

**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
Ms. Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Organek, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Karen Burnell, Interim Business Administrator
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. Beals led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board welcomed the new Business Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Burk.
- B. Public Input:** There was no public input today.
- C. Presentations to the Board:**
1. FY21 Budget: Alvirne, Elementary Schools, Default, Wrap-up:

Alvirne: Mr. Tesini presented the budget for Alvirne High School. The budget increased 1% due to salaries and benefits. There was a decrease in expenditures. Many projects are ending which is why there is a decrease. Mr. Tesini went over items in the budget that exceeded a \$5,000 change. Alvirne would like to finish the gym renovations with new scoreboards but the Board is curious about what else the money could be used for. There was a conversation about the needs of music class. If there was more room in the budget, Alvirne would like to be able to provide teachers with coaches on certain aspects and to then have that learning turn out in a positive impact on student performance. Alvirne would also like to provide more support services for students. The Board would like to know what they can do to keep progressing forward helping students where it is needed to get to the end goal of graduation.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to remove the \$14,925 dollar scoreboard from the Alvirne budget, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, nay. Motion passes 4-1.

Elementary School: Mr. Baker presented the budget which includes all of Hudson's elementary schools. The budget is up a .3% (\$33,404). The increase for this is due to salaries and benefits, Math in Focus, Foundations, software subscriptions. Mr. Baker went over significant changes that were made for each elementary school. Mr. Baker believes the teachers have everything that they need now but agreed with Mr. Tesini that having the computers that are currently on backorder could be

very useful for teachers as well as students. Mr. Baker said if there was more room in the budget, he would like to have an afterschool program for students who need extra support in academics. There was also a conversation that the elementary schools would like to have air filters as well if there was more money in the budget.

Ms. Burnell brought up a motion that was supposed to be made at the last meeting about Hudson Memorial School. There was a change in the software which was not reflected in the budget. Mr. Bowen was looking for a cut in the amount of \$3,150 in the software budget.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to cut the HMS software budget in the amount of \$3,150, second by Mr. Beals. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion for IT to have a full-time administrative assistant join the department with a salary/benefits cost of \$72,886.06, second by Ms. Fickett.

There was a conversation about what ideally this job would entail and why this job is essential. Mr. Gasdia is concerned if they label this job as an admin assistant, then that is what it will become. The primary part of this position is to free up the IT department because there is a high demand for IT right now. The Board is also looking at this type of job with an IT background but as part-time instead of full-time.

Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia nay, Mr. Beals, nay, Ms. Fickett, nay, Dr. Orellana, nay. Motion fails 1-4.

Ms. Fickett made a motion to hire a full-time entry-level IT personnel/admin/tech support assistant with a salary/benefits cost of \$83,852, second by Ms. LaMothe. Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia aye, Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Beals, nay, Dr. Orellana, nay. Motion is passed 3-2.

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to hold one para position, set at \$1 and take the \$17,185 and use it to establish a better transition services program, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Default: The Default falls at \$57,449,171 which was before the adjustments were made tonight. This is what we would have if the budget were to fail.

Wrap-up: The Board decided to do the wrap-up of the FY22 budget at the next meeting, that way if any questions arise they can bring in the principals and everyone who is a part of this to the next meeting, also allowing the board time to gather all of their thoughts and any additional questions they might have. The Board would also like to discuss the warrant articles as well.

D. New Business:

1. **Extracurricular Nominations:**

Ms. Organek went over the nominations for extracurricular nominations. There was a concern about whether or not band could happen at the elementary level. Mr. Russell said it's a much smaller group and it will be possible to have.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve tonight's extracurricular nominations, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Policies (1st readings): Ms. Organek presented the 1st readings.

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

The Board had some comments on new and reviewed policies regarding the grammar that is used.

E. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests- Recommended Action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes- Recommended Action: Review and Approve:
 - a) 9/3/2020 draft minutes: There were comments on spelling mistakes.
 - b) 9/14/2020 draft minutes:
 - c) 9/24/2020 draft minutes: There was a comment on a spelling mistake.
 - d) 10/19/2020 draft minutes

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept these minutes for 9/3/2020, 9/14/2020, 9/24/2020 as amended, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Ms. Fickett, abstention. Motion passes 4-0-1.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the minutes for 10/19/2020, second by Mr. Gasdia. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

F. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report: Welcomed the new Business Administrator. Mr. Russell went over the dashboard and what each school is struggling with. He also went over the percentages for travel related to who is going outside of New England for the holidays. Mr. Russell recommends to the Board a two-week period of remote learning after Christmas, but a decision would be needed before November 12th due to Thanksgiving which could also cause a problem. He also mentioned that the emergency operation center is back in action.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Professional Development day is being held on November 3rd with all teachers at which time any questions or concerns teachers might have will be addressed. The focus on this is to make sure all the teachers are prepared to go remote.

3. Director of Special Services: Ms. Borge said they have spent a lot of time trying to make plans in the event that they need to transition to remote learning. The plan consists of families choosing if they wish to bring their children to school. This will be something everyone will work together on.
4. Interim Business Administrator: Ms. Burnell is excited to have Ms. Burke.
5. Business Administrator: No comment tonight.

G. **Legislative Updates**: No updates tonight.

H. **Correspondence**

1. Supplemental Public-School Response Fund: The Governor had announced the commitment to \$45 million more to school districts due to this pandemic. Hudson received \$648,400 today.

I. **Board Member Comments**:

1. Ms. Hannah LoVerdi: Mentioned that winter sports will be starting soon and Spirit Week will be starting. She mentions that they are trying to keep the normalcy that would happen in a normal school year.
2. Ms. Fabiana Fickett: Welcomed Jen and thanked everyone for their work on the budget.
3. Mr. Ethan Beals: Welcomed Jen and mentioned he is glad that they are creating creative solutions to the budget.
4. Ms. Diana LaMothe: Welcomed Jen and encouraged everyone to get out and vote and mentioned we can agree to disagree.
5. Mr. Gary Gasdia: Welcomed Jen and mentions he got to participate in the Zoom parent-teacher conferences and gave credit to the teachers for handling this so well.
6. Dr. Darcy Orellana: Mentions that on behalf of Ms. Roy, she encourages everyone to go out and vote at Hudson Memorial.

J. **Upcoming Meetings**:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Purpose
School Board	11/12/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	FY22 Budget(tentative)
School Board	11/16/2020	6:30 pm	Hills Memorial Library	Regular Meeting

K. **Non-Public Session**:

L. **Adjourn**:

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A: 3(c) at 9:30 pm, second by Ms. Fickett. Ms. Fickett, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

District leadership (Larry Russell, Kim Organek, Karen Burnell, Jen Burk, and Rachel Borge) dismissed at 9:32 pm. Attendance – Darcy Orellana (Chair); Gary Gasdia (Vice-Chair); Ethan Beals, Diana LaMothe, Fabiana Fickett.

Discussed draft of superintendent evaluation.

Motion made by Ms. Fickett to drop the highest and lowest scores on the evaluation – not setting a precedent for future evaluations, second by Diana LaMothe. Passed 5-0.

Reviewed comments in the evaluation as a board.

Hudson School Board
November 2, 2020

Hills Memorial Library
Public Session: 6:30 pm

Diana LaMothe and Gary Gasdia will contact the superintendent to deliver the evaluation.

Discussed personnel matter.

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

Meeting adjourned 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gage (public)
Kim Organed (1st non-public)
Gary Gasdia (2nd non-public)