



# HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

Community Center Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting  
Non-Public Session

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## Minutes

September 26, 2022

### In Attendance

#### Board Members

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

#### SAU Staff

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

Brett Gagnon, Board of Selectmen Liaison  
Emily Dozois, Student Representative

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

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gasdia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Ethan Beals led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### B. Public Input [0:00:40]

There was no public input.

Superintendent Moulis made a statement thanking students for sharing their opinions in a respectful manner without disrupting the learning process. Students have the right to protest if they did not disrupt classroom instruction, cause safety concerns, or miss classes. A process is underway.

### C. Good News Update (Information) [0:01:52]

Kim Organek shared good news about school happenings including:

- The Hudson School District partnered with the NH Department of Education for the Exploring Your Future Series – a program for Hudson Memorial's seventh graders to learn

about CTE and future careers. CTE alumni and Palmer CTE ambassadors spoke about careers and life stories

- Hudson Memorial School students learned about events that took place on September 11, 2001, and honored our local first responders, the Hudson Fire and Police departments and members of the VFW
- Alvirne's FFA Vet Science team was congratulated for placing first at the Big E Regional FFA competition; they will attend the National FFA convention in October

## **D. Presentation to the Board [0:03:57]**

### **1. Elementary Data (Information)**

Superintendent Moulis and Assistant Superintendent Kim Organek started the presentation on elementary assessment data. The strategic plan includes a vibrant learning system for all students. The principals shared statewide assessment data, which is available for grades 3-5 and iReady data. The district adopted iReady last year and it was the first year of using the test. Attendance data shows the impact of student attendance during COVID.

- iReady - online reading/math program helps determine individual student needs. There is an increase shown in reading proficiency overall in grades 1-8. There are score ranges per grade level. There is also an overall increase in math proficiency.
- Principal Nancy Maguire from Library Street School shared that kindergarten reading went from 42% on grade level to 69% on or above grade level and shared a breakdown by domain (phonics, vocabulary, etc.). Kindergarten (winter to spring comparison) went from 47% on grade level to 88% on grade level and math assessment scores increased from 39% to 73% on/above grade level.
- Principal Mary Ellen Labrie from Dr. H. O. Smith School shared that first-grade reading went from 33% at or above grade level to 54% and in math, ended with 53% of students at or above grade level.
- It was noted that the first test is administered without teaching having been done yet. iReady information is not shared with other towns. The board requested a comparison of data with surrounding districts, including the starting point for students. Assistant Superintendent Kim Organic said it matters if districts use the whole iReady toolbox vs. just the diagnostic, with no personalized learning path. Research will be done with state assessments to get a feel of how Hudson students are doing, as there is concern that a number of students are not starting at grade level.
- COVID challenges and technology use by young students played into assessment data. It was noted that iReady results at the end of the year corresponded well with what was seen in classroom performance. Teachers explained to students that the assessments were helpful in showing what they learned.
- Hills Garrison Principal Bill McCarthy provided data for his school including attendance and NH statewide assessment given in the spring. Overall, there was an increase going through grade levels in reading and math, even over the pandemic. Older students performed better since they had experience in taking the tests. It was noted that in 2022, the Mystery Science program and Genius was embedded into the curriculum and gave students more exposure to traditional classroom activities, so they had exposure to different science questions. This showed on the 2022 science assessment scoring (blue level 4). Domain

assessment data was reviewed. There were increases in grade level reading and math diagnostics. Mr. McCarthy felt that iReady is a good tool to help guide teachers outside of their assessments and formulate conversations within PLCs (Professional Learning Communities). It is also real-time.

- Nottingham West Principal Scott Baker provided information on attendance, noting the pandemic, state assessment and iReady. Students scored well on the tests. When looking at the specific standards where students struggled, they were weaker in the writing portion than the reading portion. Staff will work on “cold writes” to help students prepare for the test and for life. Typing skills need to be improved as well. With iReady there was annual typical growth. Catch-up growth was done to get to grade-level in iReady in reading and math (example: in second grade, 94% started at below grade level but ended with 58% proficient by the end of the year). In iReady math for all grades, 80 proficient students increased to 260 students testing proficient. Staff taught geometry throughout the year (usually it was done towards the end of the year). It was noted that students were burned out by the end of the year as far as end of year testing. Assessment data is not used to evaluate teachers. Summer scholars helped students.
- There was concern about there being a significant number of students that were below or approaching red or yellow (40-73% of students). To address the needs in science, more informational science text is being incorporated into the reading block to increase time spent at the elementary level in science. Magnetic Reading and Collaborative Classroom were used for text. There is collaboration among teachers within schools and among the 4 elementary schools.
- Principals were asked to think of helpful tools for continued growth.

## E. Old Business [1:27:22]

### 1. ELC - Dr. H. O. Smith Playground Update (Information)

Superintendent Moulis provided an update on the new playground at H. O. Smith. The manufacturer reported that the playground materials would not be shipped until October 24 or November 7. This would put the build into mid-November. Mr. Beals confirmed that delivery was delayed and there were concerns with a November build date, so the date of May 4, 2023, is planned for the build. (Correction: The date is the weekend of May 6.) The hope is that there will be a large turnout to help with the build. There is no cost component regarding the delay. As part of safety, etc., pine trees will be cut down.

### 2. Policies - Second Reading (Decision)

The board reviewed the following policies for second reading.

- EEAA - Video Surveillance on School Property
- JI - Student Rights and Responsibilities
- JICD - Student Discipline and Due Process
- JIH - Student Searches and Their Property
- JLCJ - Concussion and Head Injuries
- JIA - Student Due Process (withdrawn)

***Gretchen Whiting made a motion to approve the second reading of the following policies as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.***

## F. New Business [1:34:00]

### 1. Hills Memorial Library (Discussion)

Superintendent Moulis gave an update on the request from the Library Trustees regarding the District overseeing the building. Maintenance and cost were discussed. The building is listed as an historical building. Walk-throughs would be required. Potential use could be for meeting space, professional development, office space or a school library. Renovation would be necessary, and the town would continue to use the building. Maintenance items, such as a roof replacement, could have cost impacts. There were concerns that cost is funded by the taxpayers either way. Mr. Beals favored an agreement where such ongoing maintenance pieces could be split 50/50. Mr. Gasdia wondered about the value if the district did take over the building, considering liability, etc.

### 2. Policies - First Reading (Discussion)

The board reviewed the following policies for first reading.

- DFGA - Crowdfunding
- ECAF - Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses
- IMAH - Daily Physical Activity
- JLCF - Wellness

## G. Recommended Action [1:48:56]

### 1. Manifests

### 2. Minutes - September 12, 2022

*Mike Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022, as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

It was noted that meetings are recorded, and a minute taker takes minutes. Draft minutes are then posted online until the next Board meeting where they are approved.

## H. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:50:12]

### 1. Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Moulis thanked Lieutenant Colonel Cheetham and the JROTC for the invitation to the 75th Anniversary Air Force event.
- The New Hampshire Department of Education and the Hudson School District partnered for the CTE alumni event introducing seventh graders to different career pathways. He recognized Rich Paiva for his work as the Career CTE Development Coordinator organizing this opportunity.
- Emergency Management training occurred on September 13 that included an overview of drugs impacting the Hudson area and emergency scenarios.
- There was a NEASC accreditation process meeting including site visits and comprehensive reporting as part of new goals for Alvirne High School.
- Budget meetings began last week and there would be a preliminary budget review at the October 17 budget meeting.

- There was a walk-through of Alvirne with New Hampshire Department of Education staff as part of the state building aid process. The review highlighted the renovation project, and the school will be notified around mid-January regarding determination of receiving state building aid.
- The first Alvirne renovation forum was held on September 14 with a tour and a question-and-answer session. It was recorded by HCTV and is available online. The second Alvirne renovation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.
- On September 28, there will be a visit for Lt. Col. Christian Cheetham as NH Finalist for Teacher of the Year with members of the NH Teacher of the Year Selection Committee.

#### **I. Committee Reports [1:54:57]**

Ms. Whiting noted that the Budget Committee put together a renovation review committee who will tour Alvirne.

Mr. Beals noted that the Capital Improvement Committee met last week with Lavallee architects to discuss the ongoing proposed renovation project. Topics of discussion included messaging.

#### **J. Correspondence (Information) [1:56:30]**

##### **1. FY22 Financial Reports**

#### **K. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [1:57:08]**

Mr. Gagnon gave updates:

- The Right to Know Committee was finalizing Right to Know policy for the Town that will be presented tomorrow night
- The Nashua Regional Planning Commission had a Technical Transportation Advisory Committee meeting welcoming about eighteen projects for the NH Department of Transportation plan and fourteen were bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- The Executive Committee meeting for the Nashua regional Planning Commission had a presentation on affordable housing and available grant funding opportunities
- The Hudson Planning Committee would be seeing a presentation for the Green Meadow Golf Course by Hillwood Developers
- Board of Selectmen meeting topics included: Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson were forced to pay \$39.6 million due to involvement with opioid epidemic in NH (\$31million will go directly to repair the negative effects in the State - 15% will go to the twenty-three political subdivisions that filed the lawsuit, and the rest of the money will go to a trust fund for grants for communities to apply for money, which Hudson has done
- The passage of Senate Bill 401 allowed for \$30 million to be distributed across the state to help pay for the maintenance of construction and reconstruction of class 4 and 5 highways; Hudson would receive \$467,498
- A topic at the October 4 Board of Selectmen meeting will be the townwide possibility of a power aggregation contract that will potentially move residents and local businesses off Eversource as the main supplier of energy. This would be a warrant article in March.

**L. Student Representative [2:00:42]**

Ms. Dozois wished everyone a nice week.

**M. Board Member Comments [2:00:51]**

Mr. Campbell mentioned the Hills Garrison and Nottingham book fairs and thanked Stacey Douglas for organizing the one at Hills Garrison, where he volunteered.

Ms. Dionne noted that curriculum night was held at Nottingham and Hills Garrison. She said it was nice for parents to see teachers. She commended fifth graders at Nottingham West who were going through the process as nominees for the leadership team.

Ms. Whiting reported that there was now a chapter of Best Buddies at Alvirne High School.

Mr. Gasdia thanked the principals and Ms. Organek for tonight's assessment presentations. He thanked HCTV and the Community Center staff for their help in organizing the meeting.

**N. Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II a [2:04:36]**

***At 8:35 pm, Gretchen Whiting 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 matters and an intent to retire letter were discussed.

Ms. Burk, Ms. Borge, and Ms. Organek were dismissed from the meeting at 10:05pm.

Superintendent Moulis exited non-public at 10:42pm.

**O. Leave Non-Public Session and Adjourn**

***At 11:21pm, Mr. Beals made a motion to return to general session. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.***

Submitted by

Susan DeFelice

Non-Public submitted by Superintendent Moulis