



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

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

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## **School Board Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2024**

### **In Attendance**

#### **Board Members**

Maureen Dionne, Chair  
Mike Campbell, Vice Chair  
Ethan Beals  
Gary Gasdia  
Grace Kennedy

#### **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 [0:00:09]**

Board Chair Maureen Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Gary Gasdia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **B. Public Input [0:00:35]**

Mike Tranfaglia of 24 Woodcrest Drive spoke about the DEI event that was postponed from March 27, 2024, at Alvirne High School where a New Hampshire member of Black Lives Matter was scheduled to speak without prior parental knowledge. He requested that the event be fully canceled without reconsideration of a further event. He expressed that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion events are of concern to parents and taxpayers as they can be controversial and negative, with the potential to spread misinformation as seen in instances around the country. A request was made to dissolve the DEI Committee. Efforts should be spent on increasing academic proficiency. He mentioned that the public should be able to attend DEI events in the future if they were not all canceled so that people could participate, and even record for full transparency.

Patrick Quinlan of 12 A Sunshine Drive agreed with Mr. Tranfaglia. He expressed it should not be taught during school hours, and that focus should be on increasing academic proficiency. He spoke about the difference between equity of outcome and equality of opportunity. He felt that the opinions of all townspeople should be included in this area.

## C. Presentations to the Board [0:08:44]

### 1. Election Report (Information)

School District Moderator Paul Inderbitzen spoke about the election results from the March 12, 2024 voting day. The turnout was lower than for State and Federal elections, as was the case in past elections. There were over 500 school write-in ballots. There was an average of 247 voters per hour at both locations. He thanked Principal Beals, Ryan Leary and the custodial staff for their helpfulness, as well as the GFWC Hudson Women's Club for counting ballots. State primaries will be held in the fall of 2024 and the presidential and state election in November 2024. Selectmen are thinking of using Hudson Memorial School vs. the Community Center for Ward 1 due to parking issues for high turnouts. He was thanked for his work over the years.

Ms. Kennedy noted that Mr. Inderbitzen will be named Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow night at the Castleton.

[0:15:06 - 0:20:47]

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to reopen public input. Mike Campbell seconded the motion; Motion passed 5-0.***

Randy Brownrigg of 2 Little Hales Lane had concern about what was online last week regarding the DEI program where a Black Lives Matter representative spoke. He does not agree with those values. He is concerned about where education is headed and felt that the focus should be on teaching students reading, writing and arithmetic, promoting academics. He is concerned about the low academic proficiencies and 84% graduation rate in Hudson and the education costs.

### 2. Professional Development Day Review (Information)

Members of the District Professional Development Committee reported on the March 12, 2024 teacher-led professional development day.

Highlights included:

- presentations on Schoology teacher tips and tricks
- math building and thinking classroom (elementary)
- 18 unique presentations in all buildings
- learning of various resources that existed in the district

- teacher-controlled virtual reality goggles used as an educational tool for excursions e.g. discovery of different places in the world, ecosystems, etc.
- Feedback from teachers was positive and more teachers may volunteer to lead PD.

### **3. Hudson Memorial School Unified Arts Presentation (Information)**

HMS Unified Arts teachers Mike Seckla, Michael Motherway, Becca Rouleau, Elaine Reinitzer and Brad Smith made a presentation to the Board on unified arts offerings at HMS. Highlights included:

- Half of HMS students receive music education (band/chorus and general music).
- Music fosters work ethics, problem solving, teamwork, math, history, and science.
- Gr. 7 and 8 bands recently performed at the NH Music Educator Association Large Group Festival and received NH's highest rating for performances. Students will represent Hudson as members of the NH Elementary Honors Choir, Middle Level Honors Band, and South-Central District Chorus festivals over the next 5 weeks.
- Music participation is back at or above pre-Covid levels.
- Collaboration with Alvirne is anticipated to continue moving forward.
- Art teaches problem solving skills, hand-eye coordination, non-verbal communication, and real-world applications of mathematical skills.
- Library Media Skills include media literacy based on the digital citizenship agreement signed by HMS students (phishing, fake news and lateral reading cyberbullying, etc.); and Library Learning Commons (laptops, 3 D printing, Special events and care/keeping of the library).
- Spanish levels are exploratory (1 trimester in grades 6 and 7) and Spanish 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of grade 7 and full year of grade 8). It includes stories and picture/movie talk; songs; reading; and learning about culture. If academically eligible, students can become "Honors" members in the chapter of the Sociedad Hispanica de Amistad.
- Tech Ed.: Grade 6 includes learning the basics of woodworking and being in a shop environment. Students learn about safety, measuring and tool use with projects such as bridges. In Grade 7 they build on these skills and use more power tools. Their projects include items such as dog houses. Grade 8 is applying all learned skills with projects such as CO2 cars, student choice and sketch-up.
- Design and Modeling (grade 6) and Robotics and Automation (grade 7 and 8) include an introduction to Computer Aided Design (CAD); 3D modeling; additive and subtractive prototyping; file types e.g. jpeg; and coding for robotics (the VEX program). Projects include photo frames and developing a prosthetic e.g wrist mount.
- Computer Science: Grade 6 (basic keyboarding skills, Word documents, PowerPoint); Grade 7: CS Discoveries 1 (problem solving, computer basics and HTML) and PLTW (algorithms, flowcharts, block coding and microbits); and Grade 8: CS Discoveries 2 (block coding, games and animation) and PLTW App Inventor (algorithms, flowcharts, creating apps in MIT App Inventor).

- Projects include coding microbits to protect valuables.
- Wellness - Grade 6 focuses on body systems; Grade 7 focuses on nutrition and health; and Grade 8 focuses on healthy relationships. All levels have CPR and DARE components.
  - Physical Education helps to improve fitness and self-worth, promotes lifelong learners, acquires and elevates skills, encourages teamwork and collaboration; and teaches problem-solving, social-emotional, and many other skills.
  - CORE is new this year. Study skills include goal setting with bi-weekly follow up; organization; time management; note taking; studying; and test taking. This program is successful. The course is recommended to help certain students. Parents can opt-in and they are appreciative of the support. It aligns with strategies for success at the high school.
  - Future unified arts considerations are in culinary science class, aerodynamic class, digital media, expansion of foreign language, economics, and STEM.

#### **D. New Business [1:20:15]**

***Ethan Beals made a motion to rearrange the New Business items: 4 (Litchfield HS Students), 3 (Tennis Courts Facilities Usage), 1 Renomination, 2 (Lion's Club Land Transfer). Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

##### **1. Litchfield High School Students (Discussion)**

There was discussion regarding Litchfield high school students. This agenda item was added at the request of the Hudson School Board. In the late 1990s, the Hudson School Board voted to cap enrollment at Alvirne High School at 1500 students based on a capacity study that was done that showed increasing student enrollment in Hudson. Litchfield students attended high school in Hudson until Campbell High School was built. Currently, some Litchfield students attend Alvirne with a few in an AP class and more in the CTE programs. School Board Member Beals requested the opportunity to work with Chair Dionne to draft a letter to the Litchfield School Board on how the two districts could collaborate further in the future. With Alvirne enrollment under the 1500 limit, there is room to add Litchfield students. Master scheduling and course offerings will be reviewed. Board members agreed that conversation was important and was positive for all involved. Consensus was affirmative to draft a letter to the Litchfield Board.

##### **2. Tennis Courts Facilities Usage (Decision)**

Ms. Burk presented a proposal from The Next Champions to use the tennis courts at Alvirne for programming, with dates beginning in April 2024 and extending through October 31, 2024. The fee established in the facilities use policy was \$100 for a half day (defined as 4 hours) and \$200 for a full day for use of the tennis courts. The instructor proposed an alternative rental rate of \$5/hour per court used. The estimate for this proposal for this program would be between \$4,000-5,000 for

facilities use. Moe Leclerc of The Next Champions explained that the program is important for having a tennis team at Alvirne. It is important to advertise to the public that courts (3 out of the 6) will be reserved for such use. Concern is the use of tennis courts for 7 months without an MOU/season rate. Ms. Dionne spoke about the reference to an MOU if utilizing a season rate in Policy KF but that was for one program using football fields in town. There was discussion that the policy was per court (vs. all 6 courts) - at \$25/hour (excess of 4 hours/day). The summer programming request is 9-10:30am for high school training, and junior training at 10:30am. Programming will not be held when the Recreation Department uses the courts. Ms. Dionne had concern about a for-profit program establishing a feeder program for a high school sport and the perception that provided. There was a question on what a fair rate would be for the court usage. There was concern about not knowing usage now. There will be about 20 hours/week of the proposed tennis programming. At \$15/hour, the amount would be \$4,320 for the 12 weeks in the spring. It was noted that parking is in the lot, not at the courts. If The Next Champions wants to utilize the tennis courts in the summer and fall they will need to draft another proposal to be brought back to the Board for discussion and approval.

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the April 2 - June 24, 2024 timeframe of The Next Champions tennis court request and to finalize a rate of \$15/hour. This would be superseded by any new agreement. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

The Board will help devise a long-term agreement within the next two weeks. Public notification will be made that courts would still be available for public usage.

### **3. Renomination List (Decision)**

Superintendent Moulis presented the 2024-2025 staff nominations. It was noted that the teacher's contract might have helped retain staff.

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the 2024-25 staff nominations as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

### **4. Lion's Club Land Transfer (Decision)**

The Board reviewed a request for Chair Dionne to sign the Lion's Club Land Transfer conveyance which was authorized by the March 8, 2022 Hudson School District Annual Meeting, Warrant Article 7. Mr. Beals asked in 2022 for two considerations: something in the deed talking about the Club giving up right to fight projects on district land and a clause where either should the Club decide to sell the overall property, .5 acres would revert back to the district, or the district would have first right of refusal to purchase the property. Mr. Gasdia abstained from a vote since he was on the Club Board; he said there was no intent to sell the land and the first right of refusal was reasonable. There was uncertainty regarding the first consideration

regarding the right to fight projects on district land. Mr. Gasdia would review this with the Lion's Club.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve Chair Dionne to sign the Lion's Club Land Transfer conveyance conditional upon Lions Club consideration of adding a piece where the District had ability to match first right of refusal or other legal wording. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Gasdia abstention).***

## **E. Old Business [2:21:08]**

### **1. School Board Committee Assignments (Decision)**

There was review of Board member committee assignments.

A member of the Strategic Planning Committee had suggested a Staff Recruiting and Retention Committee to work in collaboration with Human Resources. The charge would be how to better recruit and retain staff. There was question about it not being a School Board committee but more of a district committee. Superintendent Moulis will review this request.

Hudson Federation of Teachers (HFT):  
Mike Campbell  
Maureen Dionne

Hudson School District Secretaries (AFT LOCAL #6260, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO):  
Mike Campbell  
Gary Gasdia

Strategic Planning Committee:  
Maureen Dionne and Ethan Beals

HSB Policy Committee:  
Maureen Dionne and Grace Kennedy

Capital Improvement Committee:  
Maureen Dionne and Ethan Beals

Hudson Municipal Budget Committee Liaison:  
Any concerns will be directed to Chair Dionne

Alvirne Trustees:  
Mike Campbell  
Gary Gasdia (alternate)

Board of Selectmen:  
Gary Gasdia  
Grace Kennedy (alternate)

Cable Utility Company:  
Gary Gasdia  
Mike Campbell (alternate)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:  
Ethan Beals

Wellness Committee:  
Mike Campbell

Communications Committee:  
Gary Gasdia  
Maureen Dionne (alternate)

Teacher Grant Initiative Fund:  
Ethan Beals

#### **F. Recommended Action [2:30:17]**

##### **1. Manifests**

##### **2. Minutes - March 11, 2024 and March 18, 2024**

*Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2024 as presented. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (abstention from G. Kennedy).*

*Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2024 as presented. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### **G. Reports to the Board [2:31:18]**

##### **1. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Moulis reported:

- The Early Childhood Learning Center hosted a Community Helper Day.
- AHS Music performed at the State House as part of Advocacy Day.
- The solar eclipse will be on Monday, April 8, 2024; students will learn about it in classes.
- The after-school math tutoring program: since the last report, there were 3 high school students attending and none at the middle school. Superintendent Moulis has decided to continue the program in April.
- The SAT is occurring this week at AHS and the reading state assessments at HMS.

- Strategic Planning Committee met last week to survey results and feedback from their staff input sessions. Surveys are being produced for students to participate in.
- He will provide his vision for the district for the next 5 years at the Board retreat.
- The first Wellness Committee meeting was held.
- He attended a preconference session to the upcoming National ASCD conference that focused on instructional coaching and 7 factors for success, among other topics.
- The DOE completed an OCR visit for the Office of Civil Rights for the CTE. Reports are forthcoming.
- The Alvirne FFA chapter competed in the NH FFA State Convention at the Mt. Washington Hotel.
- April 5 and 6: HMS Musical
- April 12 and 13: AHS Musical “Honk”
- Dept. of Food Services surveys - new flavor station at AHS and new water station.

## **2. Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Organek announced that the new Instructional Coach began today. Ms. Organek participated in mock interviews in AHS English classes. She presented Careers in Education at HMS Career Day. Plans are ongoing for STEM camps with registrations at the end of April (for current K-5). NH SAS testing began today. She attended the NH Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Math Conference regarding problem solving and math talks.

## **3. Director of Special Services Report**

Ms. Borge continued to spend time at HMS. She participated in the CTE OCR visit regarding practices related to students with disabilities. There are changes in practices at the state level related to approval for site-based plans for teacher credentialing (Alt 4). The hiring process has begun for FY25.

## **4. Business Administrator Report**

Ms. Burk noted that reporting for the DRA was complete. An update to Munis is complete. The HR Coordinator and Finance Director will attend the Tyler Tech conference next month to talk to colleagues about products.

## **H. Committee Reports [2:43:40]**

Mike Campbell mentioned that the Wellness Committee met.

Mr. Gasdia said that the Board of Selectmen met. They were looking at using HMS for elections (whether a one-time ask or permanently). The Town Engineer and State got funding approval for 3 solar powered crosswalk systems at AHS. This will improve safety and allow for traffic studies. There will still be a crossing guard. Bob Guessferd was elected chair and Dillon Dumont was elected Vice Chair.



**I. Correspondence [2:45:08]**

Superintendent Moulis reported that there was a memo from Dr. Frauwirth and Colin Stone for a receipt of donation of 40 XRP robot kits (20 for HMS and 20 for AHS).

*Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the donation of 40 XRP robot kits as presented (\$2758.80). Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

**J. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments - N/A**

**K. Student Representative Comments - N/A**

**L. Board Member Comments [2:46:16]**

Ms. Kennedy expressed that she enjoyed tonight's presentations.

Mr. Gasdia agreed and said it was nice to see the unified arts programming descriptions as well as Professional Development Day feedback.

Mr. Campbell said that Hills Garrison hosted a book fair last week and it was well-attended. This week, Nottingham is hosting a book fair.

Ms. Dionne said it was nice to see such enthusiasm from the PD committee, and she thanked those who spoke tonight. She also thanked the Litchfield School Board for attending tonight's meeting. Student Liam McNeal will be running the marathon on April 15<sup>th</sup> with bib number 27327.

**M. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a [2:49:05]**

*At 9:20pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

A personnel matter was discussed.

**N. Return to General Session and Adjourn [0:00:00]**

*At 9:39pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to return to general session and adjourn. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Submitted by  
Susan DeFelice  
Non-Public by Dan Moulis