



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

6:30 pm Regular Meeting  
followed by Non-public Session

# Minutes

March 21, 2022

## In attendance:

### Board Members

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

Board of Selectman Liaison – Kara Roy

### SAU Staff

Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools  
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services  
Jen Burk, Business Administrator  
Kim Organeck, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

## A. Call to Order [0:00:20] Superintendent Larry Russell Presiding

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

## B. Public Input [0:00:50]

There was no public input.

## C. Oath of Office [0:00:57]

Maureen Dionne and Gary Gasdia were sworn in by Moderator Paul Inderbitzen as Hudson School Board members.

## D. Board Reorganization [0:03:26]

### 1. Election of Chairperson, Superintendent Larry Russell Presiding

Ms. Whiting made a motion to nominate Mr. Gasdia as School Board Chair. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

### 2. Election of Vice-Chairperson, Chairperson Presiding

Mr. Gasdia resumed leadership of the meeting as Chair. He thanked voters and the Board members for their support.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve Ms. Whiting as School Board Vice Chair. Mr. Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

Ms. Whiting congratulated Ms. Dionne and Mr. Gasdia for winning the election. Ms. Dionne said she looked forward to serving on the School Board.

### 3. Proposed 2022-23 School Board Meeting Calendar

An updated draft of the FY23 School Board Meeting Calendar was distributed. The board adjusted some meeting dates to spread them more evenly through the summer and the beginning of the school year. June 6 is Scholarship night at Alvirne High School - the school board meeting is moved to June 7. The July meeting will be July 18. The August meetings will be on August 8 and August 22. In March 2023, the first Monday is immediately following break. The two March meetings are scheduled for March 13 and March 27.

### 4. Committee Assignments

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	
Hudson Federation of Teachers (HFT)	Gretchen Whiting Mike Campbell
Teamsters	Ethan Beals Mike Campbell
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE	Ethan Beals Maureen Dionne
HSB POLICY COMMITTEE	Gretchen Whiting Gary Gasdia
FACILITIES COMMITTEE	Ethan Beals
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE	Ethan Beals Maureen Dionne
HUDSON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE LIAISON	Gretchen Whiting TBD
ALVIRNE TRUSTEES	Mike Campbell Maureen Dionne
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	Gary Gasdia Mike Campbell
CABLE UTILITY COMMITTEE	Mike Campbell
JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)	Ethan Beals Maureen Dionne
COST SAVINGS COMMITTEE	Mike Campbell Gretchen Whiting

**5. Role of a School Board Member**

Information on the role of a School Board member was part of the agenda packet. There is a Webinar training session available for School Board members. Additionally, the NH School Boards Association could come to a School Board meeting and give a refresher presentation. Mr. Russell would reach out to the NHSBA for possible dates to give a presentation.

**E. Presentations to the Board [0:30:49]**

**1. March 8, 2022 Voting Day Results - Mr. Inderbitzen**

Highlights of the March 8 voting day results included: custodial staff, culinary arts program, etc. doing a good job. There was a steady, non-hectic day between the two locations (Ward 1 and 2). The highway crew did well after the elections. It was one of the largest percentage turnouts in Town/School elections: partly due to the removal of almost 4,500 names from the checklist of voters who did not vote since 2016. Out of 15,000 voters, about 4,200 voted, which was about average for a Town election. He noted that, regarding the September 2022 primary election, voters will need to be notified of any changes of location (unexpected expense). All school district warrant articles passed with the exception of the operating budget and the face mask petitioned warrant article. A recount will be done on a Town Article on Wednesday that won by one vote. It should be reaffirmed that the election went well and the machines operated well. The board thanked Mr. Inderbitzen for his work.

**D. Good News Update [0:39:12 ]**

Ms. Organek shared the following: Adult Education classes will begin on March 28 at The Palmer Center; CTE students attended the NH Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) conference and received multiple awards; and The Barnyard Cafe will open to the public on March 24.

**E. New Business [0:41:52]**

**1. Extracurricular Nominations (decision)**

Mr. Russell presented HMS spring nominations: Girls Softball and Boys Baseball

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the FY22 HMS spring nominations for Girls Softball (Becky Radziewicz) and Boys Baseball (Jeremy Drown) as presented. Ms. Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

**2. 2022-2023 Proposed Alvirne Trustees Budget**

Principal Steve Beals presented the FY23 proposed Alvirne Trustees budget. Trustees manage the Hills family trust related to Alvirne properties.

**CTE Requests**

Skidder (B. Marshall) \$40,000

**Alvirne Requests**

Hills House Sign (L. Lathrop) \$50,000  
 Wenger Staging (R. Scagnelli) \$16,000  
 Bioscience Lab Pack (E. Foskitt) \$5,000  
 Virtual Reality Field Trip Set (M. Tieman) \$10,000  
 Challenge Day - 6 days (S. Beals) \$25,000

### Farm Requests

<u>Corn Auger Cutter and Wagon (E. Nadeau)</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$181,000</b>

Principal Beals noted that the Historical Society agreed to handle future elements of electrical use to the Hills House sign. Additional costs over the \$50,000 would be paid by the Historical Society. A design of the sign was reviewed. Ms. Whiting asked if the lab pack and field trip set could fit into the operating budget if the Trustees did not approve them, as they were part of the curriculum. Mr. Ethan Beals was concerned about how often the skidder would be used and if it would be sitting outside exposed to the weather and if students would be driving the equipment (larger than a typical fire tractor). There is garage space available; usage concerns had been reviewed and the CTE Director figured that industry-standard equipment/materials should be used while running the forestry program. Not all students would be using the skidder in the beginning. Mr. Gasdia asked about priorities. Principal Beals supported the connection between Alvirne and the Hudson Historical Society, so he would give priority to the Hills House sign and also the skidder (thereby spending money within the context of the farm). Mr. Campbell asked if the exchange student from the Ukraine would want to attend a Board meeting. Principal Beals asked the board to let the superintendent know if they would like her to attend a future meeting. She has taken on an Ambassador role. Alvirne is holding a donation drive in support of Ukraine.

### 3. HFT Sick Bank Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Burk reviewed the proposed MOU regarding donation of unused sick time to the sick bank. The balance was at 320 days as of March 15, 2022; the proposal was a one-time opportunity to replenish the bank by voluntary donations from staff members.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the HFT Sick Bank Memorandum of Understanding as proposed. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

### F. Recommended Action [1:12:60]

1. Manifests: Sign
2. Minutes
  - a) 2/26/2022 Draft Minutes
  - b) 3/7/2022 Draft Minutes

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/26/2022 and 3/7/2022 as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0:1 (Ms. Dionne abstention).

### G. Reports to the Board - Information [1:14:14]

#### 1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Russell gave an update on the Superintendent transition. Mr. Moulis met with the SAU staff last week; a transition calendar is being drafted; the focus is on District operations; he will meet with Principals and staff, and collective bargaining groups. The feeling is that school is back to normal. Behavior and achievement gaps are being addressed.

## 2. Assistant Superintendent Report

Preparations are being done for the Professional Development day this Friday: iReady and IXL training, mental health training and curriculum. Preparations are also underway to invite summer scholars this year.

## 3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge attended a conference focusing on the science of reading and strengths-based intervention. How to support students in self-regulating behavior (and building on individual strengths).

## 4. Business Administrator Report

Ms. Burk mentioned that USDA does not expect to extend the waivers for free meals (they will expire on June 30, 2022). Families could fill out forms for free and reduced lunch when they were available over the summer. Mr. Beals suggested there be different ways of relaying the message to families of the benefit of filling out those forms (for students and Title I funding).

## H. Correspondence (Information) [1:22:25]

### 1. Discipline Report

There was an increase in behavior issues from February to March 2022. It is typical to see an increase after February break. Information on students with multiple suspensions was included. Ms. Whiting suggested having a graph that compared discipline data from year to year.

## I. Board of Selectmen Liaison Comments [1:26:40]

Ms. Roy congratulated Mr. Gasdia and Ms. Dionne. She looked forward to serving the town for another three years and collaborating with the District.

## J. Board Member Comments [3:00:57]

Mr. Campbell congratulated Ms. Roy, Mr. Gasdia and Ms. Dionne on their election. He was pleased warrant articles 2, 3, and 4, collective bargaining agreements, passed as well as the playground. *Cabaret* will be back at Alvirne High School on Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27. Tickets are available [sau81.org](http://sau81.org) > Alvirne High School.

Ms. Dionne congratulated Mr. Gasdia and Ms. Roy. She hoped the high community engagement would continue this year. She was looking forward to working with the Board this year.

Mr. Beals welcomed Ms. Dionne, Mr. Gasdia and Ms. Roy. He appreciated the Superintendent transition plan update.

Ms. Whiting was happy to have Mr. Gasdia back on the Board and welcomed Ms. Dionne. She was excited for a collaborative and fruitful School Board year.

Mr. Gasdia congratulated Ms. Roy and Ms. Dionne. He thanked the Board for entrusting him to be Board Chair again. He spoke about good collaboration between the Board and SAU and Cabinet. He mentioned that Ruth Servant recently passed away, a longtime district employee. She dedicated many years to the District and was the first Special Education Bus Driver of the Year and was an

Alvirne custodian for 30 years.

**K. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-a:3 II (c) [1:32:26]**

1. Student Matter

At 8:03pm, Mr. Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c): Student Matter. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

SAU staff was dismissed at 9:20pm.

The board discussed a staffing matter.

Mr. Beals made a motion to seal the minutes for 99 years. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5:0

**L. Return to General Session**

At 9:35 pm, Mr. Beals made a motion to return to general session. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

**M. Adjournment**

At 9:36 pm, Mr. Beals made a made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan DeFelice (public) and Gretchen Whiting (non-public).