

**Hudson School District  
Hudson School Board Meeting  
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman  
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair  
Ms. Diana LaMothe  
Mr. Ethan Beals  
Ms. Fabiana Fickett  
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services  
Ms. Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator  
Ms. Hannah LoVerdi, Student Representative

- A. Call to Order:** Dr. Orellana called the meeting to order. Mr. Gasdia led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Public Input:** There was no public input tonight.
- C. Presentations to the Board:**
1. Music Students' Experiences Operating in a Pandemic (Rob Scagnelli): Congratulated the 14 students that were selected to attend the NH jazz festival. Mr. Scagnelli said this year was going smoother than he thought it would go. Music is being performed by having slits in the student masks and masks at the end of each instrument to maintain safety precautions. Mr. Scagnelli mentioned that technology is being used more often than before for music. He also went over some struggles they are facing but did mention all the positives that have occurred during this pandemic.
  2. Eagle Scout Gift Presentation (Nate Emanuelson): Mr. Emanuelson is here to make a presentation about the picnic tables that are being constructed at Alvirne High School as an Eagle Scout Project. They have earned this money through a donation from the school along with a fundraiser from a car wash. The picnic tables will be used mostly for the senior class at Alvirne.
  3. Alvirne Security Options (Jay Doherty of Lavallee Brensinger Architects): Mr. Doherty presented some new options that could improve Alvirne security. He is looking at improving and securing the main entries, safe drop-off sequences, improved function for the cafeteria, along with restrooms and concessions. The total cost for these improvements would cost \$13 million. There was a conversation about making the security features one project and the auditorium another project. Ms. LaMothe recommended that fundraising be considered for the auditorium. This is something that the board is interested in and the number one priority is student safety, however the budget is tight right now for a project this big. Mr. Gasdia likes this idea but feels this project should be something that happens later.
  4. Communications Plan Update (Terry Wolf): Ms. Wolf presented the goals of the communication plan which were to share information in a consistent and timely manner, follow principles of good communication, increase family engagement pre k-12<sup>th</sup>, increase engagement with the community,

develop stronger relationships with businesses and elected officials, and finally be the primary resource for information. She mentioned that it is a bit of a challenge getting information to the broader community due to limited resources available. Ms. Wolf went over how they are communicating throughout the district and how they will be going forward. Ms. Wolf also has many ideas on how to better communicate with the district and the public such as the use of Instagram and a district-wide newsletter.

**D. Old Business:**

1. **Holiday Schedule:** Mr. Russell went over what was happening in the south-central region and statewide as far as what everyone is doing with travel during the holiday season. He also went over responses that he received throughout the district. The Board gave their opinions on this matter. Ms. Denis who is a building representative at Alvirne gave her and many other teachers input as to how they feel about this situation. Ms. Denis admitted this was a hard decision but believes the best situation is the one where everyone is going to be safe in the long run.

**Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve going out (remote) the two weeks after Thanksgiving from November 30<sup>th</sup> and returning on December 14<sup>th</sup>, second by Ms. LaMothe. Dr. Orellana, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Ms. Fickett, aye; Mr. Beals, nay; Ms. LaMothe, nay. Motion passes 3-2.**

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to go full remote for two weeks after Christmas Break (January 4<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Gasdia, nay; Dr. Orellana, nay; Mr. Beals, nay; Ms. Fickett, nay. Motion failed 1-4.**

2. **Policies (2<sup>nd</sup> readings):**

**Mr. Beals made a motion to push back 2<sup>nd</sup> readings of the below policies, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.**

a) JICA Student Dress Code	Replacing outdated policy w/NHSBA sample w/tracked changes
b) JICI Weapons on School Property	Replacing outdated policy w/NHSBA sample verbatim
c) JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices	New, NHSBA sample w/tracked changes
d) JICK Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention	Reviewed by Policy Committee
e) JICL School District Internet Access for Students	New, NHSBA sample verbatim
f) JIE Pregnant Students	Reviewed by Policy Committee

**E. New Business:**

1. **Transportation Contracts:** Ms. Burk looked at what a two-year contact would look like in another district for a transportation contract as well as the increases that would happen in each of the contracts. There was also a conversation on the headcount each bus would have which was 83 or 77 students. The board

was curious about attaining some data on what would be better as far as headcounts and bus size would go and what would be more applicable to go with.

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the two-year contract extension with Durham School Services and a 5-year extension with First Student, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. Fickett, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Beals, nay; Mr. Gasdia, nay; Dr. Orellana, nay. Motion failed 2-3.**

**Ms. Fickett made a motion to approve the Durham School Services for a two-year contract extension, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.**

2. Winter Sports: Mr. Russell went over what other districts are doing regarding winter sports. He did mention some districts are not doing wrestling as that is a very high contact sport. Ms. Bonney went over the protocols that winter sports would have to follow. She mentioned that a lot of sports like swimming, cheerleading and a few other sports would have a lot of meets or competitions through recordings or virtually.

**Mr. Beals made a motion to approve winter sports, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. Fickett, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Gasdia, nay; Dr. Orellana, nay. Motion is passed 3-2.**

**F. Recommended Action:**

1. Manifests- Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes- Recommended action: Review and Approve.
  - a) 10/26/2020 Draft Minutes:

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.**

**G. Reports to the Board:**

1. Superintendent Report: Mentioned that tomorrow the middle school is back in session. He also gave recognition to the high school staff for working hard to have school go on.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Reviewed the student absenteeism that has been happening in the district. Ms. Organek also went over a conference that five staff were able to attend. She also mentioned that the Title IV grant has been approved and reviewed what it covers.
3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Burk mentioned that Jenny Gordon, our new Finance Director started on November 9<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned they are finalizing the documents for budget books.
4. Director of Special Education: Praised the middle school folks along with the school nurses for everything that they have been doing.

**H. Board Member Comments:**

1. Ms. Kara Roy: Said she appreciates and thanked all the work that is going into making all these decisions. Mentioned that Santa will be arriving at Alvirne High School for a drive-thru on November 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 pm. The Hudson Food Pantry will hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual telethon on November 28<sup>th</sup> from 11-3 pm.
2. Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thanked everyone who donated food to scouting for food this past weekend. Mentioned how serious COVID is and to quarantine if you need to.
3. Ms. Diana LaMothe: Appreciated the student and teacher input that happened tonight.

4. Mr. Ethan Beals: Echoed what Ms. LaMothe said.
5. Ms. Fabiana Fickett: Thanked everyone for their input.
6. Dr. Darcy Orellana: Mentioned that even though there have been differences tonight, the Board works as a body and will continue to work as one body.

**I. Upcoming Meetings:**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
School Board	12/7/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	Regular Meeting
School Board	12/21/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	Regular Meeting

**J. Adjourn:**

**Ms. LaMothe made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(C) at 9:52 pm, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. Fickett, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.**

**Discussed personnel matter.**

**Motion by Mr. Beals to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Ms. Fickett. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Meeting adjourned 10:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)  
Gary Gasdia (non-public)