



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

6:30 pm Budget Meeting
Non-Public Session

School Board Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2023

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 [0:00:10]

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

B. Public Hearing [0:00:32]

Pursuant to RSA 198:20-b and in accordance with Article 4 of the March 6, 1992 Town Meeting and School Board policy KCD, the Hudson School Board held a public hearing to receive a donation of property. The Friends of Hudson Spirit (FOHS) and the Hudson Litchfield Youth Football at Hudson Memorial School (HLYFC) purchased new cheer mats to replace the mats currently at Hudson Memorial School. The total purchase was \$12,390.32. The donors were thanked. There was no public discussion. The public hearing was closed at 0:01:44.

C. Donation of Property (Decision) [0:01:50]

Gary Gasdia made a motion to accept the donation of new cheer mats as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Public Input [0:02:12]

There was no public input.

E. Presentations to the Board [0:02:25]

1. FFA Nationals and Travel Request (Information and Decision)

FFA student members shared highlights of the recent FFA Nationals and requested to attend the Winter Leadership Camp in Alton, NH on January 12-14, 2024.

Results of the 96th National FFA convention in Indianapolis in October in career development events such as veterinary science, forestry, etc. were reviewed.

Approximately 40 teams participated across the country. The Forestry team worked on demonstrating skills regarding diagnosing forest disorders, managing forests and inventory as well as applying civil culture practices. The team placed overall in the bronze category and individual placements were noted. The Alvirne Speaking Leadership Development representative placed in the bronze category; this dealt with public speaking abilities and the development of self-confidence. The Milk Quality and Products Team addressed milk and dairy product quality, safety, and sanitation, identifying diseases to consumers regarding milk, etc. The team placed in the bronze category with individual silver placements. The Veterinary Science Team worked on technical competency with small and large animals with a written exam and hands-on practicum. The team earned a gold emblem and placed 2nd in the country and individuals also placed gold. Dairy Handling placed in the silver category (Lizzie Bliss is now in college for veterinary technology). Everyone was congratulated including advisors Jen Beaudry and Corie Bliss.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the FFA Winter Leadership Camp in Alton, NH travel request as presented. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Alvirne High School Assessment Report (Discussion)

Dean of Academics Joyce Wise and Principal Steve Beals presented high school assessment information.

Attendance K-12:

- Stronger attendance in grades 9 and 10 vs. 11 and 12
- Trying to return to 93% number
- Examination of EA (excessive absence) process/meeting competency

iReady: Internal Assessment:

- 2021-22 implementation; diagnostics for grades 9 and 10
- Online program measuring reading and math growth; yearly progress tracked
- Timed test; additional flex time given up to complete

- Benchmark percentage of proficiency in test-takers was low but there was growth in math diagnostic #2 from 200 to 212. Some teachers do not feel that the data matches how students perform in the classroom. The Alvirne goal is 5-10% growth in the district level.
- Raising attendance of the test is helpful; there is concern in focusing too heavily on this vs. proficiency.
- iReady struggles were seen State-wide. The SAT is given during the Junior year. There is no assessment/progress check for Freshman and Sophomore years. Some districts added a diagnostic for those years so there would be no progress data gap.
- Determining areas of weakness was discussed.
- There was a question on how many high schools use iReady (around 55%) - some districts assess grade K - 8 and perhaps grade 9 and 10.
- Assessment fatigue is a concern.
- In the high school level, data was simplified in levels of proficiency.

SAT - NH State Assessment: Grade 11 ELA and Math:

- ELA - from 507 (59%) in 2021 to 510 (60%) in 2022
- Math - from 492 (39%) in 2021 to 483 (27%) in 2022
- Families are told that participation is important, even if students are not going to college; if a student opts out, that counts as a zero which is detrimental to benchmark data and is also tied to town property values. It was noted that colleges often do not look at SAT scores, and students are told not to take it unless they will do very well (vs. GPA).
- The number of test takers increased from 225 (83%) in 2021 to 227(86%) in 2022. The state participation rate was 94%.
- Assessment graphs were reviewed:
- Grade 11: proficiency level statewide was 41% and Hudson was 44%.
- Not all Juniors took science so they would assess in their Senior year. An issue is that students are assessed in chemistry, and they might not have taken that yet.
- There was a revamp of the science curriculum which might have attributed to the increase in proficiency in 2022.
- The sequence of math classes was discussed for student learning.
- Challenges coming out of the pandemic at the high school level impacted data.

AP Data 2022-23 - Pass Rate

The pass rate decreased from 73% in 2022 (133 exams) to 56% in 2023 (183 exams). More AP exams were offered. It was noted that some students took the AP exam for practice for college/challenge.

Completers (Alvirne High School and adult ed. diplomas) and HiSET Statistics equaled 90.84% total in 2022 (state completers was 87.68%).

In 2022, 262 students were in the graduating class, of which 16 were HiSET which was higher than the state. Navigating the HiSET process at Alvirne is easy and helps a lot. The class of 2022 completer HiSET was 98.84% (6.1% compared to the class) whereas the state was 89.38% (1.71%).

The Hudson 4-year graduation rate in 2022 was 84.73% (4 year cohort of 262 students) vs the state at 87.68%. State data is online. Hudson had 10 dropouts. There was confusion about accounting for the 14 students who were not completers but came back for a fifth year. It is uncertain if they will be added to the graduation rate.

Post-secondary data was reviewed:

- 2022: class size 254: 47% went to a 4-year college; 13% went to a 2-year college; 3% went into the military; 4% went to training school; and 33% work
- 2023: class size 262: 40% went to a 4-year college; 15% went to a 2-year college; 2% went into the military; 42% work. Students who did not fill out the form were recorded under “work”
- Projection is that in 2024, the trend will show a higher percentage of students attending colleges. It was noted that there are savings to first attend a community college for two years and then automatically be accepted to one of the three New Hampshire state schools as part of the Pathways Program.

F. New Business [1:42:55]

1. NASP Conference Request (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented a conference request for Hills Garrison School Psychologist Kacey Broadhurst to attend the National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention from February 14 to 17, 2024 which includes tuition cost, consistent with her contract.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the NASP Conference Request as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. ASCD Conference (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented a conference request to attend the Annual ASCD Conference from March 22 to 25, 2024.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the travel request for Superintendent Moulis to attend the Annual ASCD Conference from March 22 to 25, 2024 as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Bid Award - Baseball Dugout Repairs (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis shared bid award information for the Alvirne baseball dugout repairs.

Ethan Beals made a motion to award a contract to Solid Roots Construction, LLC for the AHS JV dugout replacement in the amount of \$27,916.28 per the bid specifications in accordance with policy DJE. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Transfer Request - Special Education (Decision)

Ms. Borge presented a transfer request for Special Education: moving funds from the School Psychologist salary account to contracted services based on the inability to fill the position and on student need.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the Special Education transfer request as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

G. Old Business [1:48:34]

1. Warrant Articles (Information)

Ms. Burk shared the updated Warrant Articles. Contract negotiations are ongoing. March 12, 2024, is the Town Election.

H. Policies – First Reading [1:50:26]

The following policies were reviewed:

- BEC - Non-Public Sessions
Current policy to be replaced by new NHSBA policy.
- DBI - Budget Implementation
Withdrawal since it is covered in Policy DB.
- DFGA - Crowd Funding
Current policy with revisions
- KBA - Right to Know
Withdrawal as the content is incorporated in policies EH and BEDG
- KCD - Public Gifts and Donations
Current policy with revisions

I. Policies - Second Reading (Decision)

- JEB - Age of Entrance-
District policy with revisions
- JKAA - Use of Restraints and Seclusion-
Current policy to be replaced by new NHSBA policy
- GBCD - Background investigation and Criminal History Records Check-
District policy with suggested revisions
- JCA - Change of Class or School or Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship-
District policy with suggested revisions
- ACN - Nursing Mothers Accommodations-
New NHSBA policy
- JLCD - Administering Medication to Students-
Current policy to be replaced by new NHSBA policy
- EFAA - Meal Charging-
Current policy with tracked changes

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the following policies:

JEB - Age of Entrance

JKAA - Use of Restraints and Seclusion

GBCD - Background investigation and Criminal History Records Check

JCA - Change of Class or School or Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship

ACN - Nursing Mothers Accommodations

JLCD - Administering Medication to Students

EFAA - Meal Charging

Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Recommended Action [1:55:11]

1. Manifests

2. Minutes - October 30, 2023

3. Minutes - November 6, 2023

Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the minutes of October 30, 2023, and November 6, 2023, as written. Mike Campbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

K. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:55:48]

1. Superintendent Report

- Communication will be sent to elementary families regarding dyslexia assessment for students in grades K-3.
- The Pathways Program transitioned to Alvirne High School with Mr. Pierce teaching all classes; all involved were thanked.
- Plans are being finalized for the Pathways Coordinator Requirements that will be filled internally by administration.
- CTE programs were discussed for this year and next year including removing the requirement of Natural Resources as a prerequisite for Forestry. Also discussed was reinstating a Careers in Education program for next year and a Careers in Health and Human Services Exploration course (half credit elective in grades 9/10).
- November 8 was the National Honor Society ceremony at Alvirne H.S. and had the largest inductee group to date.
- On November 9 both Nottingham West and Hills Garrison hosted Veterans Day events.
- The Strategic Planning Committee met and began a Portrait of the Graduate review.
- The Evaluation Committee met and reviewed the current evaluation model with survey responses from evaluators and teacher mentors.
- A happy Thanksgiving was wished to all.

L. Correspondence (Information) [2:01:56]

There was review of the discipline report comparison from October 2022 vs 2023.

The finance report included an anticipated fund balance with anticipated expenditures totaling \$1,772,234. The tax rate will be set soon.

Superintendent goals include changes made from prior School Board feedback. Evidence of accomplishment was changed to measure goals out two years. There was a question about using graduation rates; and using the 4-year cohort is the preference. Metrics for improvement for the district website were added, such as school calendars. Quarterly updates to the public were added as part of evidence of accomplishment. Consistency between district and school calendars for events was mentioned.

M. Board Member Comments [2:14:47]

Board members wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Campbell mentioned the idea of volunteering time to local charities. Mr. Gasdia mentioned that Nottingham preschool coordinator Heidi Grieves invited him to visit the preschool class this morning; he thanked everyone for their hospitality.

N. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a [2:17:21]

At 8:50 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Review of letters of resignation

Personnel matters discussed

Student matters discussed

O. Leave Non-Public and Adjourn

At 9:31pm, Gary Gasdia made a motion to return to general session. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Submitted by Susan DeFelice

Non-Public submitted by Dan Moulis