjourn:

Mr. Gasdia moved to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)
Kim Organek (non-public)