



## HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting  
Public Session

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### Minutes- February 20, 2023

#### In Attendance

##### Board Members

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

##### SAU Staff

Dan Moulis, Superintendent of Schools  
Kimberly Organek, Assistant  
Superintendent of Schools  
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services  
Jen Burk, Business Administrator

Kara Roy, Board of Selectmen Liaison

#### A. Call to Order [0:00:11]

##### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gary Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Kim Organek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### B. Public Input [0:00:33]

Todd Hirst of 9 David Drive asked about the kindergarten age cutoff decision. The topic will be discussed later in the agenda and Mr. Gasdia will update Mr. Hirst.

#### C. Presentations to the Board [0:02:31]

##### Senior Capstone Projects (Information)

Ms. Bureau and Ms. Dennis presented a slide show on senior capstone projects and two seniors presented their projects.

Highlights included:

- The district created the Portrait of a Graduate in 2018/19 when the strategic plan was drafted. Graduates should have the following skills: responsibility, communication, citizenship, curiosity and social/emotional understanding.
- The senior English capstone project includes an overlap of skills and ELA competencies - students are not taken away from other programs.
- 100 seniors presented projects, each working with an outside mentor or experts.
- Project outcomes include planning/time management, problem solving, website development, etc. Students complete a self-reflection after the projects are completed. This year's projects vary from mental health, sports, building things, etc.
- Jessica Maturo's project was to bring a unified cheer team to Alvirne High School. She spoke to teachers and staff and made a flier for students to sign up. Practices took place and she ordered team bows and t-shirts. The team competed at the HMS showcase in January.
- Xenon Earl's project was making a comic book to inform people about transgenderism. He created a rubric and drew sketches. He had support from a comic book artist. Creativity and problem solving are highlights of the project which is self-published online.
- Adam Cummings (absent tonight) learned to sew teddy bears for Marguerite's Place for children who needed them.
- At the end of the semester, about 30 students presented capstone projects at a community night.

#### **D. New Business [0:42:50]**

##### **1. JROTC Washington, D.C. Trip (Decision)**

Lt. Col Cheetham and the Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets Haley Bassett and Anthony Grauslys Jr. requested permission to attend their bi-annual civics trip from March 15-19, 2023. While attending, each student will do a presentation as a graded requirement. Funding is covered through the Air Force and fundraising and the student contribution is \$200. Scholarships are available as well. The last time this trip occurred was in 2018. Three chaperones will attend, and students will visit monuments, memorials and museums. The dress code will be business casual (no uniforms). The board requested the students return after the trip and share their experience.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the JROTC Washington, D.C. Trip as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

##### **2. FFA State Convention (Decision) [0:53:27]**

The FFA sought permission to attend the Granite FFA State Convention at the Omni Mount Washington Hotel from March 29 – 31, 2023. Chapter President Elizabeth Bliss and a fellow member formally asked permission of the Board. Members will compete in various career and development events such as forestry, prepared speaking, animal welfare and veterinary science.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the FFA State Convention travel request as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

There was a request to host the FFA Agricultural Mechanics CDE at Alvirne on March 25, 2023. The event covers machinery and equipment, electricity, compact equipment, structures and environmental and natural resources.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve Alvirne's hosting of the FFA Agricultural Mechanics CDE on March 25, 2023 as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion.***

***Motion passed 5-0.***

### **3. Hudson Memorial School Washington, D.C. Trip (Decision) [0:58:42]**

Kim Bourassa and Leonie Freemantle presented details and requested permission for students to attend their eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. from May 1-5, 2023. Approximately 139 (out of 217) students have signed up. There will be alternative opportunities for students who are not attending. A portion of the cost is covered through fundraising. The original bus company will be utilized.

***Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

### **4. District Calendar - Draft (Discussion) [1:02:36]**

Superintendent Moulis shared a draft of the school district's 2023-2024 calendar for discussion. If approved, workshop days will be scheduled for August 23 - 25<sup>th</sup> and the first day for students will be August 28. There will be no school on September 1 and October 6 will be an early release day. In the past, the early release day has been in January and that is when mandatory suicide training for all staff is completed. Moving it to earlier in the year is better timing for the training. November 7 is election day and will be a workshop day. The Presidential Primary election date has not yet been set. The last day for students is tentatively June 19, 2024, and the last day for teachers will be June 20. The calendar aligns with Londonderry and Litchfield as much as possible. It was noted that there is a typographic error for Memorial Day. It was suggested that notes about "no school" be consistent at the bottom of the page. There was no motion made to approve the calendar at this time.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to move agenda item F. Policy - First Reading up.***

***Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

### **E. Policy - First Reading (Discussion) [1:07:20]**

Policy JEB - Age of Entrance was reviewed. Other districts' versions have been reviewed for content and wording. In this version, language is added regarding students transferring from other schools. Also, waivers will be considered for students entering kindergarten and grade 1 and will include an assessment and screening procedure. A request was made to clarify processes for both early entrance and late entrance. Included is a December 31 cutoff for waivers, but the wording can be adjusted after further discussion. Caution should be taken regarding how early a student may enroll and based on development and social behavior. There are age requirements for IEP qualifications and Ms. Borge will bring in rules on these age limits for preschool. The language reads that the district will be charging for the kindergarten assessment associated with a waiver to ensure that families put thought towards requesting one. Consensus was to lower or

eliminate the waiver charge listed. Space availability, quantity of requests and assessment results will all be factors in any decisions. To maintain confidentiality, the waiver reviews will be held in non-public sessions. A formal waiver policy is necessary and is still under review by the board. This year is an anomaly and parents may not be held to the March 1 waiver deadline. A second reading may take place at the March 13 meeting.

Mr. Hirst from 9 David Drive explained that he began school early and felt that he got a head start in life; he felt his daughter was academically ready and he favored her early entrance.

## **F. New Business - Continued [1:53:17]**

### **1. Hudson Memorial School Nominations (Decision)**

*Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the Hudson Memorial dodgeball nominations as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

### **2. Alvirne High School Nominations (Decision) [1:54:04]**

*Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the nominations for Alvirne spring coaching. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

### **3. FY23 Audit (Discussion) [1:55-00]**

There was discussion regarding going out to bid for audit services in future years. Ms. Burk suggested keeping the current auditors (Plodzick) this year due to the new business department team, as the auditors know the traditional auditing procedures.

Putting audit services out to bid does not mean the district will change auditors, but knowing the costs and procedures for auditing will be helpful. Ms. Burk will research costs from other districts for the next meeting and ensure that procedures are similar among the different auditors.

### **4. Travel Request (Decision) [2:10:12]**

Assistant Superintendent Kim Organek presented a travel request for Assistant Principal Mark Dangora for a professional development opportunity in Bethesda, MD from March 2-4, 2023, to attend the "Leader in Me" symposium (an evidence-based, comprehensive model building leadership, life skills and high-trust school culture). He will present at the principals' meeting when he returns.

*Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request for Mark Dangora to attend the Leader in Me symposium in March as presented, contingent upon Mr. Dangora making a presentation on what he learned after the fact. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

## **G. Old Business [2:12:08]**

### **1. School Board Evaluation Results (Multiple Choice Questions Only)**

20 of 25 responses were received (80%). The evaluation questions included:

1. Policies are in place and according to law: 75% said yes
2. Strategic plan is aimed at enhancing/improving student academic outcome: 90% said yes

3. Strategic plan is executed: 45% said good
4. Board provides Superintendent with clear expectations of performance annually, set goals and evaluates the Superintendent: 60% said yes
5. Board seeks input from all stakeholders creating a culture where all are comfortable speaking freely: 40% said usually
6. Board/district ensures information is available to the public: 55% said always
7. Board members are prepared at meetings for meaningful discussions: 55% said always
8. Board meetings are productive/address all agenda items and outside discussions: 45% said usually
9. Board members treat each other with respect/consideration: 80% said always
10. Board is connected with events in buildings/district: 50% said sometimes

There was discussion about being more connected with buildings; collaboration (during public sessions); involvement at district meetings if possible; having board members tour the schools annually or having building “check-ins” during the year; and utilizing the online event calendar.

#### H. Recommended Action [2:39:00]

1. Manifests
2. Minutes - January 30, 2023
3. Minutes - February 6, 2023
4. Minutes - February 11, 2023 (Post-Deliberative Session)

*Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2023, February 6, 2023 and February 11, 2023 (post-deliberative session) as written. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### I. Reports to the Board (Information) [2:39:25]

##### 1. Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Moulis held a mid-year review with H.O. Smith staff.
- All Cookies, Cocoa and Conversation events at schools are now complete and feedback was positive. Increased anxiety was a concern from families. The district will be looking at ways to support families.
- Last week Superintendent Moulis and Mr. Gasdia attended a Lions Club meeting and discussed the proposed budget.
- Last Friday, Superintendent Moulis was a guest on *Working Together for Hudson* and he gave an overview of the budget, warrant articles, etc.
- He had conversations with students at Hills Garrison and Library School on how school was progressing.
- He met with the town planner to discuss pedestrian traffic at the schools.
- He attended two basketball games and a pasta dinner by the Friends of Music.
- He congratulated the Hudson Memorial Cheerleading team who won the 2023 Tri-county Cheerleading championship at Nashua South.
- He congratulated DECCA students who competed last week and won awards.

**J. Committee Reports [2:44:13]**

Mr. Beals said that the DEI committee met last week and heard a presentation from Oyster River District. Oyster River has a full-time position regarding DEI.

Mr. Gasdia noted that there was discussion at the Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the sample ballot and collaboration with the town and school district. Both sample ballots are available online.

**K. Correspondence (Information) [2:46:00]****1. Donation to the H.O. Smith Nurse's Office**

A \$500 donation was made to the H.O. Smith nurse's office from the family business of parent Christopher Thatcher.

**2. New Hampshire FFA Agricultural Mechanics and Technology CDE**

It was noted that money left over from each class rolled into the future class.

**3. Financial Update****L. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [2:48:43]**

Ms. Roy said that Candidate Night is February 23 at 6:30pm. Questions can be submitted online or via the moderator that night. The town election is on March 14.

**M. Student Representative Comments - N/A [2:49:37]**

Emily Dozois was absent.

**N. Board Member Comments [2:29:40]**

Mr. Campbell thanked those who attended the second Deliberative Session which is available online. The town election is important, and he urged people to go vote.

Ms. Dionne noted that it was Read Across America week as well as National FFA week and many activities are happening in our schools.

Mr. Beals congratulated the two state champions from the AHS wrestling team: Adam Cummings and Landon Caiazzo.

Ms. Whiting thanked those who attended the Deliberative Session. Questions can be sent to the superintendent regarding warrant articles.

Mr. Gasdia said that tonight was a good meeting with students reporting on projects, public input, and collaborative discussions, and he thanked all who participated.

**O. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a - [2:53:17]**

*At 9:23pm, Mike Campbell made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Discussed Food Service Director vacancy and interim plan.

**P. Leave Non-Public and Adjourn [3:00:17]**

*At 9:40pm Ethan Beals made a motion to leave non-public session and adjourn. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Submitted by  
Susan DeFelice