



## HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

Hills Memorial Library  
18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

### Minutes May 9, 2022

#### In Attendance

##### Board Members

Gary Gasdia, Chairman  
Gretchen Whiting, Vice-chair  
Ethan Beals  
Mike Campbell  
Maureen Dionne

##### SAU Staff

Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools  
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services  
Jen Burk, Business Administrator

Brett Gagnon, Board of Selectmen Liaison

#### A. Call to Order [0:00:10]

##### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Ms. Whiting led the Pledge of Allegiance. New Board of Selectmen liaison Brett Gagnon was welcomed.

#### B. Public Input [0:00:42]

There was no public input.

#### C. Presentations to the Board [0:00:57]

##### 1. Girl Scout Troop 10158 (Decision)

Riley, Olivia, Allie, and Ella, seventh graders from Girl Scout Troop 10158, presented *Tables for Teens*, a project for Hudson Memorial School where students could have a clean, positive place for lunch, socialization and outdoor learning. This project is planned to begin the next school year. Four tables will be painted by outdoor artists with small inspirational quotes. This is part of their Silver Award, which was the highest award for a Girl Scout Cadet to earn. The students were thanked for the idea and their time.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request from Girl Scout Troop 10158 for the *Tables for Teens* project to benefit Hudson Memorial School. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## 2. Alvirne High School Exchange Student

Alvirne High School Mariia Diahilieva, an exchange student from Ukraine, shared her experience with the Board. Principal Beals introduced her, noting her aspirations to be a chemical engineer/chemist, her high level of academic achievement and her positive impact at Alvirne. Highlights of Ms. Diahilieva's presentation included her luck in being the first exchange student in Hudson in three years and what she went through in Ukraine to come to Hudson (testing; 2.5% acceptance rate; documents; Visa application; host family of 10 months). She said her expectations of American high school (e.g. from movies and former exchange student orientations) versus the reality were very different. In Hudson, students start working at an early age (she admired this) and are not available after school. She shared ideas for future Alvirne exchange students, covering new student orientation: sports, grading system, lunch process and a list of staff with their photos and responsibilities. She said Hudson has been supportive including images in the cafeteria and art in the hallways; special education students drawing sunflowers symbolizing Ukraine and a "Support Ukraine" drive. Digital media students have created a t-shirt fundraiser for Ukraine with Lions Club International, incorporating NH's *Live Free or Die* motto, which is similar to the Ukraine National Anthem (giving one's soul and body for freedom). She noted that a posting on FaceBook enticed her host family to offer their home to an exchange student and she was lucky to have had the opportunity to stay with them and do things with them. The Board thanked Ms. Diahilieva and wished her well.

## D. Old Business [0:34:22]

### 1. Website Update (Information)

Director of Strategic Engagement and Communication Terry Wolf shared an update about the new website: the design is mobile first, content is targeted to families and community members, old information has been deleted and new content has been added; the menus have been streamlined; Google calendars have been set up for each school, the District and the School Board. There is a "News" section and area for "Superintendent Updates," which can be subscribed to. The design is almost complete and will include new photos of the buildings/events and feed to school Facebook pages.

It was suggested the website include a feedback link. Mr. Beals noted that the Wilbur H Palmer Career and Technical Education Center is part of Alvirne High School and not a standalone school. The twelve years' worth of minutes on the website were ADA-compliant. Tags and searchability will be an important website features.

The electronic sign in front of the SAU will be open to non-profit groups. Ms. Wolf is working on a process for items to be submitted.

### 2. Alvirne High School (Information)

Mr. Russel shared an update on the "flex time" pilot at Alvirne High School. Teachers had felt that there was a need for support/intervention for students within the school day. The committee voted 4:2 to have an A/B schedule next year. Time was taken out of blocks to build another period within the school day as an intervention/enrichment time (to see teachers for help, etc.). A flex schedule pilot will start this week, running on Wednesdays and Thursdays for four weeks. Data will be gathered to see if it served its purpose and helped students.

Communication went out from the principal and there would be more forthcoming. The committee was in the process with attorneys of impact bargaining (on any impact of A/B scheduling on the Collective Bargaining agreement/instructional or duty time, etc.). This would be completed by June 1, 2022. Teacher duty time would be reduced with the A/B scheduling. There was concern about students not having time to learn about the new scheduling before the end of school this year. Announcements would be made by then.

### **3. Year-End Spending Requests (Discussion/Decision)**

Ms. Burk reviewed year-end spending requests.

Two warrant articles passed in March for year-end spending: Playground at HO Smith (\$75,000) and school renovation capital reserve account transfer (\$150,000). On April 18, the Board approved the facilities use study for Lavallee: \$85,000.

Ms. Burk noted that her memo should have read “Items Not Approved from the FY21 year-end Spending Requests” and “Class of 2021” (not 2022). Items not approved and remained outstanding from last year included: classroom vanity replacements at Nottingham, elementary 1:1 computers, and funding around graduation and prom tickets for the Class of 2021.

As a follow up to the last meeting with a question related to the proposal for the library updates at Nottingham, the carpet there was replaced in 2017 and some of the student furniture was replaced over the past few years.

It was noted that the HO Smith lift replacement is important to do sooner than later as it is a safety issue.

Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the HO Smith lift replacement (estimated \$30,000 from the end of year fund balance). Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

The remainder of the requests would be voted on at the next meeting on May 23.

## **E. New Business [1:24:00]**

### **1. Policies - First Reading**

Ms. Burk and Ms. Borge presented policies for first reading.

Policy DAF - Administration of Federal Funds matched the recommended policy from the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA).

Policy DBJ - Transfer of Appropriations was also pulled from the NHSBA. Procedural text was removed.

Ms. Borge noted that Policy EHB - Data and Records Retention detailed the requirements in State rules regarding records retention; the policy was up to date and mirrored law, as

recommended by the NHSBA.

## 2. Budget Transfer

There was a budget transfer request to cover the Lavallee facilities study that was approved at the last Board meeting.

Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the budget transfer as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## F. Recommended Action [1:28:42]

### 1. Manifests

### 2. Minutes (School Board: April 18, 2022 and School Board Training: April 21, 2022)

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2022 and April 21, 2022 (training) as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

## G. Reports to the Board [1:29:20]

### 1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Russell noted the VFW held its annual Loyalty Day Award and Alvirne teachers were awarded. Middle school students volunteered to read their essays there. An Alvirne Career & Job Fair will be held on May 25 at the Community Center, in partnership with the NH Department of Employment Security. Alvirne students will attend the fair between Noon and 2pm. The public is welcome between 2 and 4pm.

### 2. Assistant Superintendent Report

There was no Assistant Superintendent Report.

### 3. Director of Special Services Report

Ms. Borge shared information about the preschool Family Game Night competition. There were 29 submissions and at the end there would be a raffle of a game.

### 4. Business Administrator Report

Ms. Burk noted last week was Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Lunch Hero Day; food service professionals were thanked for their work providing nutritious and filling meals each day. Abigail Kaplan, Food Service Director, was approved to attend the program *Serving Up Science* program at Kent State University the week of June 20, 2022. She requested to combine this trip to a personal trip across the country and requested reimbursement for for mileage in lieu of a plane ticket. The Board approved by consensus.

## H. Committee Reports [1:36:35]

Ms. Whiting gave an update on the Budget Committee, who questioned some positions (filled/non-filled); Ms. Whiting will work with Human Resources to provide answers.

Mr. Campbell noted that the Alvirne Trustees met and discussed the Hills Family Scholarship. They met with three students about their essays; they were commended for their work.

#### **I. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:38:35]**

Mr. Gagnon noted that the Sustainability Committee and the Wilbur H. Palmer Career and Technical Education Center were having an Ecofest on Saturday, May 21. The Traffic Committee was disbanded. New digital poll books were purchased for the moderator which would make him more efficient. A new informational flier is be drafted for candidates for conformancy. A staff needs assessment was completed for Town Hall which will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

#### **J. Board Member Comments [1:40:22]**

Mr. Campbell thanked the Hudson Speedway for hosting the Pine Wood Derby. Districts will be this weekend in Nashua. Alvirne High School will present *Fiddler on the Roof* on Friday and Saturday at Alvirne. Last Friday was step-up day at the ELC. He thanked everyone for that work. His wife is participating in a field trip tomorrow to the Discovery Center in MA.

Ms. Dionne acknowledged the fifth-grade leadership team at Nottingham West for step-up day and she felt it was nice to see transitions happening smoothly, as well as field trips.

Ms. Whiting noted that the Barnyard Cafe is offering Asian-themed dishes on Thursday, reservations are necessary. She requested that the Board be included in the communications from the schools when they are distributed.

Mr. Gasdia mentioned that there were many events happening like *Fiddler on the Roof* and sports events and volunteering/giving back. He thanked students and teachers who have been involved in giving back over the years (food pantries, etc.).

#### **K. Non-Public Session - Per RSA 91-A: 3 II c [1] Student Matter [1:45:36]**

At 8:16pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II c, Student Matter. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

#### **L. Return to General Session**

At 8:35pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to return to general session. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

#### **M. Adjournment**

At 8:35pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan DeFelice