



HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting
Public Session

Minutes – March 27, 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 [0:00:10]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

B. Public Input [0:00:31]

There was no public input.

C. Good News Update [0:01:00]

Superintendent Moulis shared good news about the schools:

- Yasmina Stump from Hudson Memorial School was congratulated for being a finalist in the Seventh Annual State Spelling Bee
- Cabaret was held at Alvirne High School
- The Quinceañera Dance was held at Alvirne High School and featured Spanish culture
- Alvirne High School Senior Mansi Mathur was congratulated for being named the Junior Citizen of the Year by the Hudson Chamber of Commerce. She will be recognized at the Chamber's Awards Dinner on April 4, 2023.

D. Presentations to the Board [0:03:25]

1. JROTC Trip Review

Staff and students Anthony Grauslys and Thomas Peaslee, members of the Air Force JROTC program shared their experiences from their recent Washington, D.C. bi-annual conference which took place March 15 - 19, 2023. Highlights included research and speeches by the cadets, a VIP tour of the Capitol Building, and visits to the National Mall, memorials, and museums.

2. Facilities Study (Discussion) [0:09:50]

Lavallee Brensinger Architects presented the facilities study that was recently conducted for the district. The study included meeting with staff and administration and gathering information. The physical condition of each school, as well as enrollment were all factors were included.

Schools were rated by condition, with H. O. Smith considered to have the most needs. Library Street is next on the list followed by Nottingham West, Hudson Memorial and Hills Garrison. Parking, play spaces, and classroom windows were all considered.

Possible building additions were reviewed by school and realistic life spans of older and newer buildings were discussed. A cost/benefit evaluation of renovating the old buildings can be done. New buildings are now designed for longer life spans.

There was discussion about organizing grade levels in the district vs. neighborhood models. The report has been shared with the Capital Improvement Committee and there will be opportunities for community input as well.

An increase in student population is projected within the next ten years per NESDEC data:

- Library Street School is at over capacity: 11 current classrooms but will need 14
- Dr. H. O. Smith School: 14 current classrooms but will need 16 in 10 years
- Nottingham West and Hills Garrison Elementary Schools: an increase of 250 students in the next 10 years, split among three grades
- Nottingham West Preschool: 4 current classrooms but will need 5 within 10 years
- Hudson Memorial School: 52 current classrooms and will need 39 - 42 within 10 years

E. New Business [0:59:06]

1. Nomination (Decision)

Sam Bonney-Liles was nominated as Alvirne High School's Spring Boys Tennis Coach. Principal Beals will evaluate this coach who is related to the Athletic Director so there will be no conflict of interest.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the Alvirne High School Spring Boys Tennis Coach (Sam Bonney-Liles) as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

F. Policy [1:00:24]

1. First Reading

There was review of policies for first reading:

AC – Non-Discrimination - The proposed policy is modeled after the NHSBA policy. The procedure form is being reviewed to ensure no conflict with the Title IX policy. The policy requires the board to approve the anti-discrimination plan every two years.

Accompanying procedures to Policy AC include:

- AC-E - Anti-Discrimination Plan
Change “assess” in the first paragraph of the policy to “access.” The title “Assessing the Presence of Discrimination” should be exchanged to “Assessing the Presence of Discrimination.”
- AC-E - Annual Notice of Contact Information
- AC-R - Non-Discrimination Title IX Grievances

JEBK - Admission to Kindergarten

This is a current policy and is suggested for withdrawal as it is replaced within Policy JEB.

Gretchen Whiting made a motion to withdraw Policy JEBK - Admission to Kindergarten. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

G. Recommended Action [1:07:35]

1. Manifests

No action was necessary for the manifests.

2. Minutes - March 13, 2023

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023, as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

H. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:07:53]

1. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Moulis reported:

- He visited Hudson Memorial classrooms in science, language arts, math, and social studies.
- Job postings for the 2023-24 school year including: Alvirne School Counselor, three science teachers, a math teacher, an English teacher and the Dean of Academics; an Early Learning Center kindergarten teacher and grade 1 teacher; and one Hills Garrison elementary teacher.
- He attended the NHSAA Legislative Conference which covered building aid, funding, curriculum instruction and assessment, the Parent Bill of Rights and education freedom accounts. SB272 (Parent Bill of Rights) includes 80% of what schools are currently doing. Building aid bills addressed the application and appropriation process. The bill on curriculum required cursive writing and memorization of multiplication tables. HB529

would increase the adequacy funding based upon the percentage of students accessing free/reduced lunches and at an equalized valuation rate.

- He was invited by the Hudson Fire Department to be part of the interview process for the Deputy Fire Chief position.

I. Committee Reports [1:11:50]

There were no committee reports.

J. Correspondence (Information) [1:11:60]

1. Discipline Report Draft - Hudson School District Student Behavior Standards for PreK - Gr. 12

Changes to the Discipline Report include delineation descriptions for all categories, including detention. There were forty-five detentions at Nottingham West and zero at Hills Garrison. At Nottingham West, a detention was described as being as brief as five minutes. Consistency of reporting is being worked on across schools. There was discussion about measuring truancy.

2. Financials Update (Informational)

Ms. Burk gave an update on financials as of the end of February. Revenue is up. Encumbrances (forecasted expenses) remain for the end of the year. The anticipated fund balance is around \$2.9million. If the warrants pass tomorrow's vote, the balance will decrease to around \$2.1million.

Gary Gasdia suggested that whatever the fund balance is after the warrant articles are funded, the first 90% will be returned to taxpayers (10% will be available to spend - or about \$200,000). There was concern about this considering tonight's discussion regarding preserving/renovating district buildings. Mr. Beals felt this would be an immediate need. The SAU chairlift project will be part of the March encumbrances.

Gary Gasdia made a motion that whatever the fund balance is after the warrant articles are funded, the first 90% would be returned to taxpayers, excluding safety or structural fixes. Gretchen Whiting seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

K. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:25:05]

Ms. Roy mentioned that election day is tomorrow. She encouraged people to vote, 7am to 7pm, at the two polling locations, and she wished good luck to all candidates.

L. Student Representative Comments - [1:25:40]

Emily Dozois was absent.

M. Board Member Comments [1:25:45]

Mr. Campbell thanked everyone he has worked with while serving on the Board. He encouraged people to vote tomorrow.

Ms. Dionne also encouraged people to vote tomorrow. She wished good luck to Hudson students who took lessons at Let's Play Music who would be participating in the New England Music Festival.

Mr. Beals attended the Quinceañera Dance and felt it was successful and should become an annual event.

Ms. Whiting shared her appreciation working with Mr. Beals and Mr. Campbell on the Board.

Mr. Gasdia wished all candidates good luck, and he thanked Mr. Beals and Mr. Campbell for their service. Tonight was his last School Board meeting as Chair. He spoke about the respect and collaboration that has occurred over the past few years.

N. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a - [1:31:28]

At 8:02 pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Personnel matter was discussed

O. Return to General Session and Adjournment

At 10:02pm, 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