



HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

5:00pm Non-Public Session

6:30pm Regular Meeting

Non-Public Session

Minutes- December 19, 2022

In Attendance

Board Members

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

SAU Staff

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

Emily Dozois, Student Representative

A. Non-Public Meeting Per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) [5:00pm]

Student matter

B. Return to General Session [6:15pm]

C. Call to Order [0:00:13]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gary Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Emily Dozois led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Public Input [0:00:40]

There was no public input.

E. Good News Update (Information) [0:00:51]

Ms. Organek shared good news with the community:

- December 8- NH Department of Education 20th Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education awards where Lt. Colonel Cheetham was honored as NH Teacher of the Year.
- Last Friday, Superintendent Moulis, Assistant Superintendent Kim Organek and Director Special Services Rachel Borge attended the *Frosty the Snowman* at Alvirne High School. The students put on two great shows.

F. New Business [0:02:28]

1. Drug Prevention at Alvirne High School (Information)

Alvirne High School Principal Steve Beals and Director of School Counseling Bill Huguen discussed drug preventative strategies. One of the biggest problems at Alvirne is vaping. It is a challenge to catch students in the act. A major focus is on prevention with programs starting in grade 4, recognition of Red Ribbon week and working with Breath NH on vaping awareness. School counseling works to support students before they turn to substances, including partnering with Greater Nashua Mental Health.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services conducts the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which helps identify risky behaviors. This survey is given once every two years. Parents and guardians will receive the notification with the ability to opt their student out of taking the survey.

Principal Beals noted that managing the bathrooms at the high school is an issue, with students congregating and staff constantly needed to monitor. He shared several potential tools to help identify vaping.

2. New England School Development Council Enrollment Projections (Information) [0:40:40]

Superintendent Moulis shared the NESDEC Enrollment Projections report. The report includes historical enrollment since FY2013, projected enrollment through 2027 and 2033 and bar graphs of grade levels and trends.

2013 Enrollment: 3,962

Current Enrollment: 2,960

Some board members noted a narrative would be helpful for the increases and decreases and whether the data factors enrollment in private schools.

3. Hills House Field Use Request (Decision) [0:54:00]

There was a request to use the Hills House field for the British Cars of NH annual fundraiser.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request to use the Hills House field for the British Cars of NH annual fundraiser as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

4. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Discussion) [0:54:30]

Superintendent Moulis and Principal Steve Beals discussed the YRBS survey. There is a computer option for the survey now with an opt-out provision and is given every two years. Consideration is to do a full-school implementation during flex time to get a specific sharable school report. Past data is not consistent with the perception that exists. This is a data-driven tool to help get student voice. Seventy percent of high schools in NH participate in this survey. In a technical advisory, with RSA law, the YRBS survey was opt-out vs. opt-in (non-academic surveys).

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the use of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in a school-wide format. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

G. Old Business [1:09:40]

1. New England Association of Schools and Colleges Survey Follow-Up (Decision)

Additional information was presented regarding the NEASC student survey for the accreditation process at Alvirne High School. Legal counsel was approached for information. NH RSA states that non-academic surveys except the YRBS require an opt-in from parents and guardians. Principal Beals spoke with NEASC survey administration. NEASC suggested the high school could direct students to answer only the first 16 academic questions regarding conditions and facts of the school, and skip the ones that were more non-academic at the end. Another option is to send the link to parents via email and ask them to share it with their students. Mr. Beals felt that this was beneficial to the district (offering the survey schoolwide) with possible opt-in; he felt student voice was helpful. There was concern about setting precedent about going against policy opt-in and then enforcing other policies. Mr. Beals noted that multiple districts had “lived in the gray area” regarding opting-in/out with no issues.

Superintendent Moulis shared a technical advisory in the packet and spoke to the NH Department of Education, who confirmed that consent is a requirement for the NEASC survey.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to send the opt-in link for the NEASC survey to parents. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

2. Discipline Report (Discussion) [1:34:24]

Superintendent Moulis and Director of Strategic Engagement and Communication Teresa Wolf shared an updated version of the discipline data for discussion. It was clarified that the percentage at Nottingham West should be .003%. Historically, numbers of days (for incidents) were reported for discipline; some found this helpful information, and others did not. Student privacy is considered when reporting, especially low numbers can identify a student. Relabeling the report was suggested for more clarity. The key data points are reported to the State for accountability at the end of the year. Having commentary and labeling of terms would be beneficial to help determine certain drivers. Another draft would be prepared before the next Board meeting.

3. Policies - First Reading (Discussion) [1:56:21]

DGA - Authorized Signatures

- Current policy

- NHSBA policy (proposed) replaces whole policy

EHAC - Electronic Digital Recordings and Signatures

- New policy (proposed) for the District, recommend adoption

EEAG - Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students

- Current policy (proposed) with NHSBA suggested changes
- There were questions about the second paragraph and last sentence of first paragraph regarding permission/liability/high bar regarding needing certificates of insurance for coaches, etc. The referring RSA was 376:2. Having a parental waiver was suggested. This would go back to the policy committee for review.

EEAE - School Bus Safety Program

- New - NHSBA version (proposed)

JLCB - Immunization of Students

- Current policy, last updated in 2004
- NHSBA version (proposed) replaces current version

JLCDA - Medical Treatment – Parental Consent

- New policy (proposed)

JLDBB - Suicide Prevention and Response Plan

- Current policy (proposed) with NHSBA revisions
- Ms. Dionne asked if the plan existed and when it will be added to the website. (when it became policy, including the liaison and crisis prevention information which should be added to the student handbooks for the next school year).

H. Recommended Action [2:12:20]

Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign

Minutes – December 5, 2022 - Draft minutes

It was noted that there might have been an action item in B (1) regarding assisting with lacking functioning skills that was not recorded in the minutes. The item about Schoology was referenced in the minutes. Ms. Whiting agreed with approving the minutes, but she might review the recording.

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022 as written. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

I. Reports to the Board (Information) [2:16:01]

Superintendent Moulis reported the following:

- The district participated in a review with the Department of Homeland Safety and Security emergency management review regarding the hoax on December 8. He also met with the Hudson Police Department and Hudson Fire Department for a follow up discussion. Future

training was discussed for all staff. The Emergency Management Committee met last week and continues to review response plans and reunification.

- The Administrative team read *The 10 Mind Frames for Leaders: the Visible Learning Approach to School Success*; he thanked Ms. Organek for organizing the professional read.
- He attended the recent concert last week where there were combined choruses. He thanked Rebecca Servo, Mike Gallagan, and Rob Scagnelli (band).
- Frosty the Snowman was performed by students at Alvirne. He thanked Ms. Dennis and Mr. Gallagan for great performances.
- The celebration where Lt. Colonel Cheetham was honored as NH Teacher of the Year as previously mentioned.
- Superintendent Moulis conducted walkthroughs of all school on Saturday, December 10 with four Budget Committee members
- He attended Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 17
- Staff were recognized for their hard work and dedication, and he wished everyone a nice holiday break.

J. Committee Reports [2:20:30]

Ms. Dionne - The DEI Committee met last week. Core documents were being translated in Spanish and Portuguese. The district website can translate to four different languages. Mr. Beals added that additional members were being sought for participation from every school.

Mr. Beals attended the Capital Improvement Committee meeting last week. The committee reviewed an update on the Alvirne renovation project and discussed the Alvirne sawmill, electric charging stations and solar panels at Alvirne. Field/access at Hudson Memorial School will become an important discussion.

Ms. Whiting provided an update on the Budget Committee meetings. The committee had discussed the default budget and the Chair asked the Department of Revenue and Town Administrator how the default budget was created to see if any adjustments were needed in the default budget. The Town Administrator said it was contractual and legally authorized. There were discussions on ESSER grant projections for FY25. Budget cuts equaling \$3,169,379 were made. The school tour went well. Ted Trust is resigning from the Budget Committee in March 2023.

Ms. Gasdia was at a school concert and missed the Board of Selectmen meeting last week. Bret Gagnon (the school board liaison) resigned as Selectmen last week as he is moving out of town. He was thanked for his work for the town and the board.

K. Correspondence [2:29:37]

1. Warrant Article Follow-Up (Decision)

Superintendent Goals (Information)

Assessment benchmark data points were added (5-10% increase based upon where current assessments were in State and iReady); the graduation rate goal was set at 90%; and a professional growth goal (#6) was added for conferences, leadership practices and

seminars. The reading assessment goals should be 65 not 62 and a multi-year approach would be specified. iReady language should be added (“at or above grade level”).

Superintendent Evaluation

Change was based upon the last page: standard 12 regarding professional learning. A suggestion was to add how was he improving himself as an administrator - specific areas of personal improvement. A part “D” in the current version should be added and specify “insert future goals here”.

Financials Update (information)

L. Student Representative Comments [2:42:30]

Emily Dozois wished everyone a nice winter break.

M. Board Member Comments [2:42:40]

Mr. Beals wished everyone safe and happy holidays.

The Administration were thanked by Ms. Whiting and Mr. Gasdia for attending the Budget Committee meeting and helping provide information and they wished everyone a nice holiday. Mr. Gasdia spoke about the past year, and he thanked everyone for their work.

N. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (k) [2:44:45]

At 9:19pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (k). Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

Student tuition matter discussed

O. Motion to Exit non-Public and Adjourn [3:41:45]

At 10:16pm Gretchen Whiting made a motion to exit non-public and adjourn. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by
Susan DeFelice