



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

**6:30 pm Budget Meeting
Non-Public Session**

School Board Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023

In Attendance

Board Members

Gretchen Whiting, Chair
Maureen Dionne, Vice Chair
Ethan Beals
Mike Campbell
Gary Gasdia
Victoria Tilley - Student Representative

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 Board policy KCD, the Hudson School Board held a public hearing to receive donations of a street sweeper from FB Hale, Inc. to the heavy-duty diesel mechanics program at a value of \$50,000 and an oven by Welbilt Ovens to the CTE culinary arts program at a value of \$39,000, for a total of \$89,000. There was a review of the equipment.

The donors were thanked. There was no public discussion.

At 6:37pm, Mike Campbell made a motion to close the public hearing. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Donation of Property (Decision) [0:07:07]

Mike Campbell made a motion to accept the donations of a street sweeper by FB Hale, Inc. to the heavy-duty diesel mechanics program for \$50,000 and an oven by Welbilt Ovens to the CTE culinary arts program at \$39,000 totaling \$89,000. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Public Input [0:08:32]

There was no public input.

A certificate was presented to School Board Student Representative Victoria Tilley for her participation in the NH School Board Association and NH Superintendents Association training (professional development and community service).

E. Presentations to the Board [0:10:19]

1. Community Partnership (Information)

The School Board and Superintendent Moulis conveyed appreciation to the Erickson Foundation for its recent renovation at the Hills House. Chair Whiting presented a certificate of appreciation to the Erickson Foundation in recognition of their generosity and hard work on the Hills House renovation project. A video clip of the project was shared with the agenda, and representatives of the Erickson Foundation gave a review of the work completed to the Board and community. The Board is grateful for the business and community involvement that took place, as well as the much-needed refurbishment.

2. Executive Functioning (Information)

Hills Garrison School Psychologist Kacey Broadhurst shared information on executive functioning. Highlights shared were:

- Brain-based skills/frontal lobe: skills required to execute tasks and/or make goal directed behaviors possible
- Age-appropriate milestones (benchmarks) of executive functioning skill development
- Male/Female brain differences (female brains advanced quicker)
- 8 executive functions: self-control; self-monitor; emotional control; flexibility; task initiation; organization (especially); working memory (especially); and planning and time management
- Developmental skill deficits are accommodated with support. Resources are provided to teachers and through student-based IEPs.
- Executive functioning is embedded in the everyday at the high school level.
- The pandemic hit hardest with the planning/organizing/initiation functioning.

3. Hudson Memorial School Assessment Data (Discussion)

Principal Keith Bowen presented middle school assessment information:

Attendance Data: K-12

- 2022-23 improvement of 4.23% in grade 6; 4.21% in grade 7; and 3.84% in grade 8
- There was a slight decrease since before the pandemic (2018-19).

NH State Assessment Data

- Taken between March and May 2023
- Available for 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 (not for 2020 due to the pandemic)
- Reading/Math: grades 6-8
- Science: grade 8
- Participation rates: 98-99% with 100% participation in some areas
- Grade 6 reading: data was comparable to pre-pandemic data
- Grade 6 math: performance at/above increased since pre-pandemic
- Grade 7 reading: increase in performance at/above by 3%
- Grade 7 math: decrease in performance since pre-pandemic
- Grade 8 reading: increase in performance since pre-pandemic
- Grade 8 math: decrease in performance since pre-pandemic

HMS Reading Cohort from 2021 grade 6 to 2023 grade 8: There is an increase in reading outcomes. Areas of need include informational text (vocabulary, reading, literature). The plan is to focus on vocabulary development to retain learning (e.g., refining lessons with UDL approach and push-in model.) Supportive tools include Reading Plus and Newsella to help with text complexity. Quill is being used for writing skills.

HMS Math Cohort: There was a decrease from grade 6 to grade 8 in at/above proficiency (NH SAS). Improved outcomes (grade 6) are due to spiral reviews of math concepts. Weaknesses are in numbers and operations, algebraic/geometry thinking (proportional reasoning) and vocabulary. Building Thinking Classrooms is helping. There was an alignment issue with the grade 7 curriculum, and this was addressed so that this year's grade 7 is more aligned, using Math in Focus tools. This impacted the 8th grade performance. Another issue included deficits/gaps from the pandemic years (missed concepts during that time). It was noted that 7th grade students did not work on geometry and statistics prior to the exam. Issues in the 8th grade were complicated by the 7th grade curriculum misalignment; missed sections are being addressed this year. Math in Focus is being used, as well as tests to improve outcomes. Monday focus periods focus on math fluency at each level. Each grade level will use SAS models beginning in December.

The goal is to have at least 10-15% growth each year until at the 80% mark. Science: hands-on work was not able to be done during the pandemic and language/vocabulary development was most prominently used in grade 7. There

was a drop in outcomes due to the pandemic. With lab and inquiry-based learning, etc. there was improvement.

iReady Data

- Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Data showed placement with grade-level expectations.
- Growth viewed through the year.
- Reported by domain: phonological awareness, phonics, high-frequency words, vocabulary, and comprehension. Primary areas of issue were vocabulary, literature, and informational text. As a whole, the at-risk tier decreased by 8% from the beginning to end of the year and at/above grade level increased. In grade 6, there was an increase of 8% in at/above grade level. The starting point at the beginning of the year was similar last year to this year. Readiness for grade level learning was 26% vs. 23%. There was an increase in grade 7 diagnostic 1 and 3 in reading. There were improvements. In grade 8, there was a 14% growth in at/above grade level during the year last year. This year's current 8th grade was 10% lower in at/above grade level.
- Participation was about 92%; this could be due to it happening in May/June (timing).
- Math: overall: red area decreased by 9%; tier 2 decreased by 4% and green area increased by 13%. Strengths were in measurement and data (STEM). The 15% growth in grade 6 is attributed to building thinking classrooms and spiral review. Last year, 49% were proficient in math. Last year, 35% were in readiness whereas this year began at 42% readiness. There was growth in grade 7. There was an increase in grade 8 in at/above proficiency in diagnostic 1 to 2 but a decrease in the yellow and red levels. Last year began at 22% at/above; this year it began at 15%.

It was noted that Mr. Pooler teaches 6 of the 7 math periods a day to support math growth (there is a deficit in the staffing this year). It was mentioned that the current Freshman class also has struggles. The new reading program should help with issues. Student-led conferences help to lead conversation on goals/learning. There was positive feedback on this. Morning meetings are utilized also. NHLI is engaged to focus on work study practices. Out of the box ideas were discussed such as having volunteer support to work with students.

F. New Business [1:37:33]

1. First Student and "Clean Bus Program" Grant (Discussion/Decision)

First Student Manager Shawn Preadable presented information and requested the district's support to apply for a "Clean Bus Program" grant for electric buses. They are in the EPA's third round of funding in which \$500million is available. Contractors can get into the lottery now. There is zero risk and up to 25 buses are available to fit Hudson's usage. Each district represented by First Student is being asked to do this and names will be pulled in April 2024.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request for the Hudson School District to put their name in with First Student for the Clean Bus Program lottery. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Revision to District Calendar (Decision)

Superintendent Moulis presented a revision to the 2023-24 Hudson School District calendar, as a January 23, 2024, Primary Election date was announced. This will be a no school (workshop) day.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the updated 2023-24 Hudson School District calendar as presented (January 23, 2024, workshop/no school day). Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Nomination

Superintendent Moulis presented a nomination for Colton Houle as the Varsity Baseball Coach position at Alvirne High School and Angela Auger as JV Cheerleading Coach.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the nomination of Colton Houle as Varsity Baseball Coach and Angela Auger as JV Cheerleading Coach at Alvirne High School. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

G. Policies - Second Reading (Decision) [1:49:14]

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the following policies:

- *BEC - Non-Public Sessions*
- *DBI - Budget Implementation*
- *DFGA - Crowd Funding*
- *KBA - Right to Know*
- *KCD - Public Gifts and Donations*

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

It was noted that Right to Know is incorporated in policy and this is an update.

H. Recommended Action (Decision) [1:50:40]

1. Manifests

2. Minutes - November 20, 2023

Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023, as written. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

I. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:51:00]

1. Superintendent Report

- At the senior leadership meeting held last week there was a review of Portrait of a Graduate, which aligns with strategic planning committee work.
- He attended the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference last week where Artificial Intelligence was a topic.
- District Trivia night was held last week with a good turnout.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report

- There is an ongoing elementary reading/writing professional development program happening in the district.
- The January 23, 2024, professional development day will focus on curriculum.

3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge was guest chef for an occupational therapy group at Hills Garrison learning transferable skills.

The state advised the district to focus on participation in state assessment based on the rubric of 6 times; the action report was sent in last week; information will be sent out to staff and families. Those who did not participate felt the assessment lacked value or was too difficult.

4. Business Administrator Report

The RFP was sent out to six firms for audit services. Bid opening will occur on December 21 at 11:00am.

J. Committee Reports (Information) [1:59:40]

The Alvirne Trustees met last week and discussed the chapel upkeep and the Hills Family Scholarship.

The Budget Committee review of the school budget will begin on Wednesday.

K. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [2:00:40] - N/A

L. Student Representative Comments [2:00:41] - N/A

M. Board Member Comments [2:00:46]

Mr. Campbell commended Mr. Beals for organizing and MCing Trivia Night and commented that it was a successful event. Mr. Gasdia agreed and mentioned that there are concerts happening at this time of year. The Marching Bands are part of a national contest (metallicamarchingband.com). Ms. Dionne and Ms. Whiting also mentioned the success of Trivia Night and the appreciation by staff.

N. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a and c and I [2:04:23]

At 8:36 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a and c and I. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Legal correspondence

Personnel matters

Student matter

O. Exit Non-Public and Adjourn

At 9:14pm, Maureen Dionne made a motion to exit non-public and adjourn the meeting. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Submitted by

Susan DeFelice

Non-public submitted by Dan Moulis and Kim Organek