

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hudson School Board Meeting April 6, 2009 Approved Minutes

Present: Mr. Gary Rodgers, Chairman
Mr. Lee Lavoie, Vice Chairman
Mr. Richard Nolan
Mrs. Laura Bisson
Mr. Philip D. Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Mary Ellen Ormond, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Irene Sousa, Director of Special Services
Mr. Normand Sanborn, Business Administrator
Mr. Matt Haefner, Student Representative

- A. **Call to Order:** Mr. Gary Rodgers, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm for a public hearing on the bond refunding process. Mr. Sanborn explained that the idea for the refinancing of the bond came up when the district started to explore the 1.2 million dollars in impact fees. The proposal to pay off the Hills Garrison bond and Memorial bond were discussed and reviewed for feasibility. The best option provided was reducing the bonds' interest rates from around five percent to two percent with an approximate savings of \$1.8 million or an annual budget reduction of \$160,000. Mr. Sanborn reviewed the process and timelines for refinancing and explained that if all goes well, the impact fees will be held in escrow until 2010 when the district can pay down the Hills Garrison bond and 2011 for the Memorial bond.
Public hearing open for public comment— no public comment. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:40.

The Board agreed to move the bond resolution agenda item up on the agenda. Mr. Sanborn explained that unless the district can realize a 3% savings, the district won't move forward on this project and there is no risk to the district.
Motion to approve the Bond resolution by Mr. Lavoie, second by Mr. Nolan.
Motion passes 4-0

- B. Public Input:
Mr. Ben Dibble from the Boy Scouts spoke regarding the district's policy on the distribution of materials and explained that the policy was hampering the Scouts' ability to recruit students. Mr. Dibble asked the board to consider a policy similar to Merrimack's policy on the distribution of materials.

C. Requests of the Board:

Mr. James Gillum requested the Board to approve his Eagle Scout project at HMS. Mr. Gillum is planning on building a 12'x16' platform inside the open courtyard at HMS to be used for presentations, classroom activities or productions. Mr. Gillum has secured support from the PTO and the building administration for this project. *Motion to approve the project by Mr. Nolan and second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passed 4-0.*

Out of State Conference: Mr. Sanborn requested permission to attend the Tri-State ASBO Conference in Boothbay Harbor, Maine on May 13-15 at a cost of \$1,016 for both Ms. Burnell and Mr. Sanborn. *Mr. Nolan moved to approve the conference, second by Ms. Bisson. Motion passes 4-0*

Participation in the third grade Healthy Smiles Growth Project: Mr. Bell requested that the board approve the study being conducted by the Department of Health who is evaluating and studying oral health and obesity to see if there is a correlation. Mr. Nolan expressed concern for the project because it is not clear what will be done with the data once the study is completed. *Ms. Bisson moved to approve the study with active permission from parents, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 4-0*

D. Interview of Prospective Board Candidates: Mr. Rodgers and the board interviewed Ms. Bolduc and Ms. Langlois for the vacant seat on the board. The board will make a decision during new business.

E. Reports to the Board: Superintendent Bell spoke about the major projects that were continuing while the kindergarten project was moving forward. He reported that at last count approximately 130 students had registered for kindergarten. He also explained that important decisions needed to be made and vital information would need to be submitted to the state by Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Mr. Bell talked about the stimulus funding and explained that along with the money there would be far more accountability and reporting and that the district may need to contract with someone to oversee the requirements of the stimulus funding to ensure that all timelines and reporting is done correctly. Mr. Bell finished with an overview of the projects that are still moving forward along with kindergarten.

Assistant Superintendent reported that the district was removed from the District In Need of Improvement list because of performance in the special subgroups. This will provide the district with some flexibility in using Title II funds for class size reduction next year.

F. Committee Reports: Budget Committee has not met for an organizational meeting. The meeting is scheduled for some time this month.

G. Correspondence:

Superintendent Bell suggested that it would be appropriate to approve all the resignations in one motion. The resignations come at an appropriate time so that the district can begin to fill those positions. ***Motion to accept the resignation by Mr. Lavoie, second by Mr. Nolan. Motion passed 4-0***

Motion granted on a request for a one-year leave of absence by Mr. Nolan and second by Ms. Bisson. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Bell reviewed the semi-annual fire inspection summary report. Mr. Sanborn reported that most if not all items would be corrected by the second meeting in May.

Assistant Superintendent Ormond reported that the Middle School was awarded a grant of We The People Bookshelf from the National Endowment for Humanities.

H. Recommended Action:

Mr. Nolan moved and Mr. Lavoie seconded the approval of the board minutes from 03.16.09. Motion passed 4-0.

I. Old Business:

Committee appointments are deferred until the new board member is seated.

Kindergarten Update: Superintendent Bell explained that the process is moving along but there is some concern that money might be an issue from the State. Mr. Nolan expressed concern that the district might not get what was expected or that other funds might be diminished to meet the kindergarten obligation. Mr. Nolan supported the Superintendent's request as did other members of the board to seek someone to contract with to oversee the implementation of stimulus funding to ensure accountability and that Hudson gets its fair share.

J. New Business:

Mr. Nolan moved to accept the co-curricular nominations with a second from Ms. Bisson. Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Nolan moved to elect the staff nomination list provided by the Superintendent with a second from Mr. Lavoie. Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Lavoie moved to elect the paraprofessional nomination list provided by the Superintendent, with a second from Ms. Bisson. Motion passed 4-0

Superintendent Bell and Mr. Bryan Lane discussed the State's drop-out report. While the district has improved and reduced the number of drop-outs, the number remains higher than what they would like to see and they would like to come back to the board with a full plan to address the drop-out rate in a more comprehensive fashion.

Kindergarten Admission Policy has its first reading and will have a second reading at the 4.15.09 meeting.

Mr. Nolan requested that the other kindergarten policies be changed individually and brought before the board for a first reading on 4.15.09.

Mr. Sanborn provided an overview of the bids for the driver's education contract. Out of five bids, Mr. Sanborn recommended Granite State Driving School because they had the most experience working in a high school and because they had five different instructors to ensure that timelines would be met. Alvirne High School Principal, Mr. Lane, reported that since Granite State Driving School has had the contract, he has not had any phone calls or issues with their service and supports the recommendation to award the contract to them. ***Motion to award the 3 year driver's education contract to Granite State Driving School by Mr. Nolan and seconded by Ms. Bisson. Motion passed 4-0.***

The Board opened nominations to fill the vacant board seat. Mr. Lavoie nominated Ms. Patty Langlois and Mr. Nolan nominated Ms. Laura Bolduc. Chairman Rodgers called for a roll call vote: Mr. Lavoie voted Ms. Langlois, Mr. Nolan voted Ms. Bolduc, Ms. Bisson voted Ms. Langlois and Chairman Rodgers voted Ms. Langlois. Ms. Patty Langlois was approved to fill the vacant board member seat on a vote 3-1. Ms. Langlois will be sworn in at the next meeting on 4.15.09.

K. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Nolan – no comment

Ms. Bisson – Please remember the Buggy Malone Show at HMS

Mr. Lavoie – If there is a concern please contact the school board and don't assume that there is knowledge about a problem.

Chairman Rodgers – would like to wish Mr. Bowen happy birthday. Chairman Rodgers would also like to extend his gratitude to Ms. Robicheau and Mr. Miller from HMS and Ms. Curran and Mr. Baker from Dr. H.O. Smith for their support of the HPD in the recent tragedy that occurred last week. The school staff and counselors really helped to support the students and make the process much easier to deal with for the police and family.

Mr. Haefner – No comment

L. Non-Public Session:

The Superintendent recommended a motion to enter Non-Public session at 6:35pm under RSA91-A: 3I (C) Student Issue. Motion to enter non-public by Mr. Nolan, and second by Ms. Bisson. Roll call vote: Mr. Nolan, yes; Mr. Lavoie, yes; Mr. Rodgers, yes and Ms. Bisson, no. School Board entered non-public session at 9:02 pm.

April 6, 2009
Hudson Town Hall

Hudson School Board
Public Hearing 6:30 with Meeting to follow

***Mr. Bell discussed several disciplinary issues and concerns involving students.
The Board took no actions.***

***Mrs. Bisson moved, and Mr. Nolan seconded, to exit non-public session and
adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bisson, yes; Mr. Lavoie, yes; Mr. Nolan, yes; Mr.
Rodgers, yes.***

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Ormond
Assistant Superintendent of Schools