

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hudson School Board Meeting March 20, 2006 Accepted Minutes

Present: Mr. David Alukonis, Chairman
Mr. Lars Christiansen
Mr. David Bouchard
Mr. Richard Nolan
Mr. Gary Rodgers
Mr. Randy Bell, Superintendent
Mr. Normand Sanborn, Business Administrator
Dr. Irene Sousa, Director of Special Services
Ms. Mary Ellen Ormond, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Brandon Mansur, Student Rep.

- A. **Call to Order:** Mr. Randy Bell, Superintendent, called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm. This is an organizational meeting. Until the board elects a chairman, Mr. Bell will run the meeting.

Election of Chairman

The Superintendent asked for nominations for chairman.

Mr. Bouchard nominated Mr. Nolan who declined with appreciation.

Mr. Rodgers nominated Mr. Alukonis. No other nominations were brought forward so the Superintendent closed nominations and declared the election of Mr. Alukonis as Chair.

Mr. Alukonis moved forward and asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Christiansen nominated Mr. Rodgers. No other nominations were brought forward so the Chair closed nominations and declared the election of Mr. Rodgers as Vice Chair.

- B. **Public Input**

Candy Paradise 252 Webster St.

She was speaking on behalf of the bus drivers. Grievances have been filed and the drivers feel that First Student is in violation of their contract. She wanted to voice her concerns with employment currently as well as what will happen in the future when Goffstown Trucking takes over in July. She would like her questions answered. Mr. Bell has already spoken to Candy and assured her that the district

will arrange a meeting as he previously stated with Goffstown Trucking this week.

Laura Bisson, Jill Roser addressed the board regarding parental concerns over bussing issues. They stated their children's bus drivers are constantly changing and are not familiar with Hudson or the bus routes. They stated concerns of not knowing whether their children are getting to school safely. They also had concerns about whether these sub drivers have had their security checks done. Mr. Bell assured them that all drivers have had security checks done as well as drug testing. He also stated that there are four new managers in place and is hopeful things will settle down.

C. Board Reorganization

Organization of Board: Defer

This assignment list has gone down, no NHSBA Rep or Alt. Rep needed, No negotiations, no joint planning committee.

Results of District Meeting Votes: For information only.

Proposed 2006-2007 School Board Calendar of Meetings

Mr. Christiansen moved to adopt the 2006-2007 school board meeting schedule as presented, second by Mr. Nolan. Motion passes 4-0.

D. Requests of the Board

NH HOSA Leadership Conference

Mr. Lane addressed the Board.

This is a request for an overnight trip for the HOSA students to attend their annual NH HOSA Leadership Conference on March 29, 30 and 31. The students will stay at the Nashua Sheraton Tara, 27 students and two advisors will be going.

Mr. Christiansen moved to grant the overnight trip request to the HOSA Leadership Conference and will stay at the Sheraton Tara on March 29, 30, 31, Second by Mr. Nolan. Motion passes 5-0.

Participation in Exchange City Program

Jane Weber, Assistant Principal for Academics, addressed the board. She would like to take the sixth grade class on an extended day trip to Exchange City in Portsmouth. This trip will take place on May 31, June 2 and June 6 (one day for each of three teachers), students will be back in time to take the late bus home. Basic economics is part of the sixth grade curriculum and this will allow the students to put what they have learned into practice.

The students will be preparing for this trip for four weeks prior to trip and will go to the "city" and run it for the day. The students will create resumes, have job interviews, write business plans, write checks, repay loans etc. There will be a "job" for every participant, teachers and chaperones will receive training prior to trip. The "city" has a studio, bank, Wendy's Restaurant, City Hall etc. The students will be expected to participate in follow up activities after the trip.

This will be a pilot program this year with long term considerations it will be added to the budget for future years. This year with donations received, students will only have to pay for transportation costs. A short video was shown to the board and literature was passed out to the board members. This would be a strong match to our current curriculum. Although the board discussed how they could catch up the students that have not had the opportunity to attend this program, they have worked on economics in a different way. Discussed the possibility of creating their own "City" within Alvirne and/or revamping our current economic programs.

Currently this program is only geared to fifth and sixth grade students.

Mr. Bell will get back to the board at a later date.

Mr. Nolan moved to approve the extended day fieldtrip to Exchange City in Portsmouth on May 31, June 2 and June 6, funded by grants with students paying only transportation costs, second by Mr. Christiansen.

Motion passes 5-0. The board requested report after the trip.

Request for Staff Travel

Ms. Ormond requested permission to send three elementary reading specialists to attend the International Reading Association Conference in Chicago on April 30 through May 4, 2006. These three teachers attended this conference last year although the board was never notified. Policy 5.1(f) was a new policy and was overlooked.

The board discussed why three teachers should go, it was stated that in business a company would never send their entire organization to a conference at the same time. The board suggested the teachers go on a rotating basis and report back to their peers.

Mr. Bouchard moved to authorize one reading specialist to attend the International Reading Association Conference in Chicago on April 30 through May 4, 2006. The decision of who will go will be left up to the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent and will be on a rotating basis, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 5-0.

E. Presentations to the Board

Student Assessment Report: Mr. Bill Hughen addressed the board regarding the various tests that are available to the high school student – PSAT, SAT, ACT, ASVAB. The ASVAB test is associated with the military but is a free test. Alvirne has stopped issuing this test due to its length 3.5 hours and lack of ability to create a good testing environment-logistical problems. He also had a UNH outcome report which was discussed.

Mr. Hughen reviewed all of the statistics that were provided in the packet with the board members as well as descriptions of the various tests. He suggested that all sophomores should take the PSAT test to help them prepare to take the SAT test. Mr. Hughen also felt it was beneficial for students to take practice tests prior to taking the SAT's, buy books/CD to help improve their scores.

Brief recess to change the tape 8:20-8:25

On Friday, Mr. Hughen will be looking *Career Cruising* on Friday, this is a web-based program. Mr. Bouchard stated this program has nothing to do with academics.

Brief recess 8:55-9:00 Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Mansur left the meeting.

F. Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Bell addressed the board. He announced that health insurance only had an increase of 1% and dental had no increase. It was project that health insurance would rise 16% and dental would rise 10%. Mr. Bell suggested that the money be moved to a School Board holding fund so it would not be spent on other things and later ask the budget committee and voters to establish an Expandable Trust Fund for health insurance. This would allow the district to budget for insurance better. Mr. Bell has already contacted the union presidents regarding the low insurance increases.

NECAP test results will be released on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 10:00 am. SAU/Vocational Study are moving along. The state is very excited at what we are doing with the study and hope it will become a model for other school districts.

Special Education Study has taken a hiatus. The written study for the graduated high school students is not working out, it has proved difficult to track down students and get them to reply. Instead, using the same questions, they will interview current high school seniors at the end of the year as well as the next three subsequent years. This will be valuable information.

Mr. Nolan asked that an update of the Special Education Study be put on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Bell asked the board members to sign the **MS22** (6 copies).

Primex will be hosting "Power Duties of Governing Bodies" on April 6.

Job Fair was held on Saturday, March 18, outstanding response. They received 143 applicants for 9 positions.

Mr. Bell responded to parental concern public input from the last meeting.

The inhaler incident occurred because a student dropped it and was picked up by another student and sprayed. There were no drugs involved.

Pocket knife at the dance was on a guest who felt he was being bullied and the staff handled the situation.

6 staff members and 1 detail officer attend each dance. Feel free to contact the detail officer if you would like more information regarding dances. The dances never exceed fire dept. capacity, staff deals with all inappropriate behavior and language and are always in control although it is very loud. The trash can incident did occur and was dealt with. The student that exposed them self was given the appropriate disciplinary actions.

The PTO surveyed parents at the last meeting regarding their interest in chaperoning dances, no one present was interested. The staff feels they know the

students well and what their issues are and have their respect. They feel that the students do not have the respect for parents like they do for teachers.
Mr. Bell investigated the inappropriate behavior/ language used by teachers, can't confirm nor deny the statement. Conveyed to staff the importance of appropriate behavior and language. Mr. Bell feels the incidents were taken out of context.
Ed Callahan, interim principal prior to Mr. Baker, at HO/Library, is in the hospital in serious condition. He is in our thoughts.
Class Act (AHS drama) won regionals. There are 60 students in this group.
Battle of the Books competition will take place at Nottingham West on Thursday, March 23. Grade 4 at 5:30 with grade 5 following.
AHS Cabaret will be held on March 24, 25, and 26.

G. Committee Report:

There were no committee reports.

H. Correspondence:

Police Report for January 2006: For information only.

Fire Dept. Reports: Semi annual inspection.

Letter of Retirement:

Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the retirement of Paul Martens, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 4-0.

Letter of Resignation:

Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the resignation of Anna-Louise Dubois, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 4-0.

Special Olympics letter: Letter of thanks for use of building space for the fall 2005 games.

Letter from Department of Education: Financial report and financial statements have been received and reviewed.

Article on Marjorie Inderbitzen: For information only.

Messages from the Department of Education: newsletter - For information only.

Planning Board Notification-Jette field expansion: Meeting to be held on March 22, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Deliberative session minutes- For information only

I. Recommended Action

1. Business Affairs - Minutes - Recommended Action

March 6, 2006 draft minutes.

Mr. Nolan moved to accept the draft minutes of March 6, 2006 as presented second by Mr. Rodgers. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Manifests - Recommended Action:

Manifests are available to be signed.

3. Budget Transfers (1st reading)

#26-06 OOD Placement \$25,581.60

#27-06 SAU Study/Vocational Study \$34,800

Brief recess camera problems 9:45-9:46

#28-06 Data Communications \$10,405

Mr. Nolan moved to wave second reading on Budget Transfer #28-06 and adopt it at a cost of \$10,405, second by Mr. Rodgers. Motion passes 4-0.

#29-06 SAU Computer Upgrade \$10,900 (11 computers at the SAU)

4. Financial Report (for information only)

\$47,000 reduction. Adjustment in General building repairs and boiler repairs.

Anticipated Fund Balance: \$71,092.15

J. Old Business

Policies (2nd reading)

Dean of Academics

Mr. Nolan moved to accept the job description for Dean of Academics as presented, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 4-0.

Benefits Coordinator

Mr. Nolan moved to accept the job description for Benefits Coordinator as presented, second by Mr. Rodgers. Motion passes 4-0.

K. New Business

Alvirne Master Plan: Currently the Superintendent is looking into lots of possibilities. He would like to commission a comprehensive master plan for buildings and grounds. He will work with Mr. Sanborn to get bid package together. The renovations to the Vocational Center will be included in the master plan.

Mr. Lane stated that the electrical infrastructure is in need of repair as well. He also feels if a plan is in place it will help the morale of the staff, hoping the board will go for this concept.

Mr. Alukonis stated the district has 300 acres and we must plan ahead for land use, planning is an invaluable planning tool.

The consensus of the board is to move ahead with the master plan.

L. **Board Member Comments:**

Mr. Rodgers: Congrats on your win and election of chairman.

Attended the HMS dance on March 17. Attendance was down, observed students being screened prior to admittance to dance. A few students were denied entrance and waited in the lobby with Mr. Bowen. All students appeared to be properly dressed. Chaperones were walking through the crowd, and continuously scanning the crowd. Did not observe any "sandwiching" involving boys and girls.

Music was very loud, couldn't really hear any foul language. Last student was picked up at 9:45. This dance was well run; the money earned will help offset the cost of the Washington D.C. trip.

Mr. Christiansen: No comments

Mr. Nolan: No comments

Mr. Alukonis: Thanks to the voters, thanks to fellow board members for the nomination of Chair. Anxious to start working with the new Board of Selectman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ed Callahan and his family.

Stated he does not vote to go into Non-Public because he believes it should be done in public session.

M. **Non-Public Session:**

Mr. Nolan moved to enter Non-Public session at 10:15 pm under RSA91-A: 3II, (A) (B) (C) second by Mr. Rodgers.

Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Christiansen-yes, Mr. Nolan-yes, Mr. Rodgers-yes, Mr. Alukonis-no.

Motion passes 3-1.

Will enter Non-Public after a brief recess.

The board added an upcoming meeting on April 10 for nominations.

Mary Ellen Ormond presented summary charts of NECAP results that are to be released publicly on Tuesday, March 21. These items were presented in non-public session only because the information was embargoed by the State department of Education until 10:00 Tuesday morning.

Mr. Christiansen moved, and Mr. Nolan seconded, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to deny the request of Megan MacNiff for a second year of leave from the school district. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Randy Bell discussed a staff issue with the Board.

Mr. Rodgers moved, and Mr. Nolan seconded, to exit non-public session and to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Christiansen, yes; Mr. Nolan, yes; Mr. Rodgers, yes; Mr. Alukonis, yes.

M. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Murray